

PHORGE MAKERSPACE: STRIVING TO DO MORE

ABOUT PHORGE MAKERSPACE. Phorge Makerspace is a community of makers extending throughout Wyoming. A place in which people with shared interests can gather to work on projects while sharing ideas, equipment, and knowledge. A makerspace's interests can be truly diverse - including sewing, rocketry, fabrication, 3D printing, coding, woodworking, soap-making, and more. These spaces are also help to prepare those who need the critical 21st century skills in the fields of science, technology, engineering and math (STEM).

THE CHALLENGE. When starting a makerspace, many different interests need to be met to create an environment that will draw potential members. Some of these capabilities could include; 3D printing, fabrication, woodworking, various small scale metal and wood lasers, software packages for creators, etc. With each of these, equipment costs can add up quickly and without the proper vetting of equipment vendors, faulty equipment could be more likely. Phorge wanted to increase capability and capacity, in hopes to increase membership, all while being very efficient with the money that would be spent. Phorge worked with Manufacturing Works, part of the MEP National Network™.

MEP CENTER'S ROLE. As the world advances, technology is at the forefront of innovation, and Wyoming makerspaces play a vital role in meeting that innovation head on. Manufacturing Works partnered with Wyoming's Impact 307 to help the Makerspaces of Wyoming extend and expand their capabilities and capacity, utilizing CARES Act funding. Manufacturing Works helped identify, find funding and implement new technology for the Makerspace members. Some of this technology included CNC laser and router capabilities, vacuum chamber capabilities, and pressure chamber capabilities. As capabilities expand, the team hopes to see a rise in makerspace membership, an increase innovation, and new endeavors to begin.

"The recent funding found and acquired by Manufacturing Works allowed us to upgrade and expand our equipment, which has already increased our membership."

-Spenser Kuzara, Director

RESULTS



\$15,000 in new equipment



10-15 new members



3-5 small business start-ups are currently creating prototypes and product at the makerspace

CONTACT US



Department 3362
1000 East University Avenue
Laramie, WY 82071-2000



(307)766-4812



www.manufacturing-works.com

