

Tualatin Mobile Makerspace Makes Official Debut

The Tualatin Mobile Makerspace made its official debut on January 24 at the annual State of the City. The Mobile Makerspace trailer is a workshop-on-wheels, enabling transport of equipment and supplies for activities at local elementary schools, the Tualatin Public Library, community events, and within neighborhoods. The Makerspace is part of the local America's Best Community project, which seeks to provide hands-on learning experiences for youth to spark an interest in STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts, math) subjects.

"We are thrilled to have these new tools to engage youth and adults in hands-on learning! This is a great way for kids to connect with STEAM education and have fun with the learning experience, said Jerianne Thompson, Tualatin's Library Manager. While the trailer was under construction, Lauren Simon who is a Librarian who works part-time with the Mobile Makerspace has been making classroom visits since October at the local elementary schools, bringing active, experiential learning to hundreds of children, with hundreds more participating through Library and school events.



Lessons – such as learning about changing states of matter by heating and cooling crayons and lemonade, and energy conversion by building a remote-controlled car powered by solar energy – are sometimes challenging, but students work together to figure out a solution: "This was hard, but also fun." The Mobile Makerspace will continue classroom visits through winter and spring, plus there will be monthly Library events.

This spring, the Mobile Makerspace will be heading out to after school programs, community events and neighborhoods to reach even more kids. Learn more about our upcoming activities by following us on social media: [@TualatinABC](https://twitter.com/TualatinABC) (Twitter), [Facebook.com/TualatinABC](https://facebook.com/TualatinABC), or [Instagram.com/TualatinMakerspace](https://instagram.com/TualatinMakerspace).

The Tualatin ABC project's long-term plan is to develop a permanent makerspace at a Community Career and Creative Center, offering skills training, exploration, performing arts, and more. This project is a result of the work of many community partners such as the City of Tualatin, the Tualatin Chamber of Commerce, School District, Mask & Mirror Community Theatre, and local businesses. There are many ways to get involved in the project through volunteering and donations. Learn more at tualatinmakerspace.org.

