

CREATIVITY CONNECTION

Making Arts & Innovation Happen

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January 2020

Progress Report

- The Master Plan from our architects is underway
- A feasibility study, based on recommendations from the National Endowment of the Arts, will be completed by end of March
- An anonymous donor has pledged up to \$5,000 to match all gifts received during the month of February (read more on page 2)



Last December ECA&IC secretary John Oetting helped East Penn STEM club students experiment with new XR technology.

Photo courtesy EPSD

Our First Board Meeting!



Pictured left to right: Michael Baker, JoAnn Pendleton, John Oetting (secretary), Julie Thomases, James Baker (president), Audrey Racines (vice president), Shea Zukowski, Chris Basile (treasurer), and Joyce Marin (consultant).

January 15, 2020 marked a bright start to the new year with the first official board meeting of the ECA&IC board of directors.

“Prior to this meeting, our work has been directed by the efforts of our executive committee

members, who have held early morning meetings every week for the past 2 years in order to get things started,” explained Jim Baker, President of the ECA&IC.

“Now that we have secured our charter and established residency in

our facilities, we’re very excited to see what the future holds,” Baker added.

The board will recruit members until all seats are filled. Want to know more? Send us a message through our website, www.emmauscreates.com

UPDATE: Initial Programs Now Underway

While there are many capital improvements to be made before our facilities are fully operational, the executive committee has been hard at work devising a roster of initial programming to satisfy its mission.

In the near future the ECA&IC will host an innovation circle designed to help local arts entrepreneurs network and fine-tune their business plans. More details will be shared on our social media as they become

available. Other ideas in the works include hosting a fall “Fixit Festival” and birthday celebration, as well as several innovative ideas involving boat building and a solar electric commuter velomobile design competition.

Let Us Show You Around: Weekly Tour Program Draws Consistent Crowds and Rave Reviews

Just about every Friday, after its early-morning executive committee session, the ECA&IC team has enjoyed hosting a revolving group of

visitors and showing them what's in store for the 35,000 square foot warehouse space that the Phoebe Ministries has leased to them.

cited when they see the potential for community building and collaboration that this facility offers," she adds.



Tour group attendees see the exciting potential of our Maker Space facilities.

"I love seeing the unique mix of visitors who come to check out what we're up to," explains Joyce Marin, who has led the effort. "Every week it's a different blend of artists, innovators, business people and political leaders who get really ex-

"We've also incorporated some of our virtual reality technology into the experience, so that helps take everyone's imagination to the next level," says Marin.

Want to see firsthand what the excitement is about? **Tours start at 9:15 every Friday and last about an hour.** Follow us on Facebook and sign up so we know you're coming, or call Joyce to RSVP 917-288-3936. We'd love for you to see what we have in the works.

Founders Circle Grows

In December we announced the launch of an important fundraising effort to secure early leadership gifts in support of critical, upfront work that will ensure a solid foundation for success. The response has been humbling, to say the least.

In 2019, we've received gifts totaling more than \$30,000. "We're thrilled to see the community re-

sponse so far," says board President Jim Baker. "And going into 2020, I'm excited to announce we've received a generous pledge from an anonymous donor that will match the first \$5000 of gifts we receive in February."

"I've lived in Emmaus my whole life, and this is by far the most exciting thing ever to happen here." — Liz Jordan

To learn more or to make a gift today, visit us at our website www.emmauscreates.com or

make checks payable to ECA&IC and mail them to:

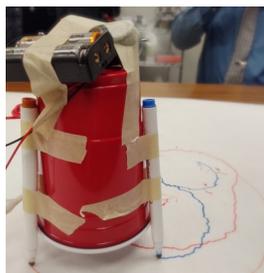
ECA&IC
375 S. 10th Street
Emmaus, PA 18049

Will We See You at the SnowBlast?

The ECA&IC team will participate in the SnowBlast Winter Arts Festival on Saturday February 1st from noon to 5 at the Emmaus Triangle Park. Hosted by the Emmaus Arts Commission and featuring the work of local artists as well as plenty of fun-filled family activities, the event will be an ideal forum to

showcase the exciting work that the ECA&IC has in store.

"We'll be offering a Scribble Bot activity for kids, which is a great way to introduce them to the unique



blend of art and technology that our facilities will eventually offer," explains board secretary John Oetting, who is leading the group's effort. "It's also a great opportunity to highlight the multi-generational approach we intend to take," he adds.