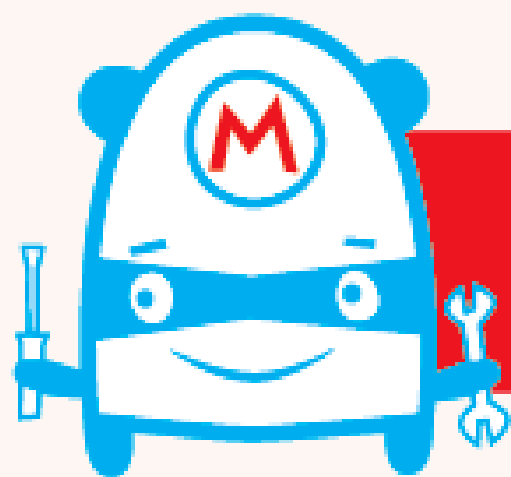
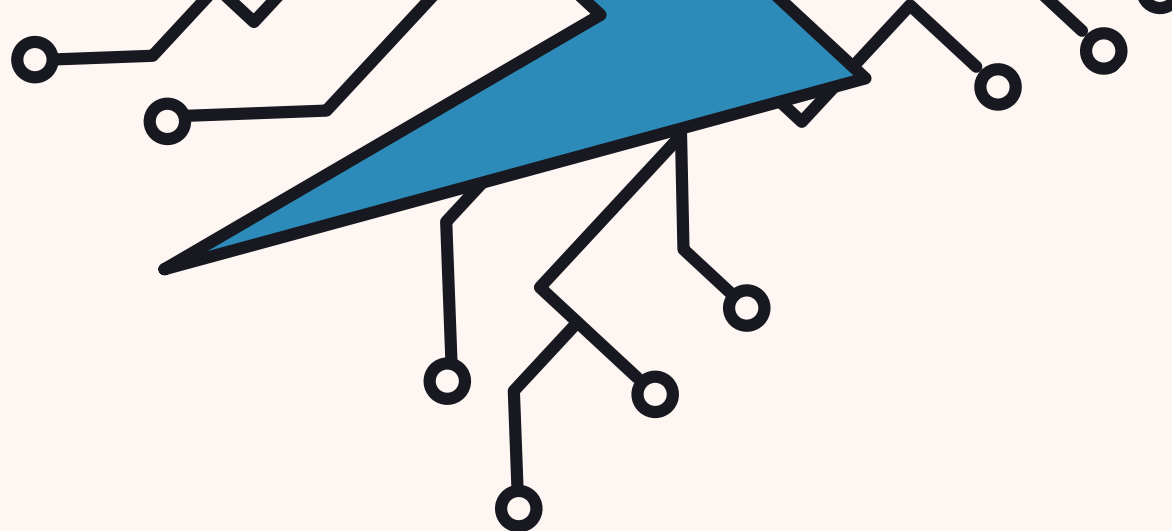
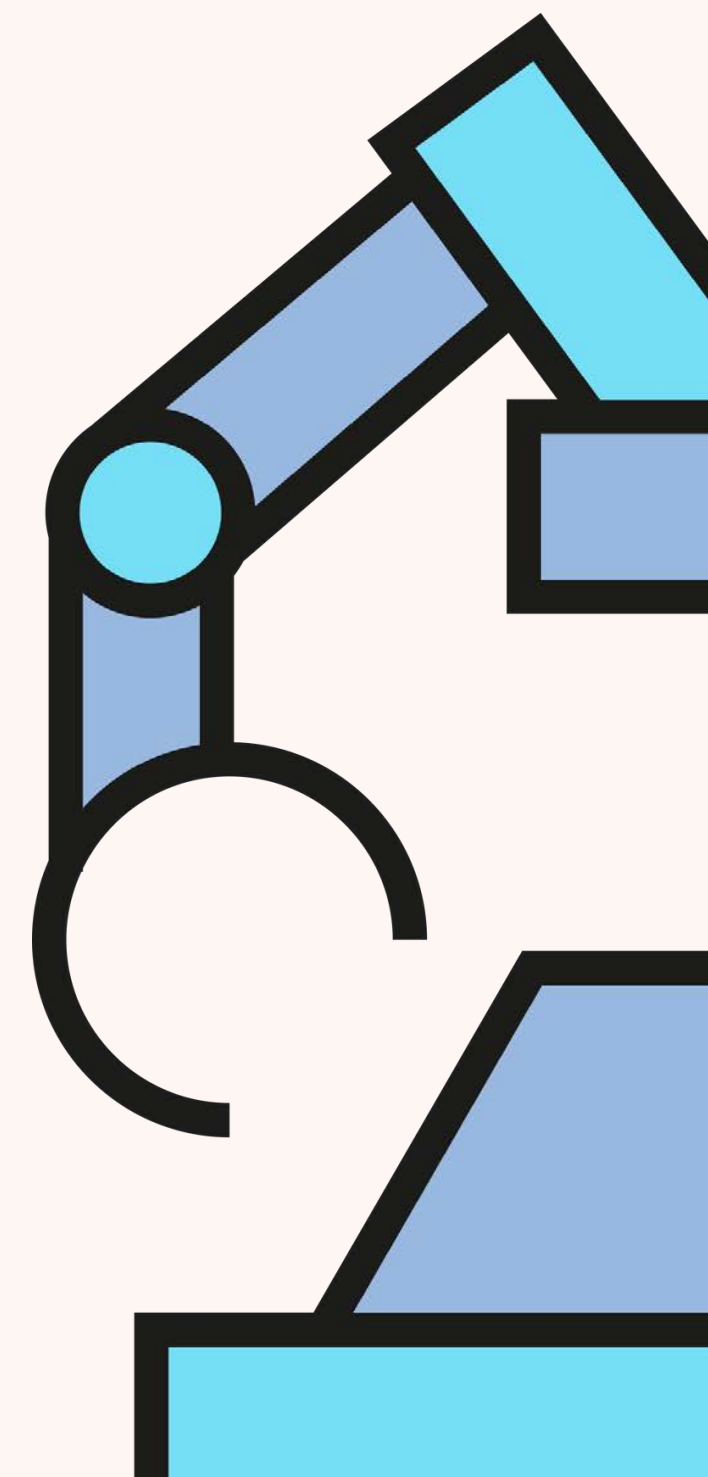
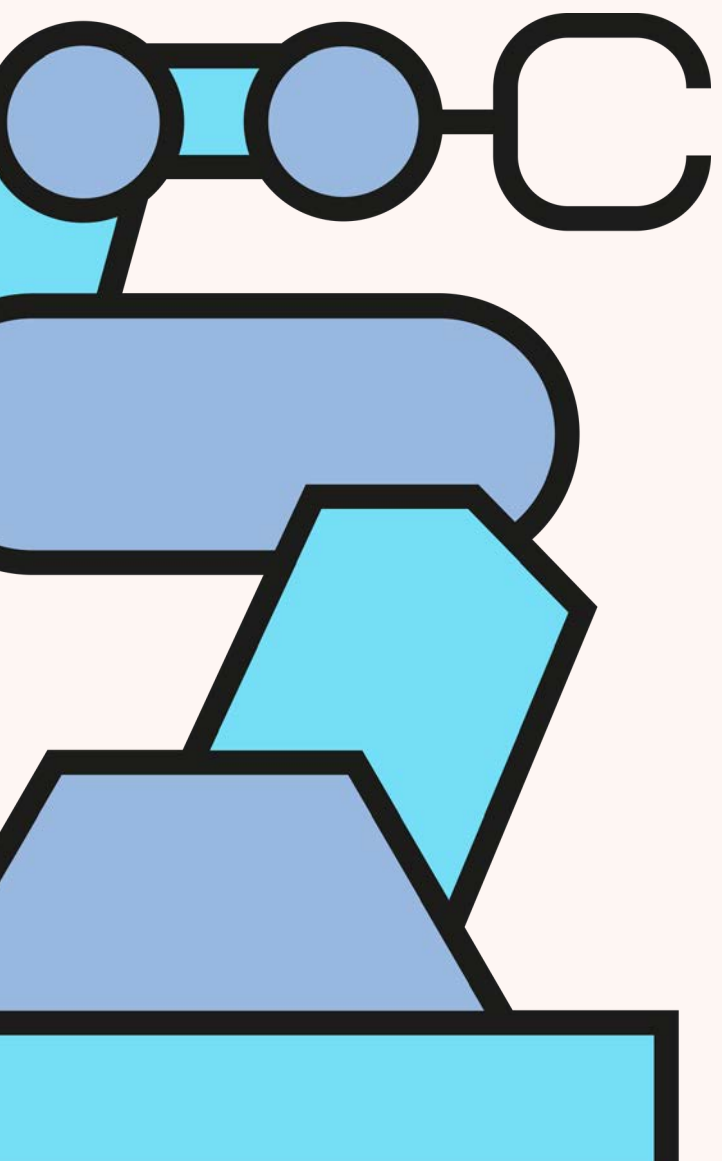




Piedmont

Makers

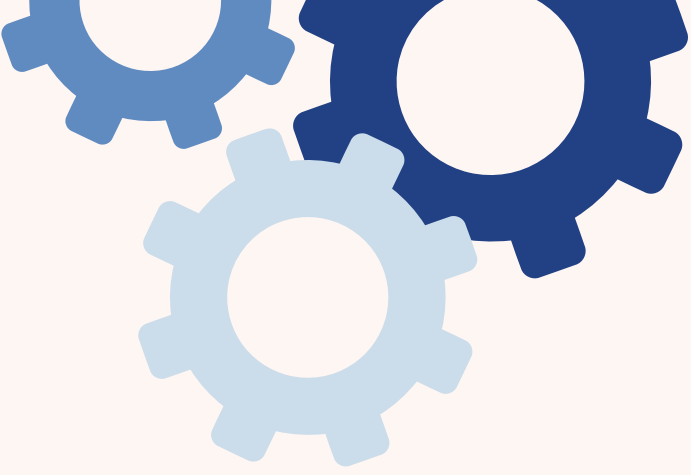
2025-2026 Impact Report



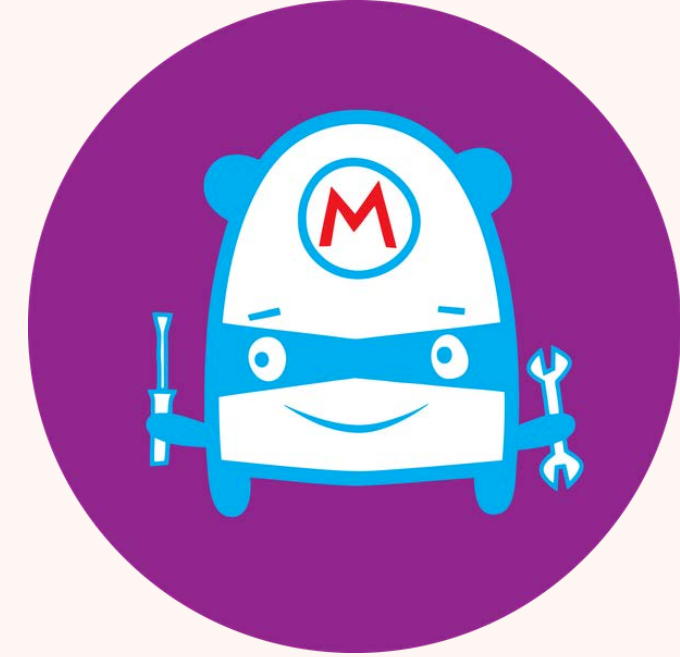
About Us

Piedmont Makers is a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation dedicated to Support & Inspire K-12 S.T.E.A.M. education (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts/Design, and Math) in Piedmont, CA & beyond.





