

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE **August 31, 2026**

Local Makers, Local Skills, Local Impact: Maker Faire Daytona Returns October 10 to Historic Midtown Neighborhood.

Following a July showcase at the Volusia County Deltona library that welcomed more than 160 community members, Maker Faire Daytona is bringing together makers, educators, artists, students and families for its next hands-on celebration of STEM, skilled trades, art and creativity at the Mickel A. Brown Sr. Activity Center in Daytona Beach.

DAYTONA BEACH, Fla. — More than 160 community members gathered at the Volusia County Deltona Regional Library on July 16 for an evening of robotics, engineering, craftsmanship, art, cosplay and hands-on discovery, demonstrating the enthusiasm that exists across Volusia County for opportunities to learn, create and connect.

On October 10, 2026, from 10am to 2pm, Maker Faire Daytona will host its next interactive community showcase at the Mickel A. Brown Sr. Activity Center at Midtown Historic bringing together local makers, educators, students, artists, craftspeople, organizations and families to share what they know and inspire others to try something new.

“For children, that might mean meeting an engineer, controlling a robot or holding a soldering tool for the first time. For adults, it might mean discovering a craft, technology or local organization they never knew existed. And for experienced makers, artists and tradespeople, it is an opportunity to pass along what they know and encourage someone else to begin,” said **Valerie Uy, founder and organizer of Maker Daytona.**

The July showcase offered a glimpse of what those connections can look like. Daytona State College’s School of Engineering introduced children and adults to digital soldering, while Bethune-Cookman University’s Buster robot dog became a crowd favorite. Regional champions, Triforce Robotics teams from DeLand High School, University High School and Taylor Middle-High School brought competition robots for attendees to experience up close.

Traditional and creative skills were equally represented. Members of the Volusia Woodworkers Guild and local woodcarvers shared their craftsmanship, award-winning mural artist Natasha Azari painted live, and Volusia County STEM educators led hands-on activities. Cosplayers, chainmail fashion designers and Weirdly Wired’s lightsaber technology brought another side of making to life, while the Deltona Regional Library demonstrated the Turing Tumble mechanical computer.

The Ghostbusters of Daytona, a team that includes Volusia County law enforcement officers, guardians, firefighters, veterinarians, teachers, photographers and other local

professionals , added another example of how creativity and community service can come together.

A Meaningful Home for the October Showcase

The October showcase will take Maker Faire Daytona into Daytona Beach's historic Midtown neighborhood, where the **Mickel A. Brown Sr. Activity Center** provides a particularly meaningful setting for an event centered on making, sharing skills and inspiring the next generation.

The center honors **Mickel Antonio Brown Sr. (1961–2014)**, a Daytona Beach entrepreneur, mentor and community leader who built his own painting and pressure-washing business, worked with his hands, solved problems and shared what he knew with others. Through his business, mentorship and involvement with Bethune-Cookman University, Brown became a familiar and respected figure in the Daytona Beach community. The City later named the activity center in his honor and recognized him as one of its **2025 Black History Icons**.

For more information about upcoming events, visit www.makersdaytonabeach.com or follow Maker Daytona Beach on social media.

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*Real-life heroes. Real-life Ghostbusters. Two young Maker Faire attendees pose with members of the **Ghostbusters of Daytona**, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit made up of local first responders, veterinarians and other community professionals, alongside their Ecto-1 at the July 16 Maker Faire Daytona showcase.*



Mad science meets hands-on learning. Volusia County Schools educators **Bryan Innes and Jeff Krob**, bringing a combined 30 years of Volusia County School service, captivated young attendees with an interactive mad science demonstration at Maker Faire Daytona's July 16 showcase. The experience put local educators and their knowledge directly in front of curious young minds.



Even robot dogs need a checkup! Dr. Amy Long, a local veterinarian and volunteer with the **Ghostbusters of Daytona**, listens to the “heartbeat” of **Buster, Bethune-Cookman University’s robot dog**, with her stethoscope , a playful Maker Faire moment where science, technology, profession and imagination came!



What can 30 years of teaching experience and a little wind create? VCS educator **Bryan Innes** put science in motion with a wind-powered chair demonstration, giving young Maker Faire attendees a fun and memorable lesson in experimentation.



