



## New Year, New Opportunities

Dear Friends of TVCOG,

We started this year [by reflecting on 2021](#), which came with both great challenges and great successes. Now, we're excited to share some news about what 2022 will look like here at TVCOG: thanks to the generous support of NYSTAR, NYSCA and the Seymour Fox Foundation, we will be expanding our reach and programs in our makerspace, Manufacturing Incubator, and the THINQubator. Read on to learn a little bit more about what exciting new opportunities are coming our way this year.

--Dan Falkenstrom

*TVCOG Facilities and Incubator Director, Interim Executive Director*

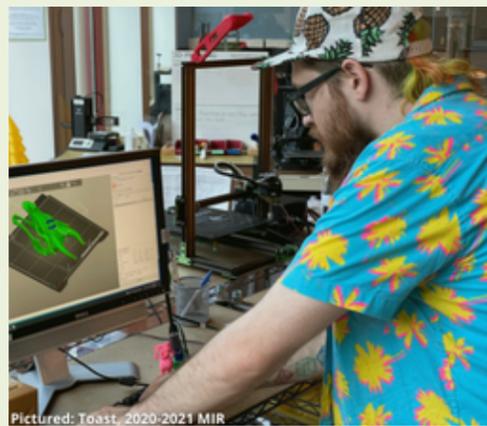
## News from the Makerspace

### In the Spotlight...

#### TVCOG Receives Grant from New York State Council of the Arts; Expands Maker-In-Residence Program

Tech Valley Center of Gravity is excited to announce that we have been awarded grant funding from the New York State Council on the Arts (NYSCA) as part of their funding efforts to support the recovery of the nonprofit arts and culture sector. The grant will fund several of our Community Access Fund programs, which are designed to remove financial barriers to making.

**With this funding from NYSCA, TVCOG is expanding our Maker-In-Residence (MIR) program, which was created as an annual program designed to empower makers and creators in our community.** The program is now offered three times a year, in conjunction with our class trimester calendar, allowing us to support the creative endeavors of three different individuals per year through this unique program. **Applications are currently being accepted now for this trimester!**



Pictured: Toast, 2020-2021 MIR

*Maker-in-Residence*  
Applications Due February 5

#### More About the Program

The program offers local makers the chance to pursue a creative, social impact-driven project of their choice at the COG with dedicated space and resources.

This program will look different for everyone who participates in it, but no matter the Maker, the residency remains a collaborative, community-focused program. Our MIR is expected to be an active member of our community, represent us in various media, and collaborate with staff throughout the duration of their program.

The main requirements of the residency will be completing a signature Maker Project (a project of your own choosing) and completing the Community Engagement requirement, which will take the form of free workshops/seminars/events designed to share the MIR's skills with the public.

Qualifying applicants are Capital Region residents, ages 18+, whose taxable income in the last year was under Troy AMI (\$39,526 or less.)

#### Program Benefits

Our MIR will be given the tools necessary to complete their residency and expand their creative horizons, including:

- One year of fully subsidized membership
- 24/7 access to the building
- Access to equipment in all Zones ([click here for an overview of available equipment](#))
- Fully subsidized access to training and equipment in Prototyping Center for project creation
- Free 5'x 8' studio space to work on your project
- A small dedicated project materials budget
- Limited technical support from CoG staff and fully subsidized equipment training
- Up to \$200 in credit for TVCOG classes
- A one-time stipend payment of \$500

[Learn More & Apply Here!](#)

## Classes, Events & Programs



#### Silver Rings

Saturday, Feb. 5 | 3-5pm

Create 3 custom silver rings in this beginner-level jewelry making class. [Learn more or register here.](#)



#### All About Sharpening

Sunday, Feb. 6 | 1-3pm

Learn to properly sharpen your tools! [Learn more or register here.](#)

[View All Currently Available Classes Here](#)

## Stay Tuned...

Following the success of the Victorian Stroll Holiday Market, we have decided to collaborate with Make It Up State again in 2022, this time for a number of special events throughout the year, each taking place during a different Troy Night Out! More details to come soon.

## News from the Manufacturing Incubator



### **NYS Division of Science, Technology and Innovation (NYSTAR) Renews TVCOG Certified Business Incubator Designation for 5 Years**

The designation includes an award of \$125,000 per year for 5 years, totaling \$625,000.

