

Got skills?



Local jewelry maker Dennis Fair demonstrates his craft at Maker Faire Daytona. **Photos by Suzanne McCarthy**



Local artist Famous After Death offers a Block Printing With a Twist activity.

Maker Faire Daytona showcases local innovators.

SUZANNE MCCARTHY
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

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."



Southern R2 Builders members display their R2-D2 droids.

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."



Mickel A. Brown Jr. and Maker Faire Daytona founder Valerie Uy



Volusia County Regional Library representatives showcase robotics and electronic circuit activities.

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Observer

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Seabreeze crowns its Homecoming king and queen. **PAGE 3B**



Seabreeze Homecoming queen Dree Johnson celebrates with Homecoming king Michael Meyer at halftime during the game against Deltona on Friday, Oct. 2, at Daytona Stadium. **Photo by Michele Meyers**

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INVESTING IN LEARNING

United Way donates \$73,000 to help Daytona students. **PAGE 5B**



Mainland High School student Journi Leary smiles with students at the Lemarand Center of Excellence. **Photo by Rachel Mills**



Skills on display

Maker Faire Daytona showcases local innovators and their work.

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