



Time Flies

Friends of TVCOG,

We can't believe it's already August! It feels like just yesterday that we announced we were back for in-person classes for our Spring-Summer trimester, and now we only have a few weeks before our Fall-Winter trimester starts in September! We are excited to be expanding our offerings, including bringing back some of our popular jewelry-making and craft classes, and adding a few brand new classes as well! Keep an eye out on our [website](#) and our [Facebook page](#) for the official class listing, coming soon!

At this time, masks are optional for all fully vaccinated individuals in our general Makerspace; proof of vaccination is required for all events, which includes classes, Troy Night Out and facility tours. We do require that masks be worn by all participants, regardless of age or vaccination status, for any events or classes held in the THINQubator, our children's section. We want to thank you for your patience as we continue to adjust our mask mandates in accordance with CDC and New York State guidance.

We appreciate your willingness to do what it takes to keep our community safe and open for business!

-- Cheryl Kennedy, Executive Director

News from the Makerspace



Dan Falkenstrom Joins The Leadership Institute Class of 2022

We are delighted to announce that Dan Falkenstrom, TVCOG's Facilities and Incubator Director, has been selected to join The Leadership Institute Class of 2022 at the Rensselaer County Regional Chamber of Commerce. Dan joins the award-winning program in its 17th year, entering the ranks of more than 450 program alumni in the Rensselaer County professional network. [Learn more about the program and this year's participants here.](#)

In the Spotlight...

Fresh-Baked Updates From Our Maker-In-Residence, Toast Halasz

On Friday, July 30th, TVCOG joined in on Troy Night Out with a feature from our Maker-in-Residence, Toast Halasz, and a private members-only party. Throughout the night, Toast showed off his finished project, an interactive human-powered gravity storage device which uses the gravitational power of mass to create and store energy.

The project began as a request by a local preservation society who wanted an off-grid power solution, and evolved from there. During construction, Toast made use of multiple equipment zones to construct his project, from assembling wiring in our Electronics Zone, building framing in our Woodshop and 3D printing essential components to assembling the finished product in our Machine Shop. We are delighted to congratulate Toast on his finished project, and want to thank everyone who joined us for Troy Night Out to celebrate.

About the Maker-In-Residence Program: This annual program gives a gifted Capital Region-based maker the chance to pursue a project of their choice at TVCOG with dedicated space and resources. We are currently looking for sponsors for our second program season. Contact us via email at info@tvocg.net if interested.



Events & Programs



Instructor Open Interest Night

Wednesday, August 18th | 6pm

TVCOG is looking to add experienced instructors to our education team to work with children ages 4-18; we are particularly interested in teachers in STEM fields who have an interest in K-12 programming. We will be hosting an open interest night for potential new instructors on August 18th at 6pm, which will include a brief overview of our organization, our instructor recruitment process, and will allow time for Q&A.

Education team positions are periodic hourly contract positions. Hours are flexible, and the majority of our programs take place outside of regular school hours.

[Learn More or Register Here](#)

Upcoming Classes

Tech Valley Center of Gravity is currently offering a variety of small size, socially distanced in-person classes. [Learn about our COVID-19 safety policies here.](#) For listings on our programs for families and youth, please scroll down to the THINQubator section.

Classes with open spots include:

Prototyping 101 and 102: Intro to Fusion 360

Offered on: August 7, 11am-2:30pm

This combined course will introduce you to the basics of 3D modeling and design using Fusion 360, a popular CAD platform.

[Learn more or register here.](#)

Electronics 102: Introductory Soldering

Offered on: August 12, 6-9pm

This is a hands-on course in which you will solder, desolder and splice using multiple techniques.