TVCOG was previously awarded NYSTAR funding in 2017 to establish The Manufacturing Incubator, a New York Certified Business Incubator program.

This award allows TVCOG to continue operating as a NYS Certified Incubator, and will primarily be used to cover the personnel costs necessary to staff our well-equipped facility. The purpose of the incubator is to educate and mentor hardware start-ups on manufacturing processes to ensure they have the knowledge needed to efficiently bring new products to market.

[Watch the story on Spectrum News!](#)

## Upcoming Incubator Events & Programs



### **HATCHED Inventors & Entrepreneurs Meetup**

Thursday Feb. 3 | 6:30 - 8pm

Join us the first Thursday of each month to connect with other creative souls, product developers, and others who are interested in bringing ideas to life.

**SHARING NIGHT:** An informal gathering where attendees can introduce themselves and show off what they've been working on. Share your project's current status, get and give feedback, explore next steps, and connect with potential team members.

[Register Here](#)

## News from the THINQubator

### **THINQubator Programs are Gaining STEAM!**

We are excited to announce that we have received additional funding for STEAM-Powered Saturday through the Seymour Fox Memorial Foundation! The additional funding will allow us to expand the program, and provide more supplies kits for those who request them. We have quite a few new fun things planned for later this year, and look forward to having an entire year of STEAM-Powered fun with you all!

STEAM-Powered Saturday continues to be an in-person event, with masks required for everyone. For those who prefer a distance learning version, we have project supplies kits available for pickup. Kits include an instruction worksheet and can be picked up during the SPS event, or anytime during TVCOG office hours (11am - 4pm, Mon. - Fri.) throughout the month. We encourage you to email us beforehand to request your kit!

## Upcoming Events & Programs



### **Next STEAM-Powered Saturday: DIY Kaleidoscopes**

Saturday, Feb. 5 | 10am-1 pm FREE

Every 1st Saturday children ages 4-12 and their families are invited to join us at Tech Valley Center of Gravity for a fun, creative hands-on project. **These mind-expanding projects help children discover creative play through science, technology, engineering, the arts and mathematics.**

**This month's project is "DIY Kaleidoscopes."** Join us and turn an old paper towel tube into your very own kaleidoscope!

**This project is FREE, but donations are welcome.** This month we are offering our event both virtually and in-person, with project supplies kits available for pickup.

For those joining us in-person, there is no pre-registration required. Masks are required for all attendees, regardless of vaccination status. Children under the age of 2 are exempt from this requirement, as per CDC guidelines.

[Learn More](#)

This program is supported in part by The Seymour Fox Foundation, providing a helping hand to turn inspiration into accomplishment... See more possibilities...see more promise.... see more progress.

Additional support is provided from the Albany Society of Engineers.

## Updates from our Creative Community

### Made at the COG

What our Members are working on right now.



Laura took our Fused Glass Jewelry class, and came away with this gorgeous pendant.



TVCOG Instructor Rich created this sign as part of his January laser cutting class.



Member and beginner woodworker Dave made this shoe rack in the woodshop!

### Featured Sponsor



The New York State Council on the Arts (NYSCA) is dedicated to preserving and expanding the rich and diverse cultural resources that are and will become the heritage of New York's citizens. Learn more about NYSCA [here](#).

[Click Here to Learn About Sponsorship](#)

**Tech Valley Center of Gravity is a makerspace, prototyping center, manufacturing incubator, STEAM-education center and creative community located in the heart of downtown Troy, New York.** A member-supported 501(c)(3) community resource organization, the Center of Gravity serves members from Albany, Columbia, Rensselaer, Saratoga and Schenectady counties and beyond with space, tools, technology and expertise to explore and exercise their creativity, turn ideas into objects of art and utility, and launch new ventures based on their own ingenuity.

### Join Our Creative Community

We are open and operating at standard hours. Membership hours and access types depend on the membership level you choose. Membership is open to anyone ages 18+ so [join today!](#)

### TVCOG's COVID-19 Protocols

Tech Valley Center of Gravity is committed to following guidelines set forth by New York State and to ensuring the safety of our community members. Review our Covid-19 policies and procedures [here](#).

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