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## Observer

Palm Coast. Ormond Beach.

# Got skills? Maker Faire Daytona showcases local innovators and their work

Founded locally by Valerie Uy, Maker Faire Daytona brings together artists, engineers, students, educators and hobbyists through interactive events highlighting their work.

By [Suzanne McCarthy](#) | 5:00 p.m. October 12, 2026



The Mad Scientist Show presents an interactive science demonstration at Maker Faire Daytona. Photo by Suzanne McCarthy



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From traditional wood carving and block printing to robotics and science experiments, local makers shared their skills and creations at Maker Faire Daytona on Saturday, Oct. 10, at the Mickel A. Brown Sr. Activity Building in Daytona Beach's Historic Midtown.

The free, all-ages event welcomed more than 350 community members for four hours of interactive exhibits, demonstrations, and hands-on activities.



Founded locally by Valerie Uy, Maker Faire Daytona brings together artists, engineers, students, educators and hobbyists through interactive events highlighting their work.

“We started with four little Show & Tells at our local libraries and Cinematique Theater, reaching just over 300 people combined,” Uy said. “Today, we brought more than 350 people together in just four hours, right here in Historic Midtown. That means something to me.”

Participating makers included the Volusia Wood Carvers, Southern R2 Builders, student robotics teams from Volusia County Schools, Bethune-Cookman University computer science and engineering students, and local artists demonstrating traditional techniques.

Visitors also enjoyed science demonstrations presented by Volusia County educators, activities hosted by the Volusia County Regional Library, and exhibits highlighting STEM education, crafts and technology.

“My favorite part of today wasn’t the crowd. It was watching an older generation teach a child how to carve wood, while just a few tables away, kids were exploring robotics and the lost art of block printing,” Uy said. “One generation passing down what they know, another discovering what they can create. In a world moving so quickly toward AI, I think we need more of these moments, not fewer.”

Maker Faire Daytona is the third licensed Maker Faire producer in Florida and part of the international Maker Faire movement.

“We’re not a big city, and we’re not a big Faire,” Uy said. “But we have people here worth celebrating, skills worth sharing and young minds worth investing in.”

## Featured Local Savings





Mandi Howell, of BAMDAT entertainment; Keith Willis, Daytona Beach City Parks and Recreation director; Maker Faire Daytona founder Valerie Uy; and Roy Savoca, Bethune Cookman University professor with a robotic dog. Photo by Suzanne McCarthy





A member of the Volusia Wood Carvers demonstrates wood carving at Maker Faire Daytona. Photo by Suzanne McCarthy





Local artist Famous After Death offers a Block Printing With a Twist activity at Maker Faire Daytona. Photo by Suzanne McCarthy





Bethune-Cookman University representatives display robotics projects at Maker Faire Daytona. Photo by Suzanne McCarthy





A young attendee gets a closer look at a robotic dog from Bethune-Cookman University. Photo by Suzanne McCarthy





Princesses and Power Tools show off their power drills at Maker Faire Daytona. Photo by Suzanne McCarthy





Caeley Looney displays her book "Charlie's Space Adventures: Mission to the Moon" at Maker Faire Daytona. Photo by Suzanne McCarthy





Volusia County Schools STEM specialist Amy Monahan and Maker Faire Daytona founder Valerie Uy attend the event. Photo by Suzanne McCarthy





DeLand robotics students give young attendees a chance to operate their robot at Maker Faire Daytona. Photo by Suzanne McCarthy





A young attendee participates in an interactive science demonstration during the Mad Scientist Show at Maker Faire Daytona. Photo by Suzanne McCarthy





Members of the Daytona Beach Ghostbusters show off their Ghostbusters equipment and creations. Photo by Suzanne McCarthy





Southern R2 Builders members display their R2-D2 droids at Maker Faire Daytona.  
Photo by Suzanne McCarthy





Mandi Howell, of BAMDAT entertainment; Keith Willis, Daytona Beach City Parks and Recreation director; Maker Faire Daytona founder Valerie Uy; and Roy Savoca, Bethune Cookman University professor with a robotic dog. Photo by Suzanne McCarthy

