



A Time of Thanks & Giving

Dear Friends of TVCOG,

November marks the official beginning of our holiday season preparations here at TVCOG! This is an exciting time of year here in downtown Troy, with the annual Turkey Trot and Shop Small Saturday taking place later this month and Victorian Stroll taking place in December. **TVCOG is ready to join in the holiday revelry and excited to announce that we will be partnering with Make It Upstate this year for some special Victorian Stroll Season activities!** Stay tuned for more details, coming soon.

November also marks the beginning of TVCOG's annual fundraising season. An easy way to participate and support TVCOG is by adding us as your selected nonprofit on [Amazon Smile](#). **When you use Smile, Amazon donates a small percentage of your eligible purchases to the nonprofit of your choice, at no additional cost to you.** We're also on [eBay for Charities](#) - if you sell items on eBay, you can set a percentage of the sale to be donated to us. Funds raised through these channels help offset our day-to-day operational expenses.

We appreciate your continued support, and look forward to seeing you all at one of downtown Troy's many upcoming events during this Thanksgiving season.

--Dan Falkenstrom

TVCOG Facilities and Incubator Director, Interim Executive Director

News from the Makerspace

In the Spotlight...

Make A Difference This Giving Tuesday

Giving Tuesday is a day dedicated to giving back. Taking place each year on the Tuesday following Thanksgiving, Giving Tuesday was created in 2012 as a simple idea: a day that encourages people to do good. Each year, various communities and nonprofits across the globe participate, hosting a variety of events and fundraisers.

This year, TVCOG will be hosting a **#GivingTuesday Fundraiser to raise money for our Community Access Fund**. This fund allows us to offer partially and fully subsidized memberships and other resources to members of our community who have a demonstrated financial need.

As low as our membership rates are, they are still out of reach for many. **In the past two years, the Fund has allowed us to provide over \$20,000 in resources and long-term membership to 36 makers, many from underrepresented backgrounds.**

The Community Access Fund is instrumental in ensuring that our community is accessible and inclusive. By giving, you could help support a membership for a K-12 STEM instructor looking to develop children's programming, or help a young entrepreneur join our Business Incubator and turn their dream into a thriving company.

We need your help to continue eliminating financial barriers to making! Our goal is to raise \$2,500 this Giving Tuesday to support the Fund and expand its reach. **The official online #GivingTuesday fundraising campaign will be held on our Facebook page on November 30th, but you can act now and make your tax-deductible donation on our website today.**



Upcoming Classes

Discover your inner maker in one of our hands-on classes! Classes are open to both members and non-members ages 18 and up. **Classes with open registration include:**

Glass Arts 104



Glass Etching and Engraving

Saturday, November 13 | 1-4pm

This class will explore two techniques of decorating glass surfaces: engraving glass using rotary tools and etching glass with etching cream. Participants will leave with a decorated piece of glassware of their own design. All materials provided.

Woodshop 100



All About Sharpening

Sunday, November 14 | 1-3pm

Properly sharpened tools are essential to a project's success; this hands-on class will explore the tools and techniques you need to make that happen, using both common objects and power tools. Students are encouraged to bring their own tools to get sharpened.

COVID-19 Class Policies: We are committed to ensuring the safety of our members, instructors and class participants. Along with social distancing, we follow a strict cleaning and sanitizing regimen. Classes and events for adults may allow fully vaccinated individuals to attend the class without a mask, provided proof of vaccination; please check the event description for each individual class policy.

[See All Classes Open for Registration](#)

Additional Events & Programs

General Membership Meeting*

TONIGHT, Tues. November 2 | 6:30pm

Join us for our monthly membership meeting! Our agenda this month includes holiday event updates as well as our regular membership updates.

Work Zone Office Hours*

Zone Office Hours allow members to connect with the Zone Coordinator, to get help with anything related to the zone. Available in the Electronics Zone at 7pm on Tuesdays with Amelia, and in the Metal Shop at 6pm on Wednesdays with Alex.

