

LOCATION

The Hack Factory is located at 3119 E. 26th Street in South Minneapolis, with about 9000 sq. ft. used by TC Maker.

TC MAKER ON THE INTERNET

Our primary Internet address is at www.tcmaker.org. From there we have links to Facebook, Twitter, Flickr, Google Groups, and other online locations.

THE ORGANIZATION

TC Maker is incorporated as a non-profit in the state of Minnesota and is working toward independent 501(c)(3) status. We are fiscally sponsored through Springboard for the Arts, and can receive tax deductible donations through them. We have a Board of Directors which helps to guide and manage our activities.

THE MAKER MOVEMENT

The maker movement is a worldwide cultural response to increasing dissatisfaction with mundane objects and mass marketing interests. It gained a popular following at the end of the 20th century. The response is a growing interest in traditional and cutting edge technologies. Makers are finding ways to merge these technologies, create unique products, and enjoy the rewards of do-it-yourself activities.

So-called “maker shops” are places with shared equipment and tools where members can learn practical skills and create individual or group projects. Maker shops do not follow a single operating formula, but are set up according to each group's goals.

OUR HISTORY

Paul Sobszak, electrical engineer, media enthusiast, world traveler, musician, and consummate maker, launched a Twin Cities Maker website on January 6, 2009. The community that formed through the website forums began to meet casually later in January at the Anodyne Café and then the Common Roots Café in Minneapolis.

During spring and summer of 2009, those meet-ups became semi-formal meetings. By midsummer a club had been formed to start raising funds to incorporate and open a small workshop.

In early December 2009, our community was approached by another group, the recently incorporated Hack Factory of Minnesota, who were also seeking to open a community workshop. On December 16th the groups voted unanimously to merge and to lease a portion of a space at 3119 E. 26th Street in Minneapolis.

On January 6th, 2010, a year to the day after the original website went up, we voted to expand our lease. We decided that our physical home would be called the “Hack Factory” and our community would be known as Twin Cities Maker.

Our first group project was the Spoonapult, created for the Science Museum of Minnesota's 2009 Make: Day exhibition. While we were unable to exhibit our scale model of the iconic Spoonbridge and Cherry sculpture (which is a functional catapult), we had a grand time testing it on Raspberry Island, and reworked it for a successful demonstration at the 2010 Make: Day.

Since that first project, our members have created a variety of group projects: “Bessie,” a cow-headed sea monster and crowd favorite at the Aquatennial Milk Carton Boat Race, a life-sized “Operation” game, a mural for our shop, and many other collaborative works.

TOOLS AND EQUIPMENT

TC Maker has accumulated tools from gifts, purchases, collaborations, and loans. We're working on grant funding and other sources to expand our tools roster.

Most tools are available for use by any member knowledgeable about those tools, though a brief check-in or training on safety may be required for some tools. Training is available for any tools members may wish to use but are unfamiliar with.

Limited storage space is available for member projects. As member numbers grow, we continue to refine the shop's layout. We hope to soon offer free dedicated small storage for each member and project storage for a nominal fee.

We currently have a wood shop, welding shop, an electronics bench, some metal tools, several CNC routers, a Cupcake 3D printer, and a wide assortment of power and hand tools for myriad artistic and creative disciplines.

Our goal is to offer to our members all of the tools and support they need to take any idea from concept through reality in any desired medium. We'd like you along for the ride.

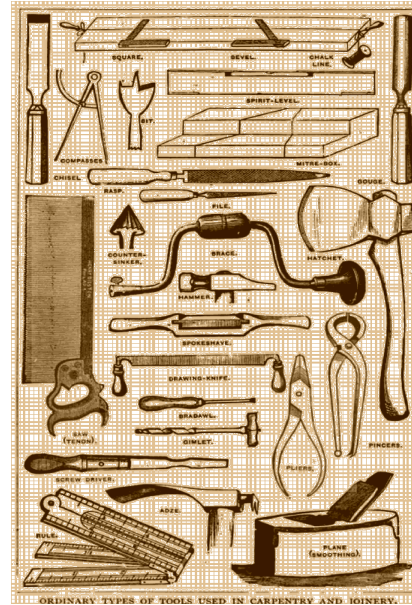
MEMBERSHIP AND MEETINGS

Membership in TC Maker, as of September, 2011 is \$50 per month. We offer a \$25/month discount to students and unemployed persons. Dues are payable on the 1st of each month. Members are allowed to use the Hack Factory space 24/7 and are allowed to vote and participate in matters concerning the operation of our organization.

Members wanting to open and enter the Hack Factory on their own are asked to pay a one-time \$25 deposit for this access privilege and an electronic key fob.

We offer a variety of free and fee-based classes, special events, lectures, open hours, and day passes for the general public which do not require a full membership.

The general public is invited to attend any of our regular open houses each Wednesday at 7 PM to view our space and converse. With notice, we'll happily arrange personal tours upon request.



A MAKER'S PHILOSOPHY

The maker way of life brings unimagined satisfaction as one explores their deepest passions and takes on personal creative challenges.

Living the life of a maker is to explore our astonishing ability to create something from nothing.

We can all make something unique and inspiring to others, starting small, starting with something we love to do.

OUR LOGO



Our logo was created by member collaboration. The outer shape can be seen as a “C” for “Cities” or a mechanical part. The inner shape is a “T” for “Twin,” “M” for “Maker,” and symbolizes an electronics trace.



MEMBER SUPPORTED
HACK FACTORY
MAKE ★ SHARE ★ LEARN

INTRODUCTION

Twin Cities Maker (TC Maker) is a community non-profit group based in the Minneapolis / St. Paul area which has acquired a physical space for our members and the community to share. We call our space the Hack Factory.

OUR MISSION

Our mission is to make, share, and learn. We seek to improve our world with innovation, helpfulness, and amazing rarities.

OUR VISION

Our vision is to facilitate the creative and collaborative process. As part of this effort we operate an affordable cooperative community “maker shop” to build projects using various media and technologies, from wood and metal to electronics, fabrics, and beyond. By fostering creative activities we aim to spread the joy of do-it-yourself goodness! We hope to be a valued contributor to the arts and maker communities in the Twin Cities, Minnesota, region, and the world.

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TCM Brochure V5, September, 2011 ©Twin Cities Maker
(Information may not be current. Please go to our website
and linked resources for up to date information.)