[Learn more or register here.](#)

[See All Classes Open For Registration](#)

News from the Manufacturing Incubator

TVCOG Awarded Funding to Support Capital Equipment for Uncaged Innovations



The Rensselaer County IDA awarded TVCOG funding to acquire a mechanical tensile tester and a 3D bio-printer to be utilized by member company Uncaged Innovations and other CoG business members. Uncaged is a biotech company addressing environmental and ethical issues in the fashion industry by utilizing 3D bio-printing to replicate the composition and texture of exotic animal skins.

[Read the Full Press Release Here](#)

Upcoming Incubator Events & Programs



HATCHED: SHARING NIGHT

Thursday August 5th | 6:30pm

Connect with creative souls, product developers, and more who are interested in entrepreneurship and bringing ideas to life. On SHARING NIGHTS, share your project's current status, get and give feedback, explore next steps, and connect with potential team members. Hosted in partnership with the Capital District Inventors and Entrepreneurs Meetup every 1st Thursday.

[Learn More & Register Here](#)

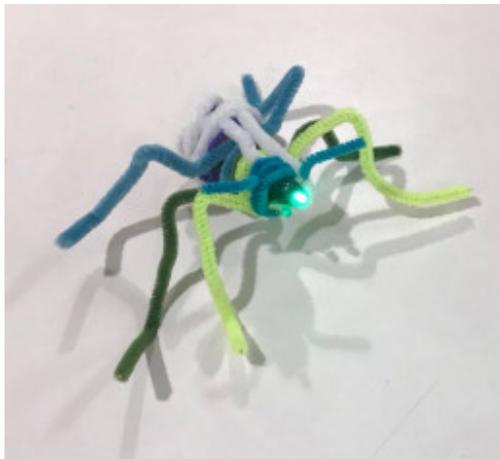
News from the THINQubator

The THINQubator Doors are Open!

After nearly a year and a half of virtual and outdoor programming, we are back in the THINQubator! We are excited to return to STEAM-Powered Saturday's original format, as an indoor drop-in event right here at our facility on the first Saturday of every month, and delighted to announce that, thanks to the generosity of the Albany Society of Engineers Foundation, we will be able to continue running this grant-funded program for another year!

We also look forward to the return of other classes, workshops and drop-in programs at the THINQubator. **At this time, masks are required for all individuals while in the THINQubator event space, regardless of vaccination status, at any THINQubator event.** Children 2 and under are exempt, as per CDC recommendation. Fully vaccinated individuals may take their masks off in the general makerspace; proof of vaccination is required in order to do so. The THINQubator is equipped with sanitation supplies, a hand washing station, and air filters, and will be blocked off from the main COG space during events.

Upcoming Classes & Events



STEAM-Powered Saturday: Circuit Bugs!

Saturday, August 7 | 10am-1PM FREE

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 Foundation, these mind-expanding projects help children discover creative play through science, technology, engineering, the arts and mathematics. **This month's project is "Circuit Bugs." Design and construct your own light up bugs with LEDs and disk batteries.**

COVID-19 Policies: We ask that everyone ages 2+, regardless of vaccination status, wear a face mask in the THINQubator event space.

[Learn More](#)

Updates from our Creative Community

Made at the COG: Troy Night Out

Highlights from July 2021 Troy Night Out.



TVCOG featured our Maker-in-Residence, Toast, for July Troy Night Out. Here he is working on a 3D print design on one of the TVCOG printers.



As every Maker knows, prototyping takes time! Here are some early 3D-printed component prototypes that were ultimately scrapped in favor of something better.



Toast also showed off some of his other work, including 3D-printed Troy bricks, during the night. You can find a mural made out of these bricks in Troy as part of a [local art initiative](#).

Remember to tag your project on Instagram with #madeatthecog!

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.

Featured Sponsor



The **Rensselaer County Industrial Development Agency (IDA)** is dedicated to promoting economic development and vitality within Rensselaer County. Governed by a seven-member board, the IDA has the authority to offer sales and property tax incentives, grants and low-cost capital to attract and retain businesses.

[Click Here to Learn About Sponsorship](#)