** Indicates events which are only open to TVCOG members. Please [register online](#) for Office Hours.*

COG Holiday Hours

TVCOG offices will be closed from 12 pm on Wednesday, Nov. 24 to 9 am on Monday, Nov. 29 in observance of the Thanksgiving Holiday. Staff will be unavailable for member assistance or public inquiries. As always, members may access the building during the hours associated with their membership level.

News from the Manufacturing Incubator

Upcoming Incubator Events & Programs

FOOD FOR THOUGHT #14: INNOVATE 518 - INNOVATION HOT SPOT RESOURCES

BUSINESS & PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT VIRTUAL LUNCHEON SERIES



Featuring MATT GRATTAN and MARIA PIDGEON of 

Food for Thought #14: Innovate 518 - Innovation Hot Spot Resources

Wednesday Nov. 3 | 12-1pm

Starting a business is never easy, but access to the right tools can make a world of difference! Innovate 518 is a collaborative effort of incubators and accelerators from New York's Capital Region, working together to turn our region into a hotbed of entrepreneurial activity. We share best practices and networking, mentoring, educational and financial resources to better assist startup companies. Join us to learn more about the Innovation Hot Spot and how we are helping connect tech startups to resources in the Capital Region!

[Learn More & Register Here](#)



HATCHED Inventors & Entrepreneurs Meetup

Thursday Nov. 4 | 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

The Annual Egg Drop Challenge is Back!



Next STEAM-Powered Saturday: Egg Drop Challenge

Saturday, Nov. 6 | 10am-1pm FREE

Every 1st Saturday children ages 4-12 and their families are invited to join us for a fun, FREE creative hands-on project. Brought to you through the generous support of the Albany Society of Engineers Foundation, these mind-expanding projects help children discover creative play through science, technology, engineering, the arts and mathematics.

This month's project is "Egg Drop Challenge." Design your own contraptions to keep an egg safe from a single story fall using recycled material. This is an in-person, drop-in program; pre-registration is not required. Masks are required for all attendees.

[Learn More](#)

Additional Classes & Events



THINQubator 101: 3D Printing For Kids

Saturday, Nov. 20 | 12-3pm

This hands-on workshop will introduce aspiring young makers (ages 8 and up) to the basics of 3D printing. Participants will explore 3D modeling, learn how to use the popular free online 3D design software, TinkerCAD, and learn to use the 3D printers available here at TVCOG. Students will create a 3D printed keychain that can be taken home at the end of the class.

Parents not required to stay in building for class. Masks are required of all participants, regardless of vaccination status.

\$40 COG Members | \$50 Non-Members

[Learn More & Register](#)

Updates from our Creative Community

Made at the COG

What our Members are working on right now.



A work in progress! TVCOG member Michael is working on building individual work cubbies for members to use at the COG. Here is a look at his first prototype in its final stages of development.



TVCOG member Liz experiments with different jewelry torches during a Silver Rings workshop, a beginner level jewelry making class. [Sign up for the next class here!](#)



You may have spotted TroyBot around downtown Troy this month, promoting early voting in Rensselaer County. TroyBot began as an art print by artist/designer Ben Karis, and found a corporeal form right here at TVCOG!

Featured Sponsor



FuzeHub is a not-for-profit organization that connects New York's small and mid-sized manufacturing companies to the resources, programs and expertise they need for technology commercialization, innovation, and business growth. Through custom assessment, matching, and referral platform, FuzeHub helps companies navigate New York's robust network of industry experts at Manufacturing Extension Partners centers, universities, economic development organizations, and other providers. FuzeHub is the statewide New York Manufacturing Extension Partnership Program (MEP) center, supported by Empire State Development's Division of Science, Technology & Innovation. For more information visit www.fuzehub.com.

[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](#).

Tech Valley Center of Gravity
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