

Kids Makelt - Teen Tech Hubs Fundraiser Info

If this is your first time learning about Kids Makelt, we're a unique 21st Century educational institution solely focused on exposing youth to Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math (STEAM) skills and careers. Through our work, we have seen a positive impact on youth as a result of Kids Makelt's programs in the community. In 2021, we've exposed hundreds of students to projects in coding, microcomputers, aeronautics, science, art, urban agriculture, and engineering. We're already seeing a positive impact on youth and how they are introduced to the arts and sciences through non-traditional and informal after-school settings.

Our Goal

In 2022, we plan to expand our mission of exposing underserved youth to STEAM opportunities through a partnership with Lexington Parks & Rec Community Centers. To address youth violence and the lack of safe spaces for our youth, we are launching our Teen Tech Hubs! During this year's Giving Tuesday and Good Giving Challenge, we plan on raising funding for these Tech Hubs by partnering with several local businesses to meet our goal of \$20,000.

Partnerships

This year, we've been successful in building strategic partnerships to provide underserved youth with a strong network backing of community organizations including the City of Lexington, the University of Kentucky, and FCPS Academies of Lexington. Our next step is to build corporate partnerships to close our financial and technical resource gap.

Programs

Through these partnerships we've launched several projects this year, including 1) Taking Flight (*a birding and research pilot program with Red Oaks and the University of Kentucky that provides area youth with exposure to neighborhood birds while conducting research on cardinals*), 2) an Ecological Research and Water Quality Youth Academy (*curriculum driven lessons focused on exposing youth to the work of Lexington's Environmental Quality and Public Works efforts*), and 3) our new Teen Tech Hubs at Dunbar and Castlewood Community Centers (*a collaboration with Lexington's Parks & Rec which will provide underserved youth with mentorship and project-based learning in Science, Art, and Technology*).

Teen Tech Hubs

The Teen Tech Hubs will be placed in Lexington's Community Centers, where teens can develop critical skills through hands-on activities while exploring their interests through project-based learning. The Hubs work to bridge the digital divide by giving underserved youth access to tech education and mentored guidance, while building the confidence they'll need to be successful in school and in their future careers.

Impact

Kids Makelt Institute aspires to create a safe place where students from all walks of life can meet and solve problems together. We want our students to see themselves in the world's innovators and, in turn, as innovators themselves. We want our students to be able to tackle the problems of the future, today. Their possibilities can be more than just dreams. We can help them become reality! This is where the support of our community is crucial. Access to basic forms of technology, to reliable internet, and to supplies which they use to design and build their ideas are made possible by community members and organizational support. Contributions to our Kids Makelt Institute Fund at BGCF go towards making the Teen Tech Hubs a success.

Bluegrass Community Foundation Fund

Kids Makelt Institute Fund: <https://bgcf.givingfuel.com/kids-make-it>