Department of Educational Technology, New Jersey City University

Doctorate in Educational Technology Leadership

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**Informal Learning Assignment**

# Maker Faire as a Trend in Informal Learning

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**History and Theory of Maker Faire as a Trend in Informal Learning**

Maker Faire is a trend in informal learning. Following the definition of the well-known professor and expert in education Amerman, informal education is any learning done outside of the boundaries of a formal educational system. Formal Learning in contrary is an "instruction in which the instructor or some similar "expert" sets objectives and determines the requirements for successful completion. Examples include classroom instruction, diploma and degree programs, and certificate programs" (Carliner, 2023, p. 6). Carliner takes the position that informal learning complements formal learning (Carliner, 2023). As an informal education, Maker Faire is a learning activity done outside of the boundaries of a formal educational system. It brings together a worldwide community of inventors and storytellers, continuing a long human tradition of creativity and sharing ideas that stretches back for centuries. It all began in the San Francisco Bay Area in the United States of America in 2006. It has become a massive celebration of creativity and innovation. Its statistics are indicative of its global reach and impact because over 1.4 million Maker Faires have been held, more than 131, 000 makers have showcased their talents, and over 7,6 million people have attended these events. It provides a unique platform for people to come together, share their ideas, and inspire each other. It has become a successful movement and schools should incorporate in their curriculum.

I attended Maker Faire in October 1st, 2021 in New York City in the United States. I was very impressed by the presentations of special guests called makers. Those makers can be called innovators. It was a blow mind show that touched my curiosity and creativity. I learned so much at the show and continue to share my experiences with my students and people. I always encourage my students to attend this show where they will learn, experience human imagination and develop their creativity. Maker faire is really the greatest show (and tell) on earth as it is called. Below is my badge I worn as a mark of office when I attended Maker Faire show in New York City in 2021.




Sedar's badge at Maker Faire show in New York City in 2021.

**Context and Utilization of Maker Faire as a Trend in Informal Learning**

Maker Faire is a learning activity done outside of the boundaries of a formal educational system. It includes all ages and skill ranges. It is inclusive and it attracts people. It is a sort of calling all curious minds. Make magazine has been the heart of the maker movement since 2005. It invites community including schools and small businesses to become a member of Make through its free membership, premium membership, muti-seat membership, print membership, and digital membership at reasonable annual cost to connect, collaborate, form its community and interact with thousands of like-minded members around the world. It celebrates the creativity, innovation, inquisitiveness that drives makers to turn ideas into reality. It encourages people to join it vibrant community and connect with the makers and projects that are building the future.

Following the organizers of Maker Faire "Maker Faire is a celebration of the Maker Movement, a family-friendly showcase of invention and creativity that gathers together tech

enthusiasts, crafters, educators across the globe." They also mention that "From tech enthusiasts to crafters to homesteaders to scientists to garage tinkerers, Maker Faire is where novices and experts of all ages come together to show what they've made and share what they've learned. A community built on curiosity, collaboration, and resourcefulness, celebrating the best of the global maker movement." It helps students to think outside the box and develop their curiosity and creativity. According to Amerman, "Schools should encourage students to think outside the box and embrace their individuality." (Amerman, 2009). Maker Faire is a place where students can learn to develop their creativity. It should be incorporated in the curriculum of every school because it is an informal education that complements formal education. Schools should take their students to Maker Fare events to attend workshops to fulfill some of the grants required workshops for the grades.

**References**

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