



5th Annual Maker Faire NoVa

By Jeanne Loveland

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The 5th Annual Maker Faire NoVa (previously known as NoVa Mini Maker Faire) will be held on March 18, 2018. The Maker Faire is part science fair, part show & tell and part new inspiration. The event is a family-friendly festival of invention, creativity and resourcefulness, and a celebration of the Maker movement. From engineers to artists to scientists to crafters, Maker Faire is a venue for Makers to share their hobbies, experiments, inventions and projects. Attendees, both children and adults, come to explore and be inspired to create, invent, and make things themselves.

Maker Faire NoVa is presented by Nova Labs, Reston's own makerspace. Brian Jacoby, one of the founders, had visited Maker Faires in other areas and thought "We need a Maker Faire in Reston." He recruited fellow Restonians, Amy Shaw and Jeanne Marshall to organize the first NoVa Mini Maker Faire in March 2014 at South Lakes High School and Langston Hughes Middle School. Both Amy and Jeanne are makers and had attended Maker Faires in other locations, including the World Maker Faire in New York. An all-volunteer committee was formed to help manage the event.

Bob Simon gave opening remarks at the first Faire. He was so excited to see the Faire that he kept his comments brief so he and everyone else could "go see what the exhibitors are making." The first Faire was a resounding success! The faire has continued to grow every year from its original 98 exhibitors and 3,500 attendees in 2014 to nearly 150 makers and 5,000 attendees in 2017.

South Lakes and Langston Hughes were wonderful hosts for the first four Faires, however, the success and growth of the Faire requires more space. The 2018 Faire will be held at George Mason University. As the largest public research university in Virginia and with its own Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship, George Mason University is an ideal Faire host partner.

Many Reston residents, both adults and students have participated in the Faire. Amy Shaw states, "One of my favorite things is to see all different kinds of people from our community that you didn't know as Makers." Exhibitors from Reston have included: South Lakes HS STEAM Team, Mighty Girl Art, Scarlet Stitch, Everest Gromoll, Ian Larson, Sally Byers, The Wheelman, and Jason Romano from Lake Anne Brew House.

Some exhibitors you will see this year include: drones, robots, Take Apart Zone, Nova Labs Blacksmithing, Nova Labs Learn to Solder, Chaos Machine (large marble machine), Children's Science Center, woodturning and underwater robots.

For more information: www.NoVa.MakerFaire.com