A Letter from Our Leadership

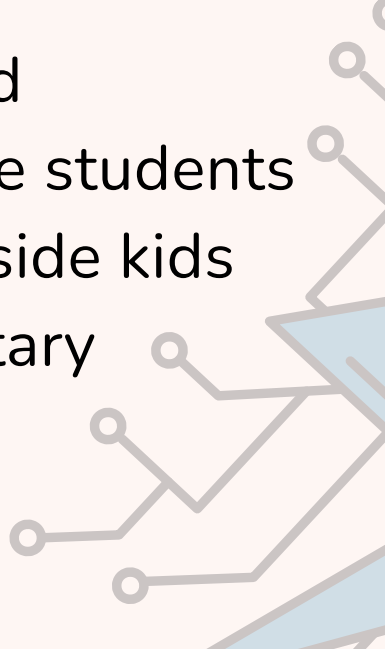
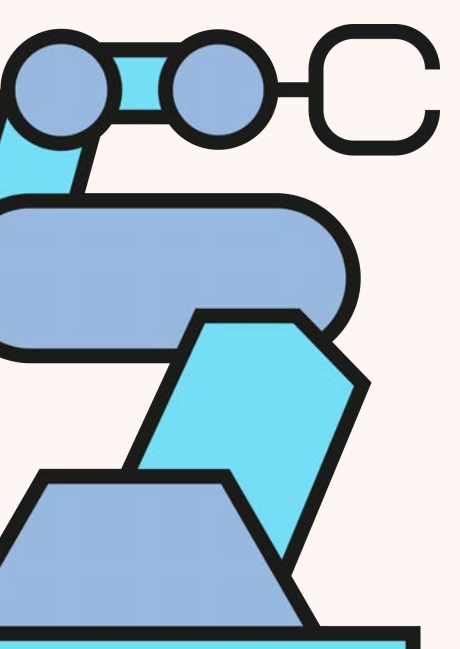


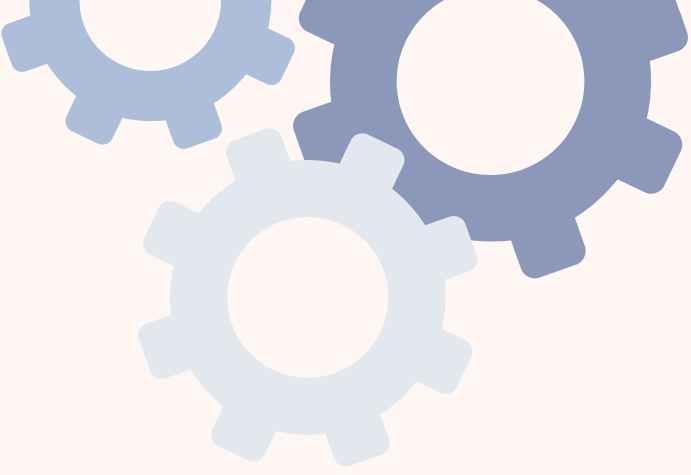
Dear Friends,

Hands-on learning changes how kids see themselves.

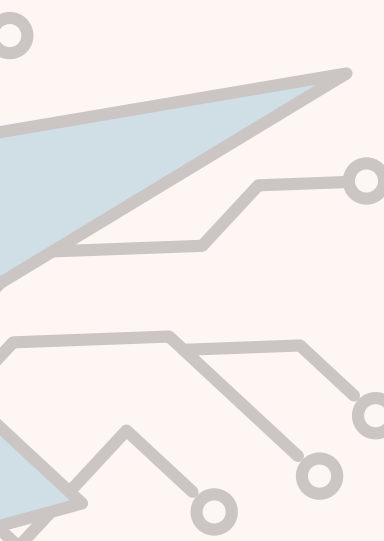
For Piedmont Makers, the 2025-2026 school year was a year of building—literally. We built robots, of course. But we also helped hundreds of students build confidence, problem-solving skills, and a sense of belonging in science and engineering spaces. We built a permanent home for youth robotics, new partnerships across the East Bay, and pathways for hundreds of kids who might not otherwise see themselves as engineers, scientists, or makers. Through all of this, we expanded access and strengthened regional infrastructure so that more young people can experience the power of making.

When Piedmont Makers started over a decade ago, we imagined a community where every child could experience the joy of creating something with their hands—and their minds. This year, we served more students from more schools across more cities than ever before. We welcomed kids from Title 1 schools alongside kids from private academies. We watched girls lead robotics teams. We saw high schoolers teach elementary students how to use CAD software.





A Letter from Our Leadership

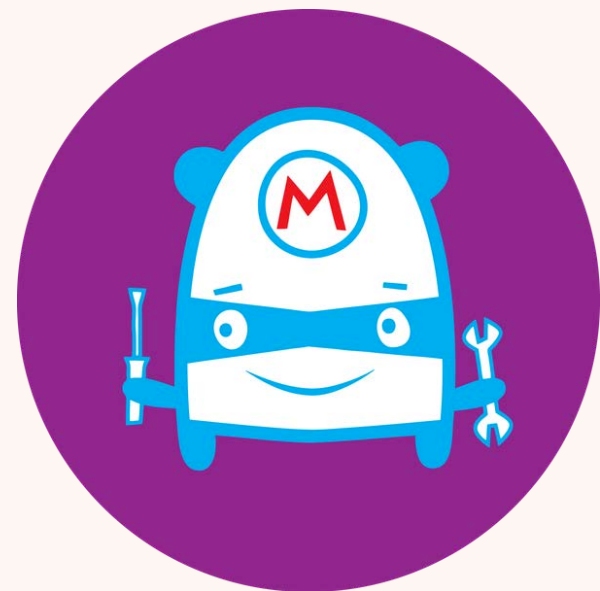


Together, we've not just built a strong maker community, but an ecosystem where students learn to invent and create, build skills and confidence, mentor those students younger than themselves, and even work together with other regional teams. The youngest kids gain role models, the oldest kids develop leadership, and access is opened to more kids who want to build and problem-solve. This ecosystem operates across schools, classrooms, events, competitions, and community spaces, breaking down barriers and increasing visibility and access for STEAM student development.

None of this happens without you. The parents who volunteer as coaches. The teachers who stay late. The donors who believe that hands-on learning matters. The mentors who show up week after week.

This report is a snapshot of what we accomplished together. Thank you for making it possible.

