Just Do-It-Yourself: Pgh's First Mini Maker Faire

October 23, Noon - 6 p.m.
Children's Museum of Pittsburgh

Just make it! Pittsburgh's legacy is tied to innovation in many realms of art and industry--from George Westinghouse and Andy Warhol, to the invention of the public address system and the Zippo lighter, to a long list of firsts such as the kidney transplant, the emoticon and the Big Mac. This Sun., Oct. 23, there's no better place to channel your inner inventor that at the city's first Mini Maker Faire, co-hosted by the Children's Museum of Pittsburgh and HackPittsburgh.

The do-it-yourself craft craze is sweeping the nation—from bi-coastal fairs like Renegade to locally produced events such as Handmade Arcade. Now, a signature event created by free-spirited MAKE magazine is set to transform the Northside museum--itself a national leader in supporting creative play for kids of all ages--into a laboratory for all things Do-It-Yourself.

From noon until 6 p.m., the award-winning museum will be transformed into a family-friendly festival featuring do-it-yourself learning. Founded in 2006, at California's San Mateo Fairgrounds, Maker Faire is a welcoming experience-based gathering of makers of many ilks. Nurturing aspiring makers of all ages and backgrounds—from tech enthusiasts, crafters and tinkers, to hobbyists, science clubs and students, Maker Faire recently drew 100,000 people to its sixth annual Bay Area event.

Community-driven and independently produced, the Burgh's installment will emphasize and foster a sense of wonder, experimentation, and making, inspiring attendees to think beyond the consumerism of mass-produced goods. From robots, mobiles and instruments, to wool spinning, electronics and soldering, the Mini Maker Faire will feature some 70 exhibitors from across Pennsylvania, Ohio, West Virginia, New York, and Virginia.

Pairing established and emerging makers, the Faire will also feature high school FIRST Robotics teams, urban farming and alternative energies, bicycles, hand-made crafts, music and food, and educational workshops. Discover how Sauerkraut Powered Robots draw their energy from a chemical reaction between copper and zinc electrodes placed in a jar of the smelly dish, then listen to the world's loudest mobile musical instrument, as the Great American Horn Machine demonstrates its collection of 48 computer controlled notes and whistles!

Step up to large-scale plywood dinosaurs courtesy of Carnegie Mellon's drama department, and learn to spin yarn from wool, t-shirts and even grocery bags. Next, watch in wonder as as words are formed in food using a 3-D cheese printer, created by HackPittsburgh co-founder, Matt Stultz.

Visitors to the Mini Maker Faire will have zillions of opportunities to make, create, learn, invent, craft, recycle, build, think, play, and just be inspired. So roll up those sleeves and get ready to celebrate your right to tweak, hack, and bend any technology to your own will!

Maker Faire is part of the museum's launch of its special "Year of the Maker," which also includes the debut of the Make Shop exhibit, and the return of the popular How People Make Things area.