

Maker Faire® Brownsville

Rules & General Guidelines

The Brownsville Maker Faire at Space Fest is an interactive showcase celebrating innovation, creativity, science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM). Makers are invited to share projects, inventions, demonstrations, and educational exhibits that inspire curiosity about space exploration, technology, and the future.

The Brownsville Maker Faire will be held at ROCA (Brownsville George Ramirez Performing Arts Academy) located at 543 E 11th St, Brownsville, TX - 78520, as part of Space Fest 2026. Exhibits will be open Thursday, September 24, from 5:00 PM–8:00 PM for conference attendees; Friday, September 25, from 10:00 AM–5:00 PM; and Saturday, September 26, from 4:00 PM–10:00 PM during the Space Fest celebration.

Eligibility

- Open to individuals, teams, schools, clubs, nonprofits, businesses, and community organizations.
- Participants of all ages are welcome; applicants under 18 must have a parent, guardian, or adult supervisor present during the event.
- All applicants must align with the themes of STEM, space exploration, innovation, engineering, robotics, astronomy, aerospace, coding, environmental science, or related educational fields.
- Applicants and their proposed exhibits are subject to review and approval by the event organizers prior to participation.

Participation Fee

There is no fee for non-commercial makers, educators, schools, clubs, nonprofits, or community organizations to participate in the Brownsville Maker Faire. Commercial exhibitors may be subject to separate participation requirements as determined by the event organizers.

Exhibit Space

Each selected maker will receive:

- One (1) 6-foot table
- Two (2) chairs

Space Requirements

- All displays, equipment, signage, demonstrations, and materials must remain within the assigned exhibit space.
- Exhibits may not extend into walkways, neighboring booths, or common areas.
- Makers may not relocate tables, expand their footprint, or occupy additional space without prior approval from event organizers.
- Booth spaces must always remain accessible and safe for attendees.

Theme Requirements

To be accepted into the Brownsville Maker Faire, exhibits must have a clear connection to one or more of the following:

- Space exploration
- Astronomy and astrophysics
- Aerospace engineering
- Robotics and automation
- Coding and computer science
- Emerging technologies
- Environmental and earth sciences
- Engineering and design
- STEM education and outreach
- Innovation and invention

Projects should be educational, interactive, inspirational, or demonstrative in nature.

Exhibit Expectations

Makers are encouraged to:

- Provide hands-on activities or demonstrations whenever possible.
- Engage visitors in conversations about their projects.
- Explain the science, engineering, or technology behind their work.
- Create a family-friendly experience suitable for all ages.
- Display clear signage identifying their project, organization, or team.
- Exhibitors should remain at their booth during operating hours unless arrangements have been made with event staff.

Safety Requirements

- Exhibits must comply with all local, state, and federal safety regulations.
- Projects involving electricity, moving parts, lasers, chemicals, heat sources, drones, or other potentially hazardous materials must be disclosed during the application process.
- Event organizers reserve the right to prohibit or modify any exhibit deemed unsafe.
- All equipment must be properly secured and monitored during event hours.
- Makers are responsible for maintaining a clean and safe exhibit area.

Prohibited Items

The following are not permitted:

- Weapons or weapon replicas
- Explosives, fireworks, or combustible materials
- Hazardous chemicals or toxic substances
- Open flames without prior written approval
- Exhibits promoting illegal activities
- Content that is offensive, discriminatory, or inappropriate for a family audience
- The use of Artificial Intelligence

Setup and Breakdown

- Makers must complete **setup** during the designated setup periods provided by event organizers:
 - **Thursday, September 24:** 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM
 - **Saturday, September 26:** 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM (for additional exhibitors, if applicable)
- Exhibits and booths must remain fully **operational** throughout the duration of the Brownsville Maker Faire:
 - **Thursday, September 24:** 5:00 PM – 8:00 PM (Conference Exhibit Preview)
 - **Friday, September 25:** 10:00 AM – 5:00 PM
 - **Saturday, September 26:** 4:00 PM – 10:00 PM (during Space Fest)
- Early teardown or removal of exhibits is not permitted unless approved by event staff.
- Breakdown will take place on **Saturday, September 26, from 10:00 PM – 11:00 PM.**
- Participants are responsible for removing all materials, equipment, and waste from their assigned space at the conclusion of the event.
- All exhibit areas must be left clean and returned to their original condition following breakdown.

Electricity & Special Requests

- Limited electrical access may be available and must be requested during the application process.
- Approval is not guaranteed and will be based on availability and event logistics.
- Makers must provide their own extension cords, power strips, adapters, and specialized equipment unless otherwise noted.

Sales & Promotional Activities

- Educational demonstrations and informational materials are encouraged.
- Limited sales of STEM-related products, kits, books, artwork, or merchandise may be permitted with prior approval by event organizers. Exhibits should primarily focus on education, innovation, creativity, and public engagement rather than retail sales.

Application & Selection

- Submission of an application does not guarantee acceptance.

Applications will be reviewed based on:

- Relevance to STEM and Space Fest themes
- Educational value
- Creativity and innovation
- Interactive engagement opportunities
- Safety and feasibility
- Priority may be given to exhibits that provide hands-on experiences and inspire interest in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.

Organizer Rights

Space Fest organizers reserve the right to:

- Approve, deny, or remove exhibits that do not meet event standards.
- Modify booth assignments as needed.
- Enforce all rules and guidelines to ensure a safe and enjoyable experience for attendees.

By participating in the Brownsville Maker Faire, exhibitors agree to comply with all event rules, policies, and directions provided by event staff.

Photography & Media

By participating in the Brownsville Maker Faire, exhibitors grant Maker Faire Brownsville, Make Community LLC, Space Fest, Visit Brownsville, the City of Brownsville, and event partners permission to photograph, film, and record exhibits, demonstrations, and participants for educational, promotional, archival, and marketing purposes without additional compensation.

Cancellation

If a selected maker is unable to participate, event organizers request notification as soon as possible so the space may be offered to another applicant.

Liability

Makers are responsible for the security, operation, and supervision of their exhibits throughout the event. Space Fest, Maker Faire Brownsville, Visit Brownsville, the City of Brownsville, ROCA, and event partners are not responsible for loss, theft, or damage to personal property, equipment, or exhibits.

Code of Conduct

Participants are expected to conduct themselves professionally and respectfully toward attendees, volunteers, staff, fellow makers, and event partners. Harassment, discrimination, disruptive behavior, or unsafe conduct may result in immediate removal from the event.

Required Acknowledgment

Maker Faire Brownsville is independently organized and operated under license from Make Community LLC.

Acceptance & Participation Agreement

By submitting an application and participating in the Brownsville Maker Faire, exhibitors acknowledge that they have read, understand, and agree to comply with all event rules, policies, and instructions issued by event organizers. Failure to comply may result in removal from the event without notice.