Ben Stein & Kevin Clark *Co-Presidents, Piedmont Makers*



What We Do

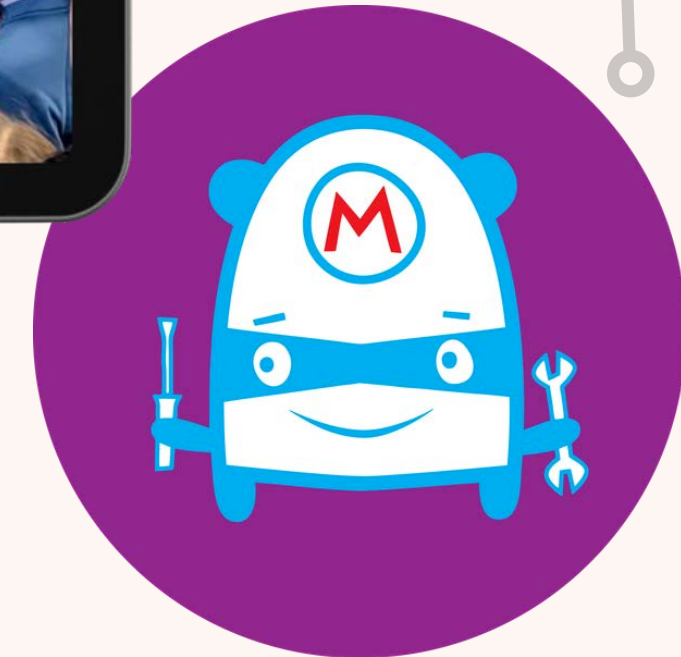
Robotics

K-12 leagues across all four levels of FIRST Robotics



Community Outreach

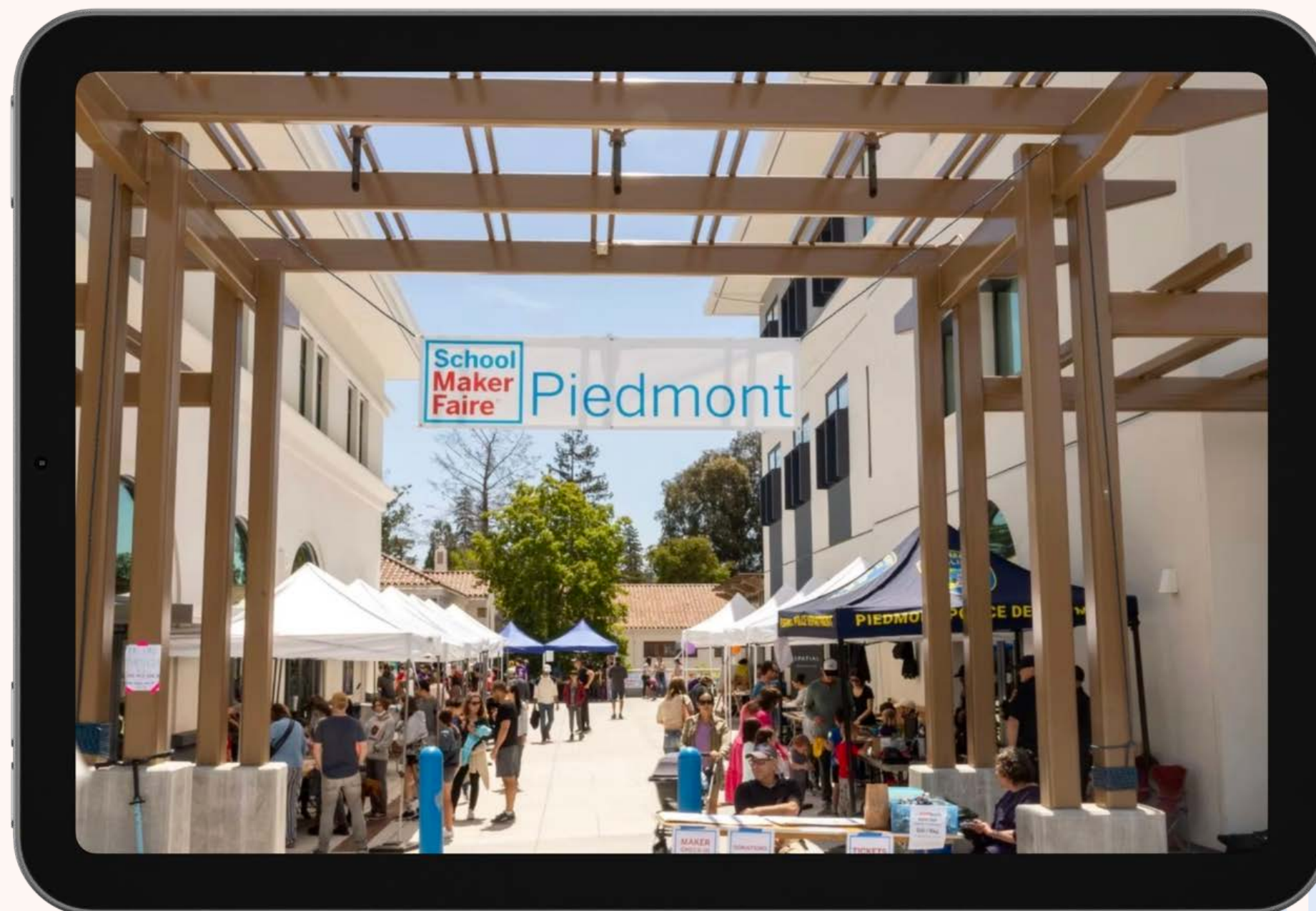
Partnering with Piedmont USD & beyond

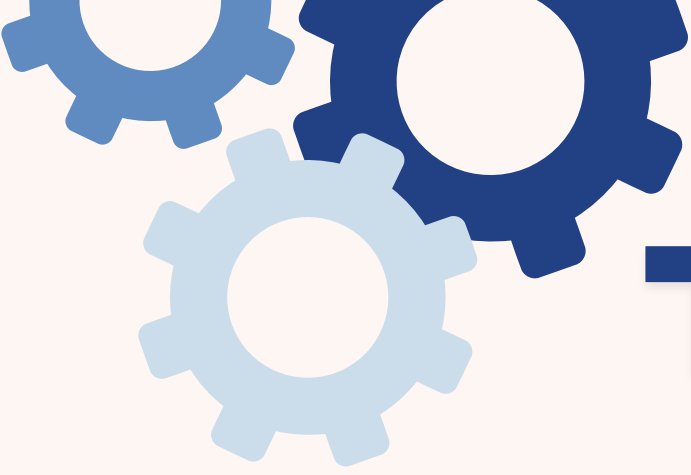


What We Do

School Maker Faire

Inspiring the next generation of Makers





The Problem We Solve & How Change Happens

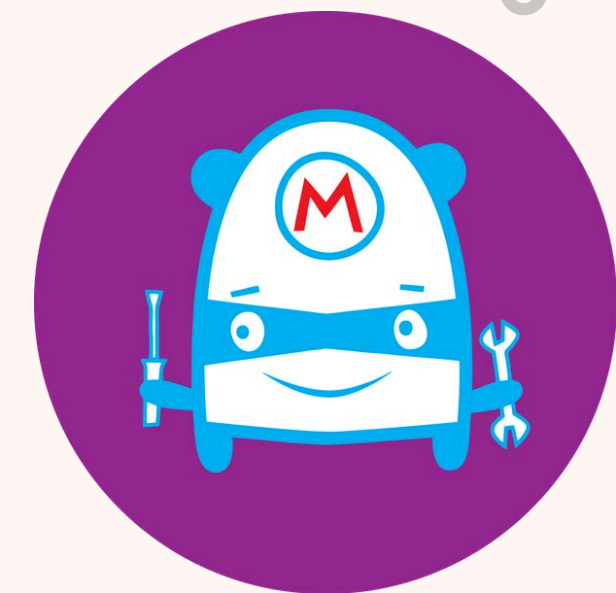
Access to hands-on STEAM education remains uneven. Many students, especially those outside well-resourced environments, lack opportunities to experiment, build, design, and collaborate in maker and engineering environments.

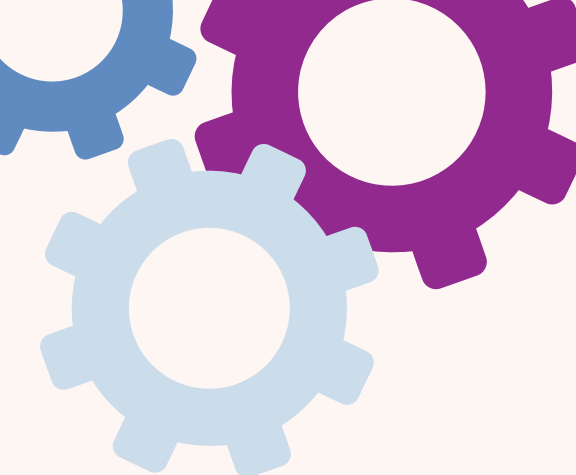
Research consistently shows that early exposure to applied science and engineering experiences:

- increases persistence in STEM coursework
- improves confidence in problem solving
- strengthens teamwork and communication skills
- influences future academic and career pathways

Yet these opportunities are often limited by cost, equipment and space access, or availability of trained mentors.

Piedmont Makers exists to close that gap. Through robotics leagues, mentorship pipelines, teacher grants, shared infrastructure, community events, and regional partnerships, we support students as they learn to solve hard problems and find belonging and inspiration in technical spaces.



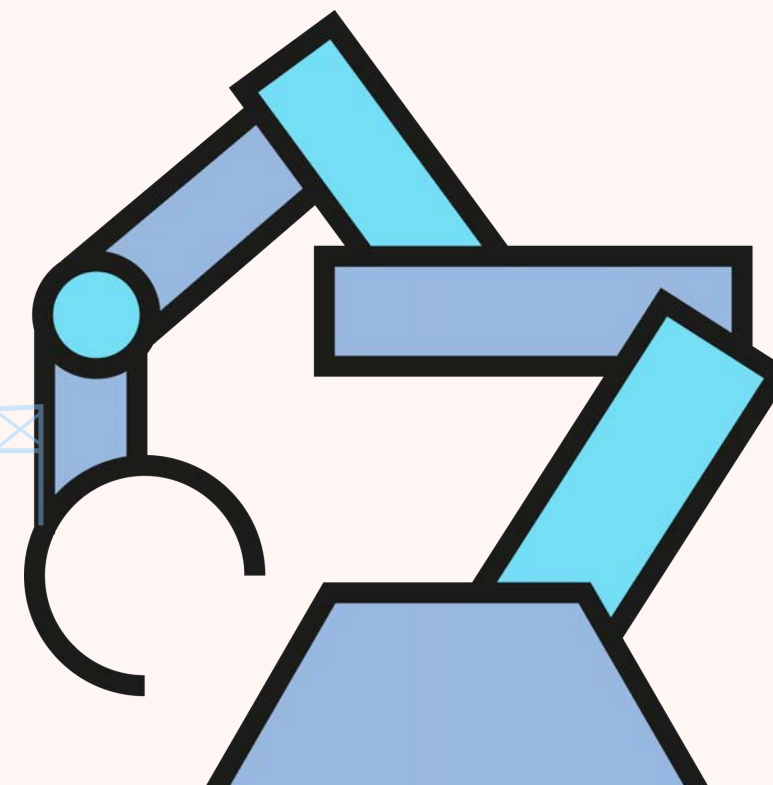
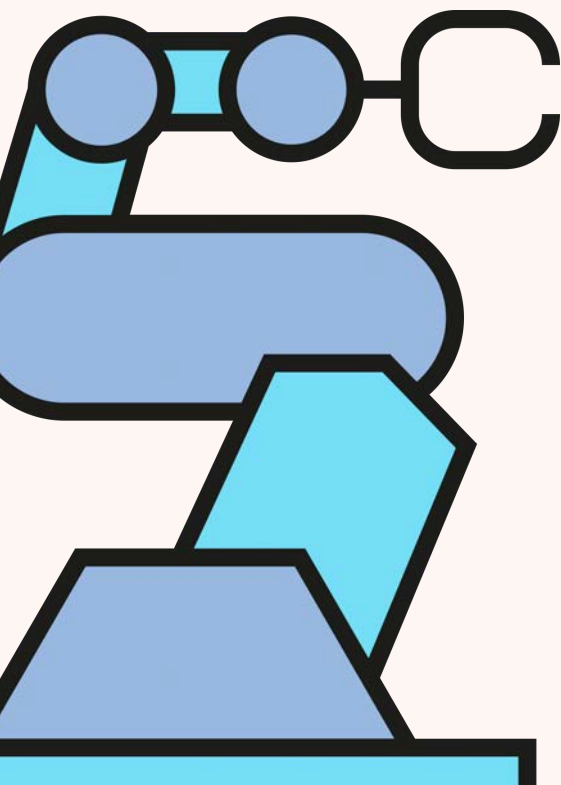


Who We Serve – Reach, Access, and Community

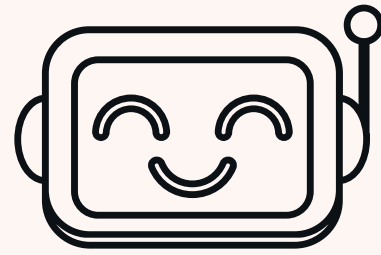
Our 900 students came from 139 different schools across 20 cities, including Piedmont, Oakland, Berkeley, Alameda, Lafayette, Moraga, and Orinda. 46% came from outside Piedmont, reflecting our growth as a regional resource and ecosystem.

Breaking down barriers:

- 29% of our participants are girls. In a field where women remain underrepresented, we're building the pipeline early.
- 87 students came from Title 1 schools. STEAM education shouldn't depend on your zip code or your family's income.
- 7 students were homeschooled. Robotics gives homeschool families access to team-based learning they can't get elsewhere.



