



Work Party

To harness the power of the community to complete a challenging build.

Setup

- Connect with families far in advance because these exhibitions can require much more time than the typical 45 minute exhibition.
- Make sure you have all the materials for build day before exhibition starts.
- It helps to have some of the building process already complete, if possible. For example, if pieces of wood can be cut in advance, then exhibition can be focused on assembly which is more suited for student involvement than sawing.



In this exhibition format families participate in the engineering process by helping students build a project that students have researched, designed, and prototyped.

BENEFITS

- Creates a sense of community around the project.
- Encourages collaboration and models it for guests.
- This exhibition type is well-suited for projects in which students are not able to use the tools themselves, or need plenty supervision in order to operate them properly.
- Students do a lot of cognitively challenging work through the researching, designing, and prototyping phases then become the experts on exhibition day as they help guide their “builders” in executing their plan.

CHALLENGES

- Ensuring that all students feel competent and confident in their ability to build.
- Consider how younger students can actively engage in the building.

- Make sure you have all of the materials, tools and time you will need to complete the task. It may also help to have a back-up plan in case something goes awry.

TIPS

- It helps to have a small group of “expert builders” who have met with the teacher and students before exhibition day so they can help guide the building process.
- Consider how you might share the learning that happened throughout the project with your building crew.