



TVCOG Members, Volunteers, & Friends: We are so grateful for YOU!

Friends of TVCOG,

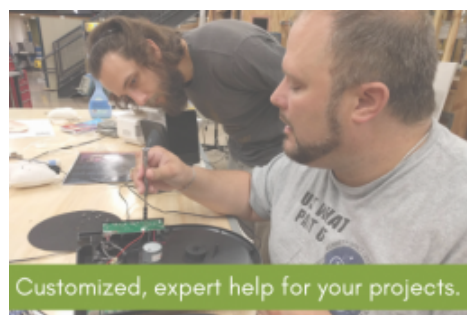
March is an exciting time, ushering in Women's History Month and the start of daylight savings time. With the first signs of spring showing and the days getting longer, we hope to see more of your happy faces (covered in masks, of course) around the Makerspace doing what you do best: making.

This month also marks the end of our second annual appeal, which we are thrilled to announce was a tremendous success. We were able to raise over \$10,000 and meet our full match from a very generous private donor. This funding will help support continued operations at TVCOG and are so appreciated.

Please accept our infinite appreciation for your commitment to the TVCOG community and for your support throughout what was a difficult year for many, including us.

-- Cheryl Kennedy, Executive Director

News from the Makerspace:



New Program Launch: Maker Consultants Program

Our members are glad to spend a few minutes helping another member solve a problem, but sometimes those problems are too complex for a quick answer, so we created the Maker Consultant Program to help!

Maker Consultants are a flexible resource to help our members overcome specific obstacles with their projects. These consultants are available at an hourly rate to cover anything they are knowledgeable in, no matter what your skill level is.

[Learn More](#)

In the Spotlight...

Progress Update: The Lymphedema Shoe Project

In 2018, sisters Nina and Cami Tran, won first place in the EPICS in IEEE Challenge for their project dedicated to the creation of a more functional shoe for people suffering from Lymphedema. Working with mentors, and factoring in advice from medical professionals, Nina and Cami have been tirelessly working on their 3D-printed prototype here at TVCOG, and are now ready for their next step!



[Watch the Video Update](#)

Classes, Events & Programs



Never used power tools? You're not alone. **Our Quick Start Guide class series helps beginners understand and use the basic equipment in our work zones.** These one-on-one individual sessions are currently available to COG members.

Each session is approximately one hour long, covers the essential knowledge needed to operate that tool, and includes hands-on experience. Machines covered include: MiG welding, TiG welding, angle grinders, the jointer & planer and more.

All classes are taught by our Facilities and Incubator Director, Dan Falkenstrom.

[Register Now](#)



As a 501(c)(3) charitable community organization, TVCOG is committed to serving as a community resource. **To support this mission, we have expanded our Community Access Programs in order to offer more resources for those who are currently experiencing financial difficulties.**

We have a variety of programs available, each designed to meet different needs; programs include the Hardship Membership Program, which offers up to 6 months of fully subsidized membership for qualifying individuals, and the Pay-What-You-Can Program, which offers up to one year of partially subsidized membership to qualifying individuals.

[Learn More & Apply](#)

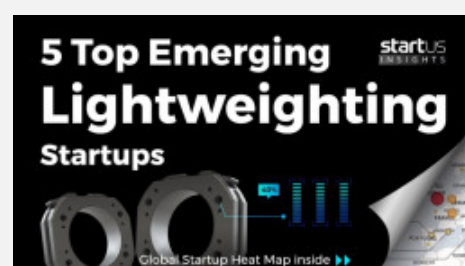
News from the Manufacturing Incubator:

Incubator Graduate Highlight: United Aircraft Technologies

Manufacturing Incubator graduate United Aircraft Technologies (UAT) continues to attract attention as a key player in the quest to improve aerospace energy & operational efficiency. [StartUs Insights recently listed UAT in their Top 5 list of Emerging Lightweight Startups.](#)

Whether you're working on a prototype to test market interest, or laying the groundwork for your own manufacturing operations, [our Manufacturing Incubator provides affordable access to engineering expertise.](#) Consider it your own personal product development think tank.

- Dan Falkenstrom, Facilities and Incubator Director



Upcoming Incubator Events & Programs

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

BUSINESS & PRODUCT
DEVELOPMENT

VIRTUAL LUNCHEON SERIES: #8

WHAT'S YOUR GLOBAL MANUFACTURING
STRATEGY?