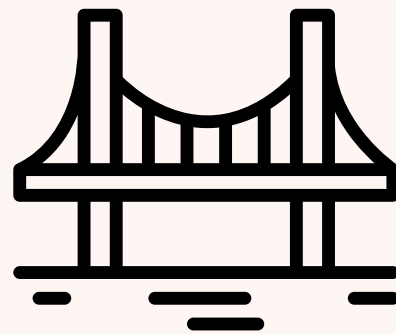
2025-2026 By the Numbers



> 900
Students in Robotics



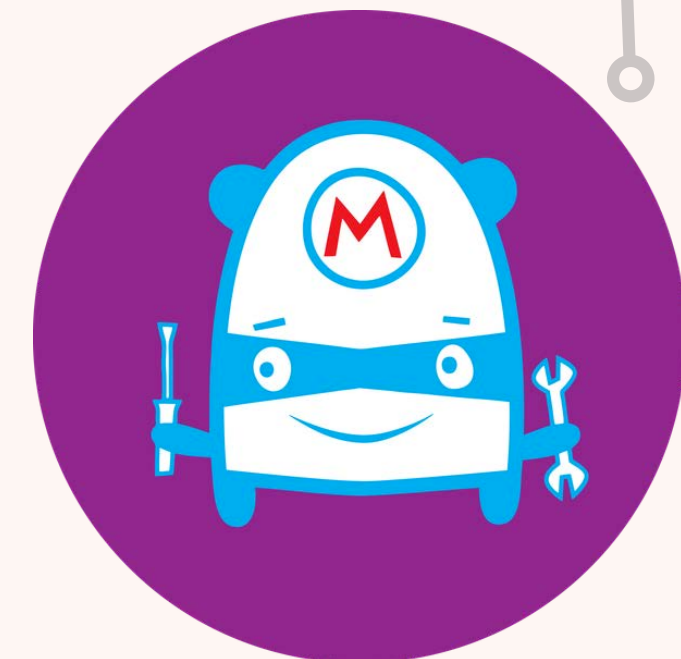
139
Schools Represented



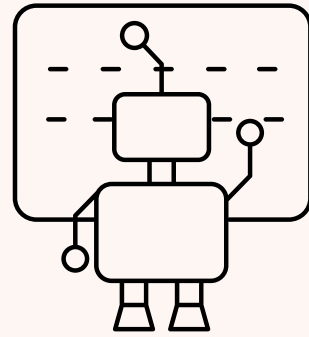
20
East Bay Cities



125+
Robotics Teams



2025-2026 By the Numbers



\$25k

Teacher Grants Awarded



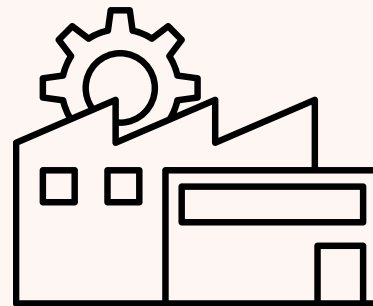
1,000+

Maker Faire Attendees



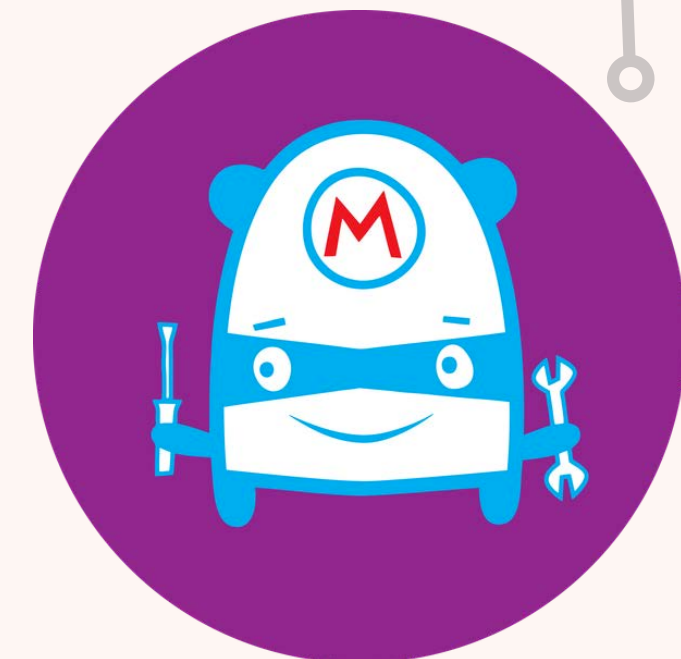
1,900+

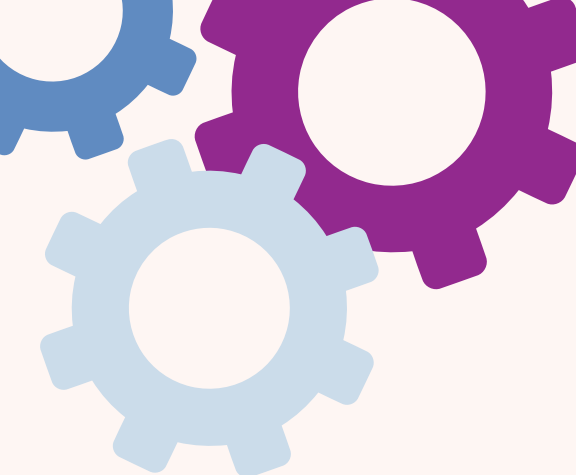
Volunteer Hours



\$175,000

Facility Investment Raised

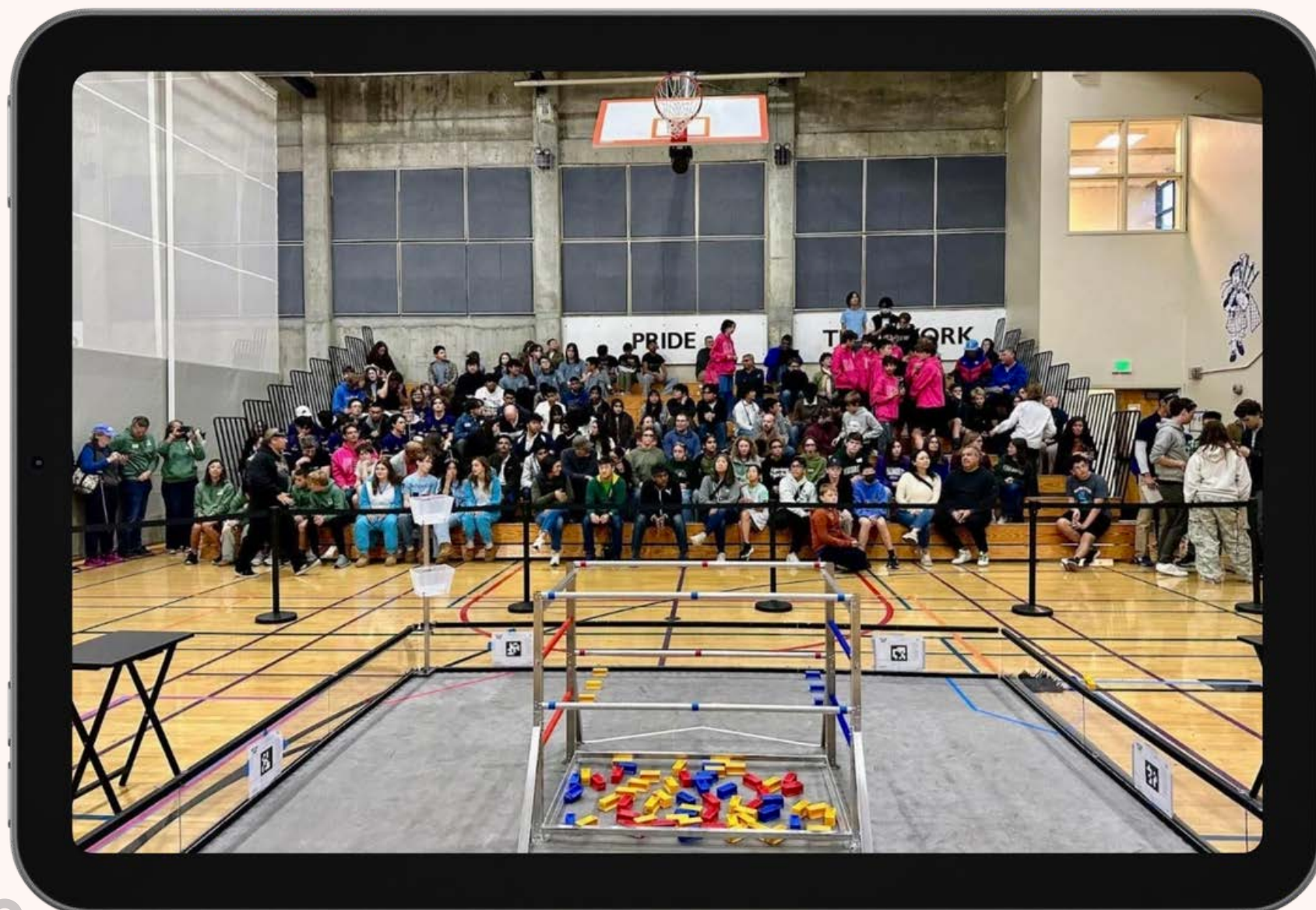


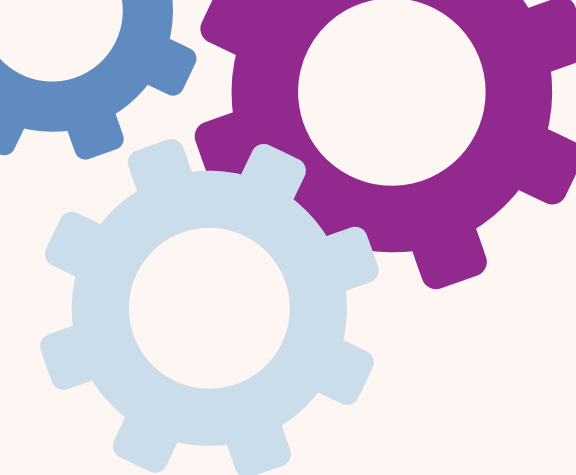


The Largest Community Robotics League in America

For the third consecutive year, Piedmont Makers operated the largest community-based youth robotics league in the United States. Our program spans all four levels of FIRST robotics, from kindergartners snapping together their first machines to high schoolers programming autonomous competition robots.

Robotics is about more than building machines. It's a place where kids learn to work on teams, solve problems under pressure, debug code at 10pm before a tournament, explain design rationale and build-goals to a judge, and experience the particular satisfaction of watching something they built actually work. For many students, it's their first taste of engineering, of succeeding in a technical environment. For others, it's the team sport that finally fits.





