



# PRESS RELEASE



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For Immediate Release

## makeX Premieres at the Palo Alto Art Center on Sunday, September 1

**Palo Alto, CA** - After months of planning, the teen-designed mobile makerspace called **makeX** will open at the Palo Alto Art Center, 1313 Newell Road, Palo Alto, at a celebration on Sunday, September 1 from 2-5 p.m. **makeX** will be installed at the Art Center through October 15. **makeX** travels to the City Hall Lobby, 250 Hamilton Avenue, in downtown Palo Alto beginning October 15.

**makeX** is designed by local middle and high school students through a California State Library grant-funded collaboration of the Palo Alto Art Center and Palo Alto City Library. Working with project consultants, architects Noll & Tam of Berkeley, CA, and author and educational consultant Bernie Trilling, the project began in the spring of 2013 with weekly meetings in order to develop the identity of the space through equipment, furniture, and learning experiences. It is designed by and for Palo Alto youth as a “space of their own,” one that promotes self-directed and mentored creative expression and learning about art and technology. A goal of **makeX** is to meet the educational and social needs of teen makers and, through its mobile nature, encourage participation by makers throughout the City.

A makerspace is a place that celebrates the idea of *making*—using creativity and imagination to make things rather than buying them. Makerspaces have become more common in libraries, museums, and schools as a way to encourage creation and exploration. **makeX** does this by providing a place for makers to use equipment and materials ranging from glue and popsicle sticks to sewing machines, 3D printers, and laser cutters, and to receive help from trained facilitators who can instruct people on how to use the resources. The furniture and tools are designed to be mobile, allowing **makeX** to travel to locations around the City such as the Lucie Stern Community Center, Eastside Prep, and the Mitchell Park Library.

“I hope **makeX** will inspire everyone, especially teens, to think outside the box,” said Emma Waldspurger, a student from Henry M. Gunn High School who participated in the project. “I hope that **makeX** can impact others the way it impacted me,” added Claire Dennis, a participant from Palo Alto High, speaking about her immersion into the Maker movement when working on the planning team.

**makeX** was supported in part by the U.S. Institute of Museum and Library Services under the provisions of the Library Services and Technology Act, administered in California by the State Librarian.

The opening at the Art Center will include such activities as a tour and explanation of **makeX**'s

equipment and tools, as well as a craft project. Refreshments are provided. Details about how to make appointments to use the space will be provided onsite, or can be obtained by contacting the Palo Alto Art Center at 650.329.2366 or [artcenter@cityofpaloalto.org](mailto:artcenter@cityofpaloalto.org).

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