

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Dates Announced for This Year's Grand Rapids Mini Maker Faire
Call to Makers Launched!**

Grand Rapids, MI: Today the Grand Rapids Public Museum announced the 2017 Grand Rapids Mini Maker Faire the dates for their 4th annual summer event, as well as the Call to Makers for registration has opened. This year's Grand Rapids Mini Maker Faire will take place on Saturday, August 19 and Sunday, August 20.

Individuals and groups can now sign up at GrandRapids.MakerFaire.com. This year's Maker Faire will be held at the Grand Rapids Public Museum and nearby Grand Valley State University's Kennedy Hall of Engineering.

Maker Faire is looking for participants who enjoy tinkering, hacking, building and designing new technology-based inventions. Any groups or individuals interested in participating in the Maker Faire should complete the application at GrandRapids.MakerFaire.com. Spots are first come, first serve basis with openings inside both the GRPM and GVSU as well as outside on the GRPM's lawn. This year's Maker Faire expects to see more than 7,000 visitors throughout the two-day event.

Featuring both established and emerging local "makers," the Grand Rapids Maker Faire is a family-friendly celebration featuring tech enthusiasts, crafters, educators, hobbyists, engineers, artists, students and commercial exhibitors. Visitors will see installations from local West Michigan inventors, innovators and tinkerer, as well as makers traveling greater distances to showcase.

The Call to Makers will close on July 16, 2017. Makers can sign up now at GrandRapids.MakerFaire.com.

Part science fair, part county fair, and part something entirely new, Maker Faire is an all-ages gathering. All of these "makers" come to Maker Faire to show what they have made and to share what they have learned.

The Faire will be open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday, August 19 and from 12 p.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday, August 20. Tickets will go on sale in early summer for Museum members and the general public.

The Grand Rapids Mini Maker Faire is being organized by a collaborative committee that includes members from: DTE Energy, GR Makers, The Geek Group, Grand Rapids Community College, Grand Valley State University, Kent District Library, Kent Intermediate School District, Michigan Crossroads Council- Boy Scouts of America, Camp Newaygo, WMCAT and the Grand Rapids Public Museum.



The 4th annual Grand Rapids Maker Faire is sponsored by: Maker Media Inc., Grand Rapids Community College, Grand Valley State University, Kent Intermediate School District and Open System Technologies.
Follow the development of the Grand Rapids Maker Faire on Twitter @makerfaireGR, as well as on its Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/makerfairegr/> .

Grand Rapids Mini Maker Faire is independently organized and operated under license from Maker Media, Inc.

Grand Rapids Public Museum

The Grand Rapids Public Museum is an invaluable, publicly-owned institution that is home to more than 250,000 unique artifacts that tell the history of Kent County and beyond, houses the only planetarium in the region, and is responsible for protecting the Norton Indian Mounds, a national historic landmark. The Grand Rapids Public Museum is accredited by the American Alliance of Museums, with its main location in downtown Grand Rapids, MI at 272 Pearl Street, NW. For additional information including hours of operation, admission fees and exhibit/event listings, please visit www.grpm.org.

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