Our Robotics Programs

FLL Explore (Kindergarten - 3rd Grade)

395 students

Our youngest makers build LEGO models and create simple machines while learning teamwork basics. *This year, 30% of Explore participants were girls.*



FLL Challenge (4th Grade - 8th Grade)

341 students

Teams design, build, and program autonomous LEGO robots to complete missions. They also research real-world problems and present solutions to judges. *15% of Challenge students came from Title 1 schools—our strongest economic diversity across any program level.*



Our Robotics Programs

FTC (7th Grade - 12th Grade)

93 students

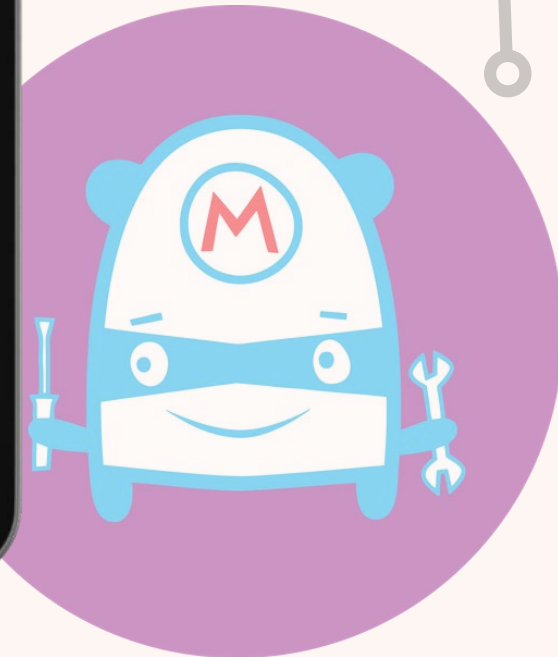
Students build larger robots with metal, motors, and more sophisticated programming. Teams compete in regional tournaments and can advance to state championships.

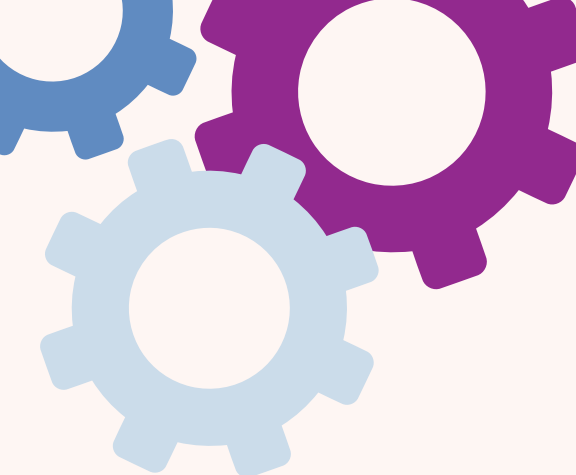


FRC (9th Grade - 12th Grade)

70 students

Our most advanced program. Teams build 120-pound competition robots over a six-week build season, then compete at regional and world championship events.





Spotlight: Highlander Robotics (FRC 8033)

Piedmont Makers proudly sponsors Highlander Robotics, Team 8033, our flagship high school team. In 2026, they won the Team Sustainability Award at the Glendale California District Event and the IMPACT Award at the San Francisco District event. The team's robot, Wisp, had strong performances throughout the season and the design, mechanical, and software sub-teams showed grit and dedication to iterating all season.

But 8033's impact extends well beyond their own competition season. This summer, they ran their fourth annual a-CAD-emy summer camp, where team members taught middle schoolers computer-aided design using Onshape, then brought their designs to life on 3D printers and laser cutters. It's a model we believe in: experienced students teaching the next generation, building skills and confidence on both sides.





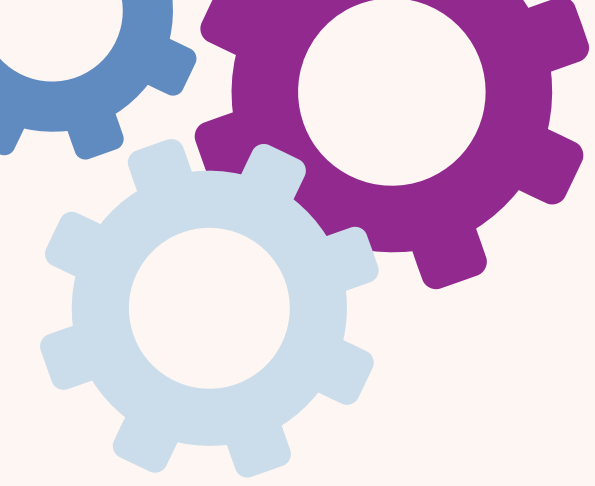
Spotlight: Build Like A Girl

Build Like a Girl is a confidence-and-tools program for young girls interested in robotics. The mentors are high school students from our FTC and FRC teams, including from Highlander Robotics 8033, which routinely competes at the regional level.

Girls drop out of STEAM faster than boys, and we know when it usually happens. What works best: putting younger girls in the same room as older girls who already feel at home with the tools. Sessions are hands-on. Wiring, screwdrivers, working motors, things that break. Mentors lead and adults stay out of the way.

During the 2025-2026 school year, 61 girls participated in the Build like a Girl event. Participants got hands-on experience—driving a robot, learning about the FIRST Robotics League ecosystem, and designing their very own robots on paper.





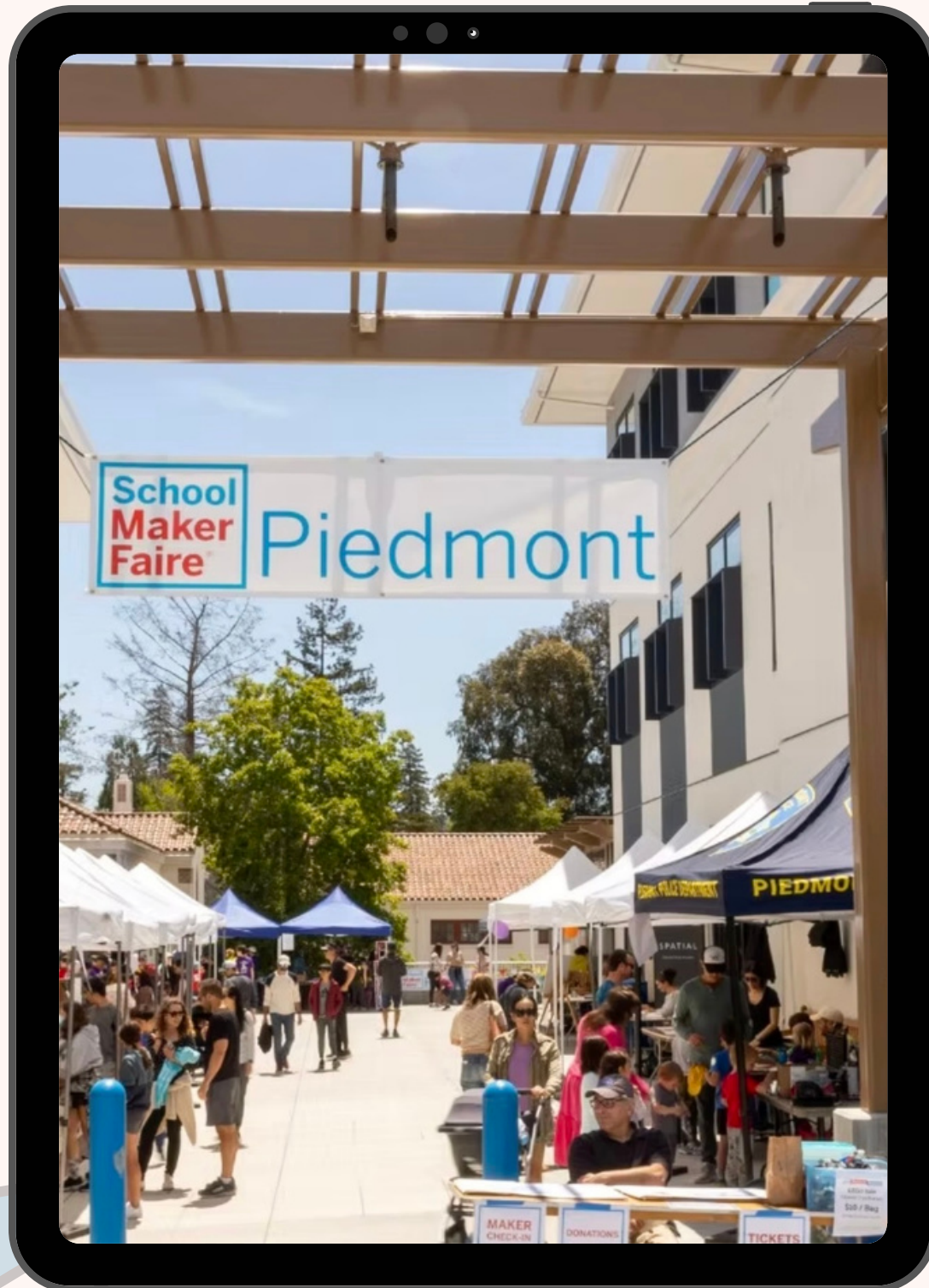
Community Events: Where Curiosity Begins

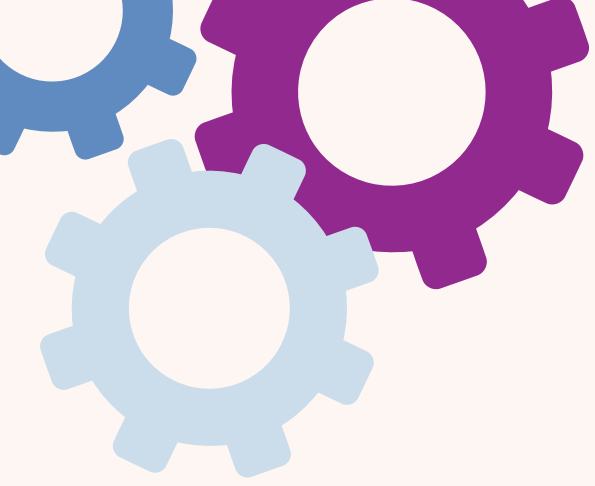
12th Annual Piedmont School Maker Faire

On Sunday, May 17th, over 1,000 community members gathered at the Piedmont High School campus for the 12th annual Piedmont School Maker Faire. With a record 80+ makers, the event showcased the creativity running through our community—and gave kids of all ages a chance to get their hands dirty.

The day was busy, messy, and exactly what we hoped for. Kids built vehicles for derby races. They made slime, bath fizzies, and beaded crafts. They launched air rockets and used robots to play mini golf. Teacher grantees shared classroom projects, including student-made electric guitars, light-up plushies, and yes, actual heart dissections.

Community partners brought sustainability into focus. The Nimble Repair offered fix-it stations. The Denim Project demonstrated textile reuse. A STEAM Toy Swap gave old toys new homes. These partnerships show what happens when curiosity and environmental responsibility come together.





