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# SCIENCE GALLERY MAKESHOP INSPIRES CREATIVITY THROUGH 'DUBLIN'S BEST WORKSHOP' AND TEACHING DIY SKILLS

Makeshop is a shop and workshop space just outside the walls of Trinity College Dublin that runs workshops on skills ranging from learning to solder to DIY robotics.



A school student wiring up a circuit in a Makeshop workshop.

## WHO?

- ▶ Science Gallery Dublin
- ▶ Makeshop

## WHAT?

Makeshop is a collaborative workshop space run by Science Gallery Dublin. Participants can take part in workshops suited to all ages, from learning to solder to DIY robotics and building an amplifier. Makeshop also runs advanced workshops for adults, covering everything from 3D printing to latex mask making.

Makeshop has been open since 2012, and as well as having a permanent space just outside Trinity College Dublin, has travelled to various venues around Ireland, including public festivals and corporate events. Makeshop has been to the Carlow Arts Festival in the Irish midlands, music festival Electric Picnic, and the National Ploughing Championships, capturing the attention of people who might not normally visit Science Gallery.

Science Gallery Dublin has also used Makeshop as an employee engagement tool for corporate partners, running onsite workshops for staff at their offices.

Makeshop was named 'Best Workshop' by the Irish Times.

# WHAT THEY SAID?

*'Forgive the lapse into unseemly enthusiasm more suited to an ironyfree young American but this place IS awesome. As part of the Festival of Firsts, I was lucky enough to get an invitation to an amplifiermaking class. Oh the fun! Our instructor talked us through the basics, everything was clearly labelled and of course I still managed to mess up. Nevertheless, it is a completely unintimidating environment to try something completely new. I soldered, I wired, I used a cutting device of some description. Loved every minute of it.'*

- Participant via Yelp

*'Niall Hunt, a 14yearold from Sandymount in Dublin was making a badge – incorporating soldering techniques with learning about circuits by connecting LED lights to a battery. "I've always wanted to try soldering but never had the chance before," says Niall, who likes the idea of a space where people can try out new things. With an interest in DIY, Niall's dad John says that MakeShop provides access to materials he wouldn't have at home as well as being an "ideas space".*

- from an Irish Times article on Makeshop in 2012

*'Just popped into [Makeshop] and was reassured they can, indeed, help my 2.5 year old realize his dream of a monkey robot.'*

- via Twitter



Workshop leader Davy Kehoe helping children make brush robots in Makeshop.

## WHAT WERE THE BENEFITS AND IMPACTS?

- ▶ Inspiring creativity
- ▶ Public engagement
- ▶ Employee engagement
- ▶ Reaching new minds
- ▶ Informal and nonformal learning

## LINKS

**Visit Makeshop's website:**

<https://dublin.sciencegallery.com/makeshop>

**Read an article about Makeshop:**

<http://boingboing.net/2012/08/21/makeshopahackspaceindubli.html>

**Sources:** Science Gallery Dublin documentation, Makeshop website

**Compiled by:** Jessica Stanley, Science Gallery Dublin in 2015

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