FEATURING
ROSEMARY COATES OF



Wednesday, March 3 from 12-1pm

Join us for a presentation with Rosemary Coates of the Reshoring Institute on Global Manufacturing Strategy and Reshoring on March 3, 2020 at 12:00pm EST.

Time to Act. That's what many companies are feeling now that manufacturing risks and vulnerabilities have been exposed by the pandemic. Parts shipments have been delayed from Asia. Freight rates have doubled. Markets have changed and demand has shifted wildly. The economy is uncertain. What do we do now? We will discuss global manufacturing strategies and reshoring of manufacturing and sourcing.

It's time to rebuild manufacturing in America.

Rosemary Coates is the Founder and Executive Director of the Reshoring Institute, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization focused on expanding U.S. manufacturing. She is also the President of Blue Silk Consulting, a supply-chain management consulting firm.

[Learn More & Register](#)



Next HATCHED: Thursday, March 4 @ 6:30pm

Join us for a talk from **Steve Greenberg**, award-winning author, TV personality and expert on innovation and technology. Steve is the author of "Gadget Nation," monthly contributor on NBC's Today Show, and the host of YouTube's gadget game show called "What The Heck Is That?" Stick around afterwards for our roundtable chat on all things product development.

[Join the Meetup Group](#)

News from the THINQubator:

Have a Slice of Pi(e)!



March has a lot to celebrate, including one of our favorite holidays: March 14 (3.14) is Pi Day! Celebrate the day by eating a slice of pie, and trying out some [pi-based activities](#) and [coloring sheets](#) from the official Pi Day website.

The THINQubator is also celebrating Women's History Month! You may have noticed our daily facebook STEM/inventor posts from the THINQubator during Black History Month, highlighting historical and present Black STEM innovators. We plan to do the same for Women's history month. If you have any suggestions for our post highlights, please email them to info@tvcog.net.

Upcoming Classes & Events



Next STEAM-Powered Saturday: Saturday, February 6 @ 12pm

Every 1st Saturday children ages 4-12 and their families are invited to join us for a fun, creative hands-on project. Brought to you through the generous support of the Albany Society of Engineers Foundations, these mind-expanding projects help children discover creative play through science, technology, engineering, the arts and mathematics. Our special virtual additions are brought to you with additional support from GE Healthcare and Agora Media. To support this program, you can donate directly to the THINQubator through our [website here](#), just make "THINQubator" as the designated fund you are donating to.



This month's project is "DIY Kaleidoscopes!"

Play with reflection and symmetry to create amazing images! The video and project guide will be posted at noon on March 6 on our Facebook page. Free supplies kits will be available for pickup at [Bard and Baker Board Game Cafe](#) all month long. For those who can't pick up a kit, we recommend some household items that will work as substitutes in the video. Please also feel free to reach out to us to learn where to purchase individual supplies.

[Go to the THINQubator Facebook Page](#)

Updates from our Creative Community:

Made at the COG

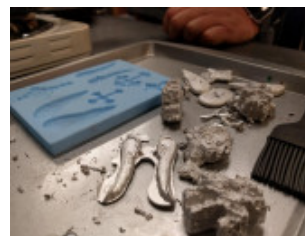
What our Members are working on right now.



Kris Navratil, our Volunteer Woodshop Coordinator, created this gorgeous blue pen in our woodshop using epoxy and, of course, glitter!



Steve Scotten, our Volunteer Coordinator, made this light-up, 3D-printed rose for Valentine's Day!



Longtime member Mick was honing his casting skills the other day! Check out these metallic angels wings.

Follow us on our instagram [@techvalleycog](#) for more [#MadeattheCOG](#) updates.

Volunteering Opportunities for Members

In-Person Volunteering Options: We are currently seeking volunteers to do a regular weekly shift at the front desk as Volunteer Gatekeepers, handling member check-ins and temperature checks. We are looking mainly to fill morning and early afternoon shifts. Shifts are 4 hours long, and worth \$10 in membership credit. Qualifying applicants are current TVCOG members in good standing who have been members for at least three months. Email volunteer@tvcog.net to apply or learn more.

Virtual Social Nights

Social Nights for members will continue to be virtual for the time-being; meetings are held via Zoom every Tuesday at 6:30pm. The log-in information and the meeting agenda for the regular weekly updates is sent to members via email each Tuesday. Not getting these emails? Contact us at info@tvcog.net to be added to the members-only mailing list.

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](#).

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/or utility, and launch new ventures based on their own ingenuity.

[Click Here to Donate](#)

Tech Valley Center of Gravity
30 3rd Street
Troy, NY 12180