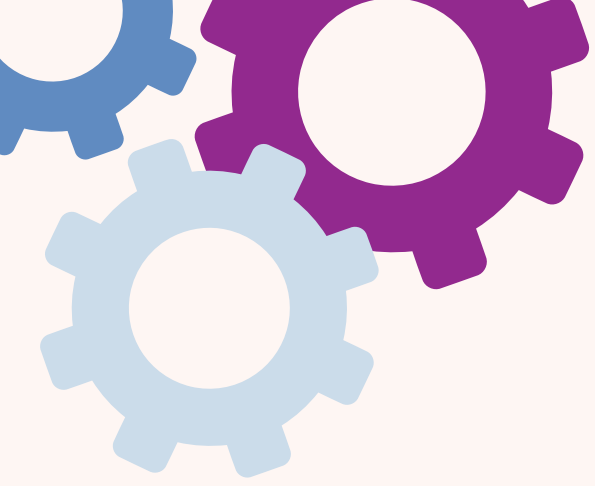
Investing in Classrooms



Teachers' grants extend impact beyond our direct programs by equipping classrooms with hands-on learning tools. This year, Piedmont Makers awarded over \$25k in teacher grants to educators across PUSD. These grants put real tools in real classrooms—microscopes, art supplies, science equipment, maker materials—and give teachers the resources to bring hands-on learning to life.



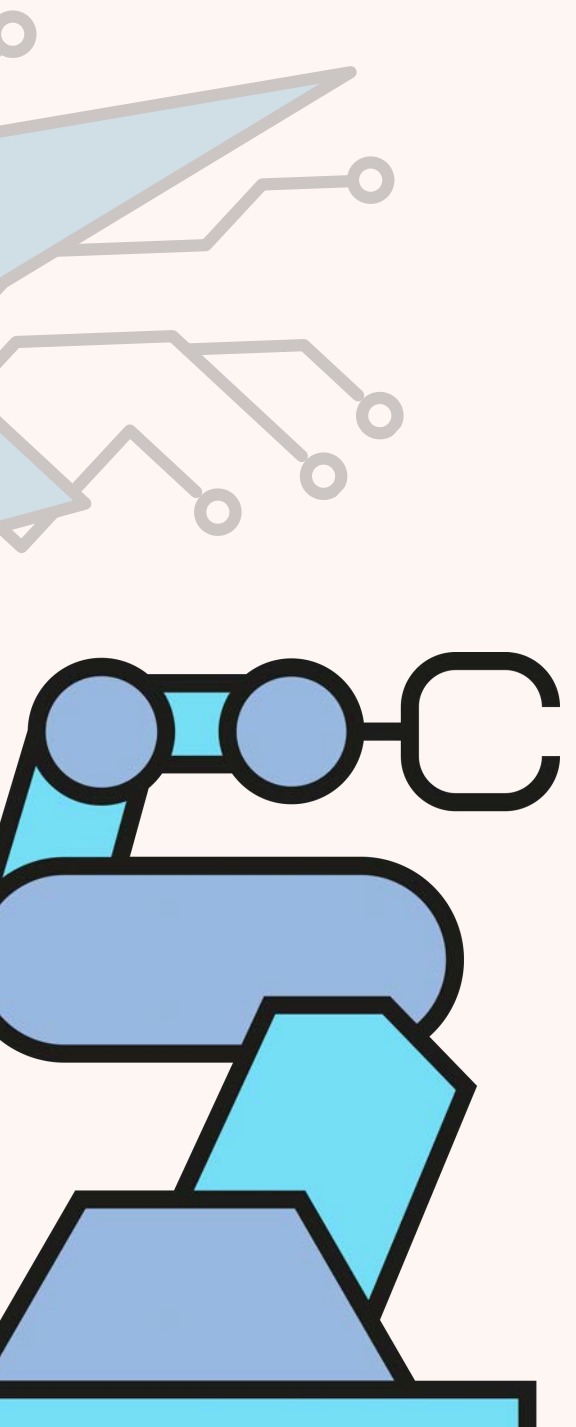
School	Amount	Investments
Beach Elementary	\$1,079	Library maker spaces, LED plushie projects, TK manipulatives
Havens Elementary	\$2,625	Light tables, foam blocks for recess, sensory tools for learning center
Wildwood Elementary	\$500	Library maker space materials
Piedmont Middle School	\$3,634	Piñata-making supplies, Rubik's cube club, cultural art projects
Piedmont High School	\$16,556	Ceramics kiln, anatomy kits, biology and chemistry labs, physics equipment
Millenium High School	\$800	Classroom organization and materials



From the Classroom

John Savage, PHS Anatomy Teacher

Grant: \$2,500 for ECG sensors and blood pressure cuffs



“By analyzing ECG waveforms, students learned to identify both normal and abnormal heart rhythms, deepening their understanding of how healthcare professionals interpret these signals in real-world patient care. Students also explored the relationship between heart function and circulatory response by measuring pulse transit time. Through this hands-on experience, students gained insight into how ECG sensors track the heart's electrical activity and how this data reflects overall cardiovascular health.”

Jon Kessler, Wildwood Elementary

Grant: \$850 for art supplies

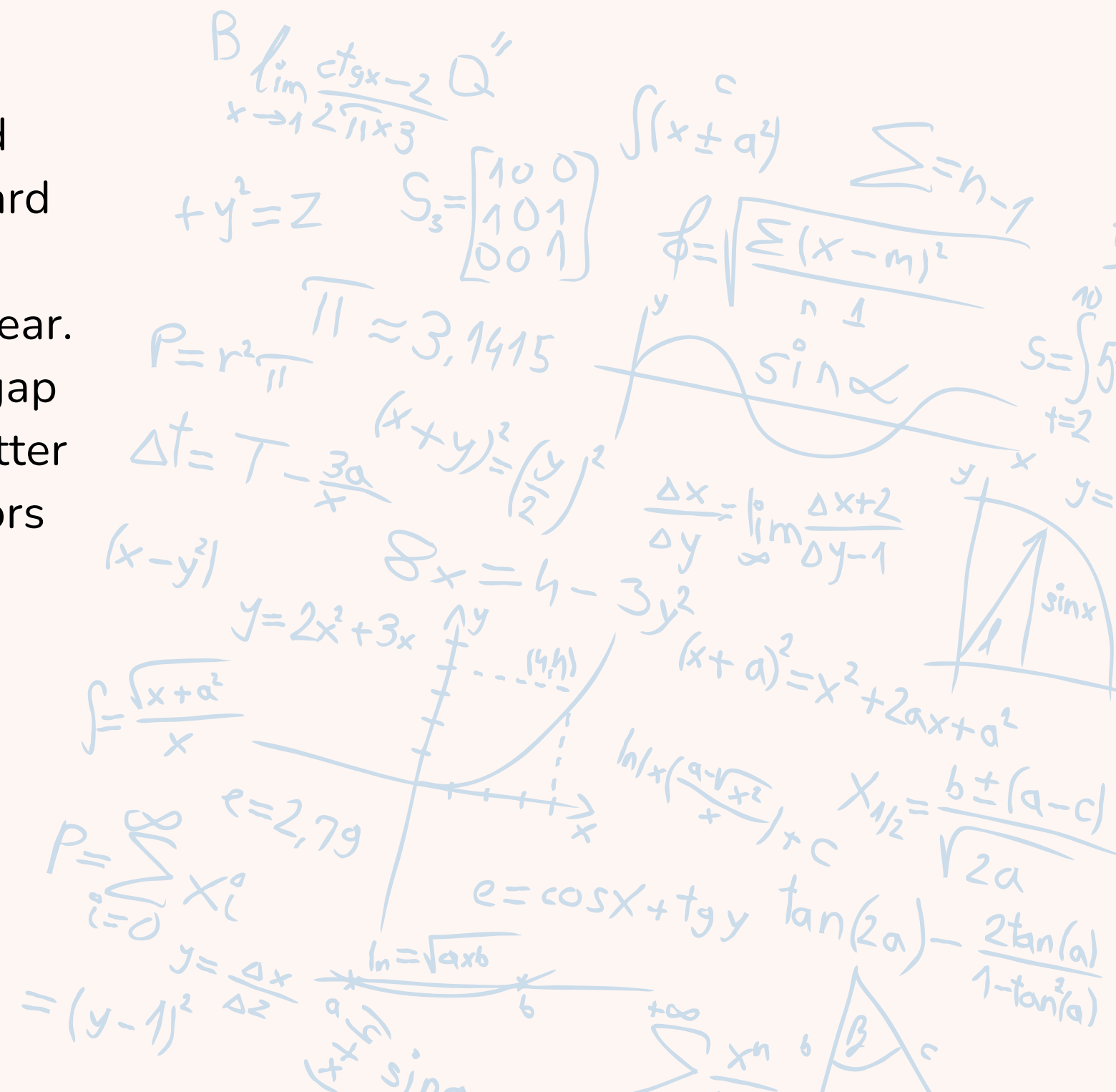
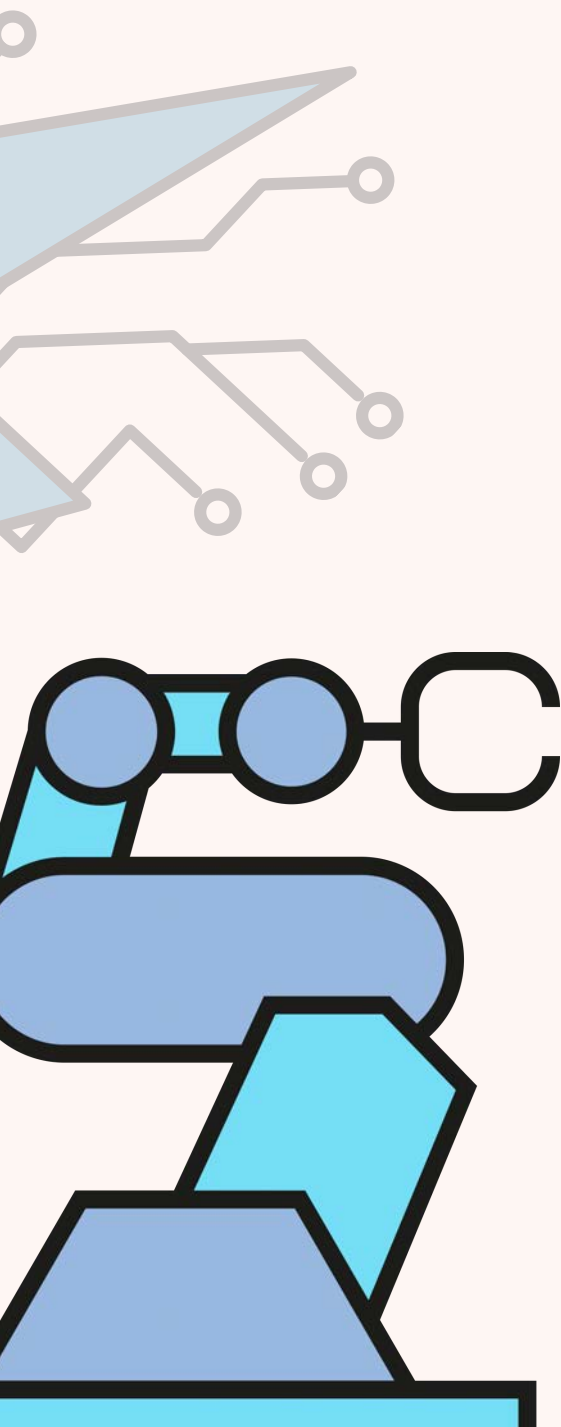
“Jen integrates art into her fourth-grade science and social studies curriculum. Her students created panoramic posters depicting Indigenous Californians to accompany research reports, and used Prismacolor pencils and watercolors to paint California poppies. These aren't just beautiful keepsakes—the process of making art deepens students' understanding of the content.”



