

Post-Project Evaluation: U-C Mini-Maker Faire

1. The primary task that the grant funds accomplished was to allow us to make the mini-maker faire free for any community members to attend. We had 45 makers in 18 booths that got to share their knowledge and excitement about making things. The grant funds paid for space rental, an honorarium for a couple makers that we had recruited, printing and signage, food for the makers, and an honorarium for a photographer and web support. We had originally hoped that 250-300 people would attend the mini-maker faire, but instead we had 431 visitors. The energy and excitement at the faire was palpable and we were exhausted and pleased with the results.

2. Because the grant funds allowed our event to be free, we had a lot more visitors—especially visitors with kids—than we expected. For instance, the Refuge Center was able to bring their Saturday morning tutoring students to the faire to learn about 3D printing, screen printing, Letterpress, knitting, and much more. Additionally, Makerspace assembled 100 learn-to-solder LED blinky robots with faire attendees, which taught a skill and increased visibility for our organization.

3. Between April 1, 2012 and April 14, 2012 volunteers spent 442 hours on preparation, promotion, and implementation of the mini-maker faire. The three co-organizers, Suzanne Linder, Sarah Dolinar, and Chris Ritzo, spent 120 hours, we had 45 makers who worked at least 6 hours on the day of the mini-maker faire (and we did not track the hours they worked before arriving at the faire), and an additional 54 hours of volunteers who staffed the door, greeted attendees, and helped set up and clean up the faire.

4. We had 431 community members attend the Mini-Maker Faire on April 14, 2012.

5. A portion of our grant was provided by the UBA and they were very helpful in promoting our event.