



## “MAKING” A BETTER FUTURE FOR TUALATIN’S YOUTH

The Tualatin community has developed a Community Revitalization Plan that will change lives in the community by improving access to STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math) education for all people, providing skills training and inspiring youth to consider careers in these industries. This effort is being led by the City, School District, Tualatin Chamber of Commerce, Tualatin Tomorrow, and other community partners to develop a workforce pipeline from Tualatin’s schools to the advanced manufacturing businesses which make up over 20% of the local economy and provide living wage jobs for families in the community. The plan was developed as part of the community’s participation in the “America’s Best Communities” Competition sponsored by Frontier Communications. Tualatin competed with over 350 communities across the country in an effort to revitalize small communities with populations under 80,000 people. Tualatin was selected as one of eight finalists in the competition, bringing over \$150,000 to help bring their revitalization plan to life. The competition ran from March 2015 to April 2017.

Since the completion of the competition, community partners have established a 501c3, The Tualatin STEAM Team, to ensure implementation of the Community Revitalization Plan’s goals. Tualatin’s Revitalization Plan includes a short-term and a long-term strategy to meet the goals outlined in the plan. In the short-term, the team has built a Mobile Makerspace (MMS) where people can make, invent, and learn. The MMS is a creative, “do it yourself” space providing tools and equipment which provide hands-on learning experiences for youth, to spark an interest in STEAM subjects. Tualatin School District STEM Advisory Committee has developed lesson plans that are giving students in grades 2-5 a chance to think critically, design solutions, and build things while learning about earth, life, and physical sciences. These lessons are aligned with the Next Generation Science Standards. While the curriculum meets the needs and standards for all students in these grade levels, there is a special focus on reaching the underserved populations, such as Tualatin’s low-income Hispanic and Latino populations who do not always enjoy the same access to these opportunities as some of their other classmates. To date we have served over 5,000 students. The MMS connects youth to this curriculum wherever they are...it is a creative learning environment on wheels delivering STEAM education and inspiring Tualatin’s youth at community events, schools, the Library and in their own neighborhoods.

The long-term vision is to develop a permanent Community Career and Creative Center in Tualatin which will include a makerspace, community gathering space, a performing arts venue and classroom space to provide space for youth and adults’ workforce training needs. This Center will be the focal point for working with partners such as Portland Community College, Oregon Tech, the South Metro STEM Partnership, and after school programs such as Saturday Academy and Oregon MESA and others.



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## A COMMUNITY SUPPORTED PLAN

This project is timely because the school district is also working to expand its efforts in incorporating STEAM education in its curriculum across all grade levels, and this project and the resulting partnerships have helped to bolster these efforts. Additionally, the City has been working to develop additional STEAM programs as part of the Library's strategic plan.

This project is important to the community because it can help to provide living wage jobs to those who need them most in Tualatin, provide a local workforce to meet employer demands and sustain a high quality of life for the Tualatin community. The need for additional workforce development efforts was outlined as part of a robust community outreach process in defining Tualatin's Vision in the 2014 update of the Tualatin Tomorrow Vision and Action Plan. Workforce Development efforts have also been identified as a top priority for the local business community through the Tualatin Chamber's survey of their membership.



## WHAT WE LEARNED FROM OUR PILOT PROGRAM

In the first year of implementation, we piloted a program using part-time library staff to train teachers on using the new Maker equipment, as well as provide in-class programs for students. We learned a few important lessons during this pilot program:

1. If you partner with Tigard-Tualatin School District and provide great (and mandatory) trainings for teachers, then more teachers will take advantage of the STEAM MMS activities and use them in their classrooms. This is a cost-effective model to reach a lot of students.
2. It is challenging and expensive to have only one part-time library employee provide the classroom instruction to the students. Over the year, the demand for instruction increased, and with only one instructor, you can only reach a limited number of students and we will need to find a way to keep up with community demand.
3. The students and the teachers LOVED the activities and the response was overwhelmingly positive! We need to find a way to train more teachers to reach more students, as well as continuing to develop community partnerships to expand beyond grades 2-5

## HELP US "MAKE" IT HAPPEN!

Our team is working to sustain and expand our efforts of bringing programming to Tualatin's youth. Your contribution could help us to reach more students in Tualatin's schools. The City of Tualatin has already committed funding to continue providing programming through the Library. The Library will continue to purchase new equipment and supplies, develop new programs and curriculum and conduct community outreach to build interest in the program.

However, we need your help to continue delivering programs *directly* into the schools. We need to establish the Makerspace with an active presence in the elementary schools and expand our programs into the middle school where students are beginning to lose interest in STEAM related education. The City is expanding their budget to maintain and prepare the curriculum and maker equipment for the lessons, but we need additional funding to deploy the makerspace on a regular and ongoing basis in the schools, train teachers and purchase additional equipment and supplies for lessons. We have already secured \$10,000 from Lam Research to be received later this year, and we have already developed an application for a grant from PGE for \$25,000 to submit this winter. We are also pursuing funding from our local industries. **Your contribution is critical in piecing together all these other funding sources to allow the program to proceed.**

## FROM A VISION TO A SUSTAINABLE REALITY

The short-term MMS project has been funded through donations, grants and the award received through the America's Best Communities contest sponsored by Frontier Communications. However, to be sustainable for the long-term additional support from community and regional partners is required. The Tualatin community is seeking regional leadership and funding to connect people in Tualatin with STEAM training opportunities to prepare them for careers with living wage pay with employers in Tualatin and across the Portland region. Our team is currently negotiating with Lam and PCC for an employee training program that will partially fund our makerspace both short term and long term.

This project has leveraged the support of many community members and local businesses. **This is an opportunity to connect with a vast network of partners, and help to spark real and lasting change in a community who is ready and excited to embrace the challenges of building a highly-technically skilled workforce for the careers of tomorrow.**

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