Classroom Advocacy Win!

AP Physics C

After years of advocacy from parents, students, and Piedmont Makers, the Piedmont Unified School Board unanimously approved **AP Physics C** for Piedmont High School, starting in the 2025-2026 academic year. This rigorous, calculus-based course fills a critical gap in our district's physical sciences curriculum and better prepares students for engineering and science majors in college.





New in 2025–2026: After-School Enrichment



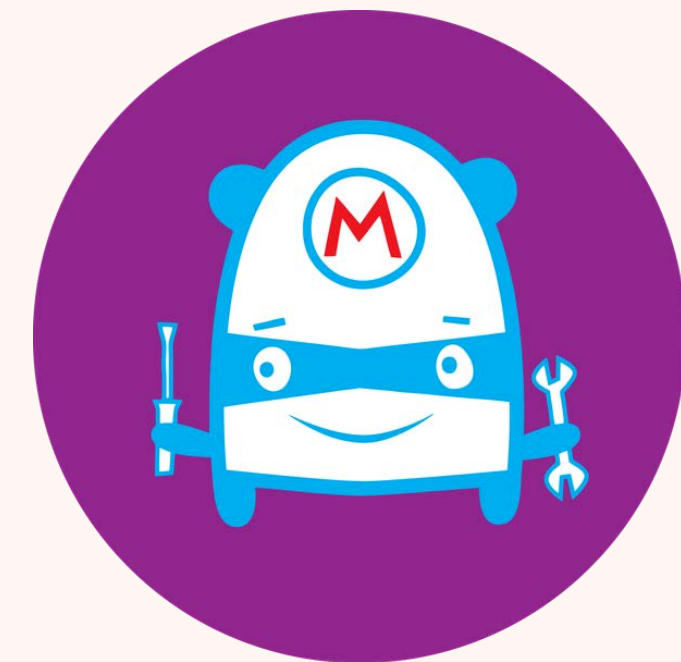
This fall, we piloted two new after-school STEAM programs at Beach Elementary. Both sold out within minutes of registration opening - a clear sign of demand.

Tinker Toy Lab (1st Grade - 5th Grade)

A creative tinkering class blending art, design, and playful engineering. Kids build instruments, giant cardboard costumes, flying contraptions, and other inventions. Designed to be accessible and engaging for kids who might not normally gravitate toward STEAM but love to create.

Maker Invention Studio (3rd Grade - 5th Grade)

A deeper dive into science and engineering. Students experiment with mechanics, electronics, and coding using the micro:bit platform. The focus is on problem-solving, expanding maker skills, and learning to collaborate through hands-on engineering challenges.



Building for the Future: From Pilot to Permanent Home @ 10th Street

The Numbers Tell The Story

- 900+ volunteer hours to build the field
- \$33,000 in in-kind donations and discounts from local businesses
- \$24,000 raised to cover construction costs
- 19 guest teams from across the region
- 200+ hours of practice time logged

In early 2025, Highlander Robotics 8033 operated a temporary 10,000 square-foot robotics practice facility in Oakland called The Loom. The crown jewel was a regulation-size FRC practice field—the only community-accessible full-size field in the Bay Area.

The Loom proved that a shared practice facility fills a real need. Teams that previously drove to East Palo Alto - the nearest alternative - could now practice close to home. Access opened up. More teams got better.

Building for the Future: From Pilot to Permanent Home @ 10th Street

A Permanent Home: Building Regional Infrastructure

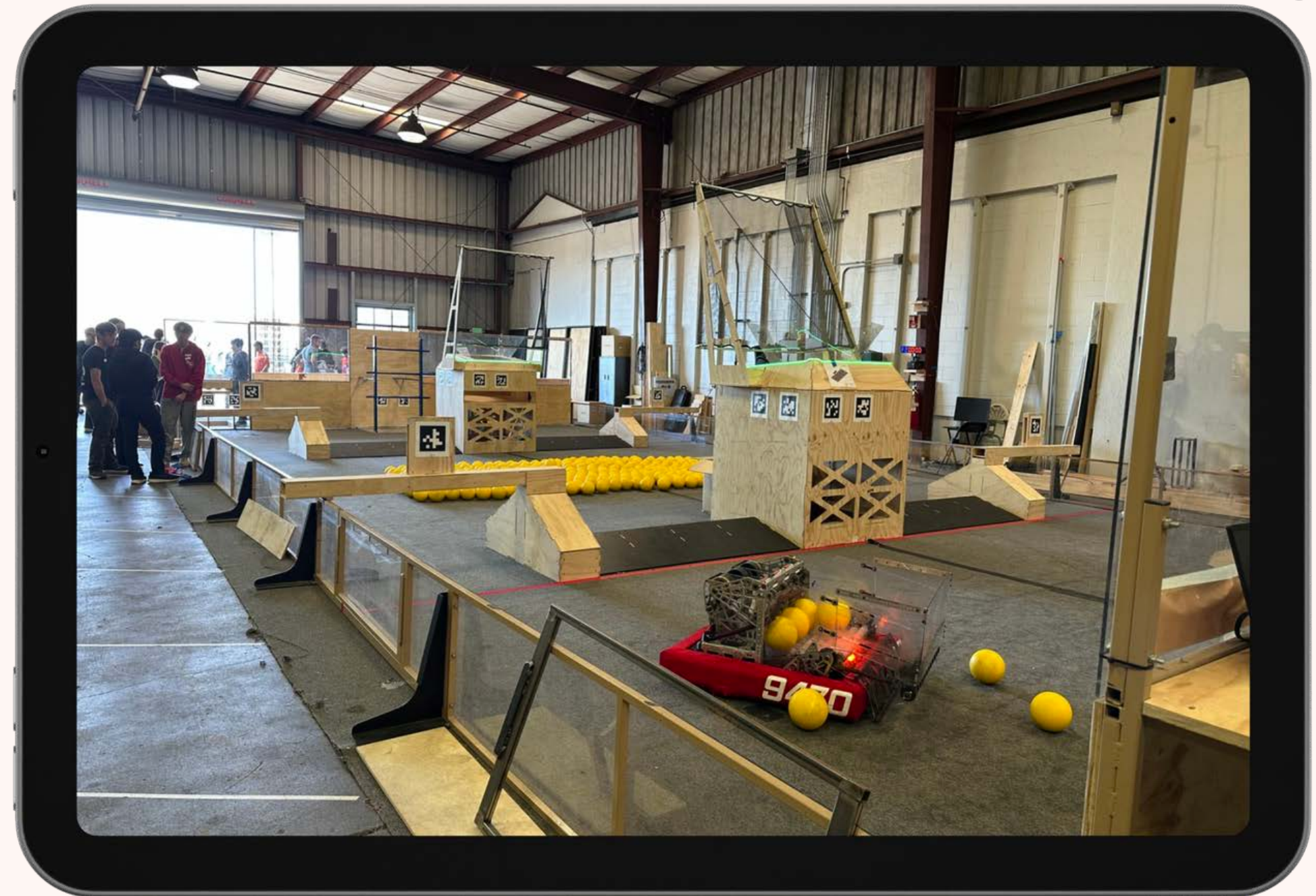
The success of The Loom created a challenge: how do we make this permanent? When the landlord proposed a significant rent increase, Piedmont Makers partnered with Highlander Robotics to seek grants to support a long-term home.

The results exceeded our expectations:

- \$150,000 grant from the PG&E Corporation Foundation
- \$25,000 grant from the KLA Foundation
- CNC Router donation from Autodesk
- Multi-year lease signed at 3100 East 10th Street in Oakland

Building for the Future: From Pilot to Permanent Home @ 10th Street

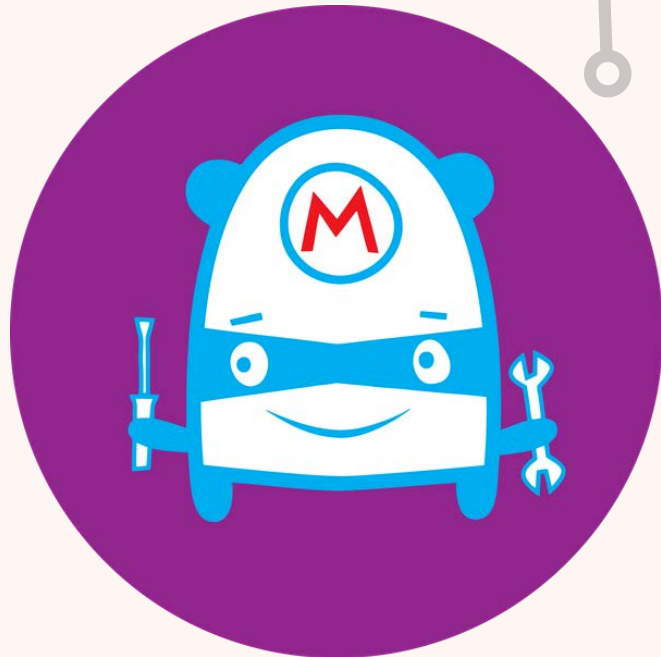
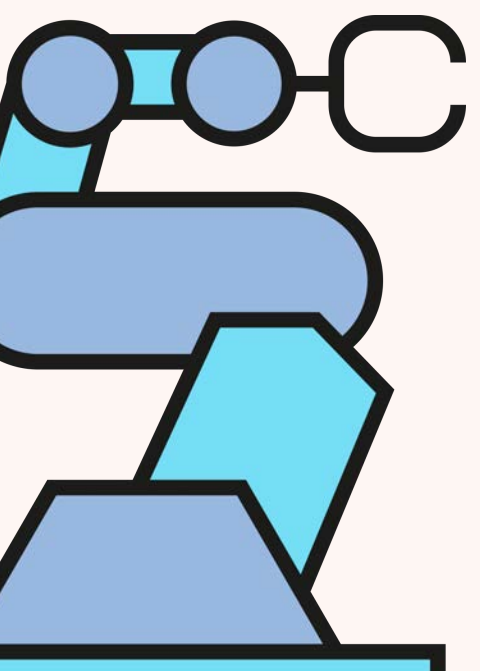
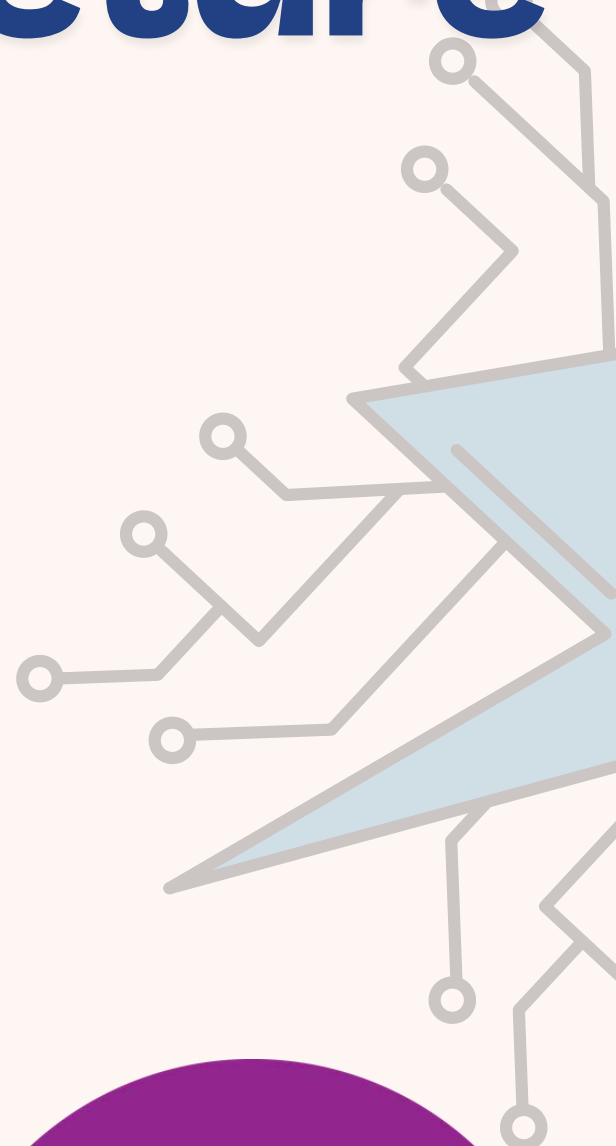
This new facility, referred to the community as 10th Street, will serve as the preeminent regional infrastructure for youth making and robotics - a place where teams from across the East Bay can practice, learn, collaborate, and build together. Piedmont Makers now serves as co-operator and funder alongside our partners at Highlander Robotics.





