

The Brussels Maker Festival



Driving the Maker Movement in the Capital of Europe

Maker Movement

- The “**Maker Movement**” is a growing global trend that combines the traditional do-it-yourself (DIY) spirit with the tools and methods of digital fabrication to push the boundaries of creativity, product development and manufacturing through technology, innovation and entrepreneurship.
- Individuals or small groups of individuals design unique products that are recreated and assembled using unused, discarded or broken electronic, plastic, silicon or virtually any material and/or product from a computer-related device.
- Digital fabrication is becoming increasingly accessible and affordable at a personal scale. Spurred primarily by the advent of 3D printing for the fabrication of prototypes, declining cost and broad adoption are opening up new realms of innovation.
- As it has become cost effective to fabricate a single unit, this approach can be depicted as personal fabrication for "a market of one person"
- Most of the products created under the maker movement are open source, as anyone can access and create them using documentation and files available over the Internet.
- Electronic devices such as printers, robots, sensors can easily be purchased from manufacturers or other makers and assembled using online instructions

The Maker Festival Concept

- In 2006, *Make magazine*, a publication serving the Maker community, launched its first “*Maker Faire*” in the San Francisco Bay Area. Such events are now organized in many cities around the world, including Rome, Paris, and Berlin.
- A Maker fair or festival is a celebration of the Maker movement and a showcase of invention and creativity, welcoming makers – ranging from scientists, technologists, innovators and educators to crafters, tinkerers, hobbyists and hackers – to exhibit their work and share their knowledge, skills and passion with other makers and with the public at large.
- Attendees can not only explore, discover, learn, and be inspired by exhibitors and speakers, but also interact and co-create with makers, and participate in hands-on workshops and live demonstrations.
- The aim of the Brussels Maker Festival will be both to entertain and inform the Belgian public about the potential of technology to empower human creativity, and to connect and grow the Maker movement in Brussels and across Belgium.