*Curiosity takes center stage. Young attendees eagerly participate in a “Mad Science” demonstration led by Volusia County Schools educators **Bryan Innes and Jeff Krob**, bringing science out of the classroom and into a fun, interactive community experience at Maker Faire Daytona.*



Learning across generations. Children and adults lean in to explore digital soldering with **Daytona State College's School of Engineering**, capturing Maker Faire Daytona's goal of making hands-on learning accessible to every generation.



Connecting the community to engineering. Daytona State College's School of Engineering brought digital soldering directly to Maker Faire families, giving attendees a hands-on introduction to electronics, engineering and the skills behind the technology they use every day.



*Libraries are places to make and discover. **Volusia County Deltona regional librarians** introduce families to the Turing Tumble, turning the fundamentals of computer programming into an interactive, hands-on experience at Maker Faire Daytona.*



*Craftsmanship passed from one generation to the next. Members of the **Volusia Woodworkers Guild** demonstrate woodworking techniques for Maker Faire attendees, sharing skills developed through years of hands-on experience.*



Something made — and something to take home. Volusia County STEM educators give 3D-printed creations to young Maker Faire attendees, sparking conversations about how ideas can go from a digital design to a physical object.



A young maker in the making. A curious attendee discovers jewelry making with **DeLand Arts & Metal Studio**, getting a hands-on introduction to the creativity, craftsmanship and skills behind wearable art.



Pure chaos. Pure joy. Three robots. Buster, Bethune-Cookman University's robot dog, joins competition robots from **Triforce Robotics** and **DOOMBA** for a crowd-pleasing moment that brought robotics to life at Maker Faire Daytona.



When the robots take over Maker Faire! Buster the robot dog, Triforce Robotics and DOOMBA created a little chaos and a lot of joy as attendees young and old experienced three very different sides of robotics up close.



Meeting technology one paw at a time. A young attendee overcomes her hesitation to greet Buster, Bethune-Cookman University's robot dog, experiencing robotics up close in a way no screen or textbook could replicate.



Heroes in uniform and in proton packs. Pictured with Maker Daytona founder Valerie Uy with the Ghostbusters of Daytona, a nonprofit made up of local law enforcement officers, firefighters, guardians, veterinarians, photographers and other professionals who take their commitment to community service beyond their everyday careers.



Behind every great cosplay is a maker. Firefighter **Austin McCormick** of the Ghostbusters of Daytona shows off his proton pack, demonstrating the craftsmanship, problem-solving and countless details that go into bringing a character to life.



Different makers. One community. Attendees gather with Buster the BCU robot dog, DOOMBA and the Ghostbusters of Daytona , bringing together robotics, engineering, handcrafted cosplay and community spirit in one very Maker Faire moment.



It starts with curiosity. A Volusia County educator and Liam, a student from DeLand High School, share their knowledge with curious young attendees, creating the kind of hands-on interaction that can turn a fascination with robots into an interest in building one someday.



It takes a community to build a community of makers. Local educators, librarians, STEM leaders, students and community partners representing schools, higher education and community institutions came together at Maker Faire Daytona to share knowledge, create opportunities and inspire curiosity across generations.

Pictured left to right: Dr. Michael Daniels, Daytona State College; Jill Hanstein, DeLand High School science educator/ robotics coach ; Valerie Uy, founder of Maker Daytona; Diana Bastian, mathematics educator; Amy Monahan, Volusia County Schools STEM specialist; Deltona Regional Library librarians Mary Lane and Debra Robbins; Jonathan Herstein, Volusia County Schools educator, robotics coach FRC sponsor ; Mickel Brown Jr.; and Roy Savoca, Bethune-Cookman University.





A home for makers in the heart of Midtown. The **Mickel A. Brown Sr. Activity Center** will welcome makers, artists, educators, students and families for Maker Faire Daytona on October 10, connecting Daytona Beach's community legacy with its next generation of creators.



Mickel Brown Jr. takes a moment to look at the mural honoring his father, **Mickel A. Brown Sr.**, whose legacy of entrepreneurship, mentorship and service lives on in Daytona Beach. On October 10, the activity center bearing his father's name will welcome a new generation of makers, builders, artists and families for Maker Faire Daytona