Financial Transparency: Investment in Infrastructure

Grants Secured	
PG&E Corporation Foundation	\$150,000
KLA Foundation	\$25,000
Autodesk	in-kind CNC router

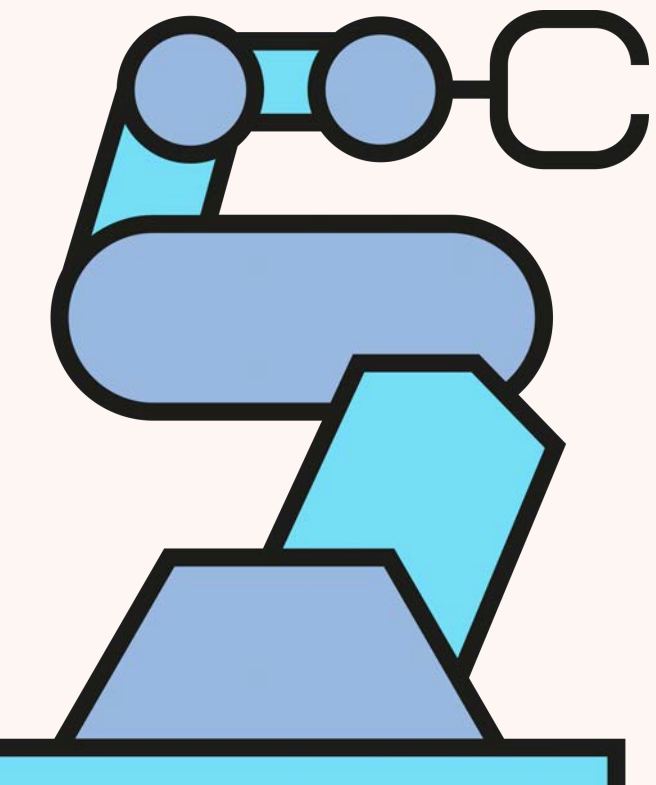




Strategic Priorities for 2026

In the coming year, Piedmont Makers will focus on:

1. Expanding access to students in underrepresented communities
2. Scaling after-school programming across additional schools
3. Strengthening mentorship pipelines between age groups
4. Measuring student outcomes more systematically
5. Growing the regional robotics infrastructure and ecosystem

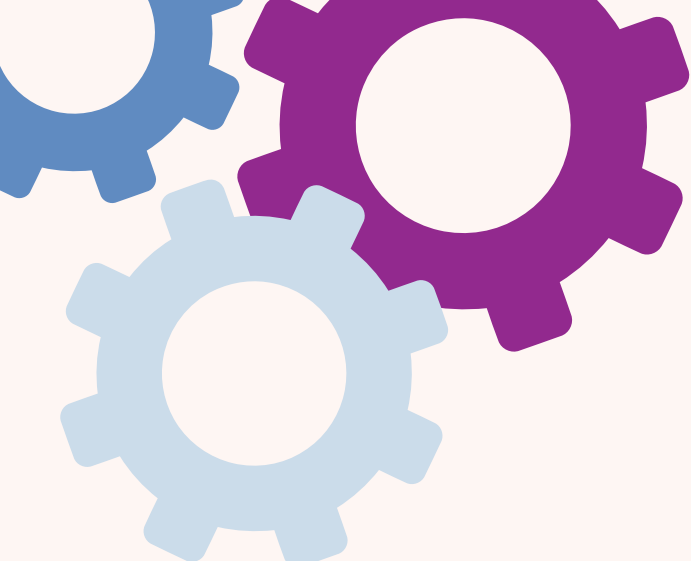


Why This Work Matters



When students build something with their own hands, they build something else too: belief in themselves and their abilities.

Piedmont Makers is helping shape the next generation of engineers, designers, and problem solvers – not just by teaching skills, but by creating intentional environments where young people discover what they are capable of.



Thank You

None of this work happens without our community.

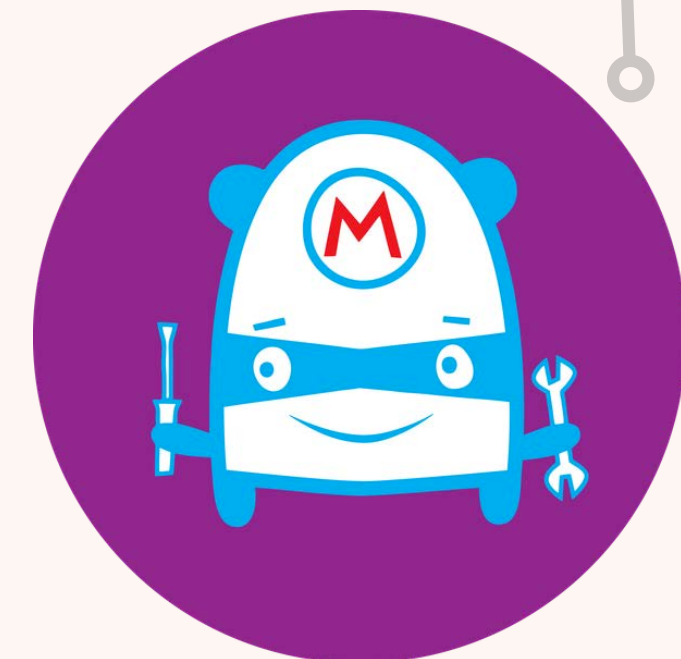
To our volunteers: You logged 1,900+ hours this year building fields, coaching teams, running events, and showing up week after week. The dedication is remarkable.

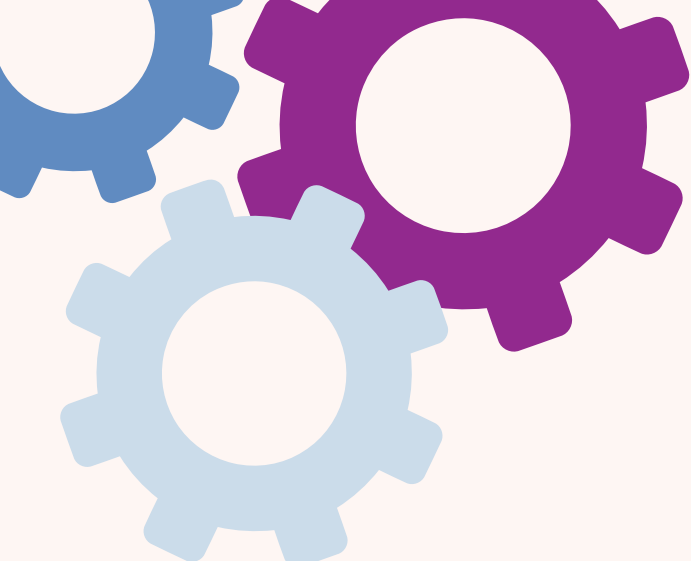
To our teachers: You bring STEAM to life in classrooms across the district. The grants we provide are a small piece; the creativity and effort are yours.

To our donors: Your contributions fund the access and opportunity, the robots, the materials, the facility, and the scholarships that make this accessible to all families.

To our families: Thank you for trusting us with your kids' time. Thank you for driving to practice, cheering at tournaments, and believing that making things matters.

This work is deeply powered by our community. Together, you make this possible.





Join Us

Volunteer: Coach a robotics team. Help at Maker Faire. Mentor a student.

Donate: Your contribution directly supports the next generation of engineers, designers, and problem solvers through scholarships, teacher grants, and community programs.

Spread the word: Share this report. Tell a neighbor. Help us reach every kid who wants to build.

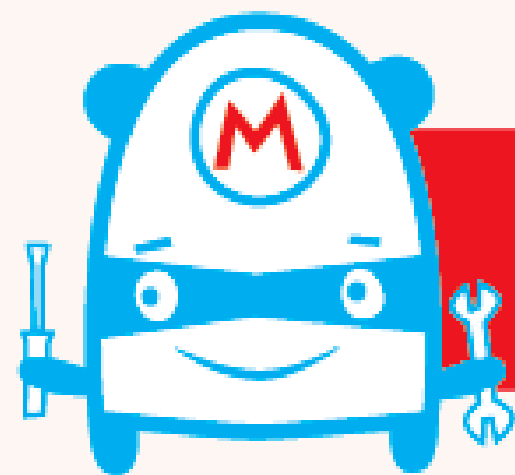
Learn more at piedmontmakers.org

Piedmont Makers is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. EIN: 47-2831568





**Thank
You**



Piedmont

Makers