



Media Contact:
Tracy Shirer tshirer@ctsciencecenter.org
W: 860.520.2116, C: 860.817.1373
Connecticut Science Center
250 Columbus Blvd | Hartford, CT 06103

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Community Partners, Makers and Gardeners Come Together at MakeFest: Make it Grow

Get Inspired to Grow Green Through Hands-On Fun and Expert Advice on Saturday, May 21, 2022

Hartford, CT, May 17, 2022— One time was just not enough, the Connecticut Science Center is excited to present the second annual **Make Fest: Make it Grow**, welcoming local gardeners, farmers, makers, and the community together to celebrate Connecticut gardening on Saturday, May 21, 11AM-3PM.

The highlight for so many at last year's MakeFest: Make it Grow was the extensive Plant Sale happening in partnership with the **Connecticut Master Gardener Association (CMGA)**. Gardeners are excited to explore the wide variety of artisan vegetables, beautiful pollinator plants, extensive ground covers, grasses, and flowers all at the lowest prices. After exploring the Plaza gardens for inspiration, gardeners at any experience level can receive expert advice from Master Gardeners to make their gardens as successful as possible this summer.

Science Center STEM Educators and members from the Teen Innovation Program will facilitate hands-on experiences as well as "take and make" activities for families. Highlighting the amazing work of community partners, makers and gardeners through engaging activities will be the centerpiece of MakeFest: Make it Grow. This event is part of the Science Center's MakeFest series, presented by Stanley Black & Decker, designed to celebrate makers, creators, and inventors while inspiring the next generation in our community.

"At Stanley Black & Decker, we've made it our mission to empower makers and to be a force for good," Dr. Mark Maybury, Chief Technology Officer, Stanley Black & Decker and board member of the Connecticut Science Center. "It is an honor to partner with organizations like the Connecticut Science Center who are at the forefront of fostering positive growth in our local community and we're proud to support the makers of a sustainable future via MakeFest."

Each spring, the Connecticut Science Center partners with the **Petit Family Foundation** to celebrate Family Gardening Day with the planting of Michaela's Garden, uniting the community with inspiring programs and lots of family fun. On the Science Center's Rooftop Garden, families can join the Petit Family Foundation and plant the seeds of Connecticut's State Children's Flower, the Four O'Clock, in Michaela's Garden. This incredible initiative grew out of love and a mission to memorialize Michaela Rose Petit by inspiring families and youth to use gardening as a vehicle for community service. The Connecticut Science Center is proud to be one of fifteen Michaela's Garden locations across the state. Michaela's Four O'Clock seeds will be available for purchase at MakeFest: Make it Grow to help support the Petit Family Foundation's mission to foster the education of young people, especially women in the sciences.

Families can let their imagination soar by building their own garden with our partners from **CHET, The Connecticut Higher Education Trust's 529 College Savings Program**, a supporting sponsor of MakeFest: Make it Grow. They

will also have wildflower seed packets available for visitors to take home to create a beautiful and colorful garden, just like the ones they designed at the Science Center.

"We're thrilled to be partnering with the Connecticut Science Center on such an important and engaging event," said Connecticut State Treasurer Shawn T. Wooden. "It's so important to take the necessary steps today to ensure future generations are set up for success and we're excited to share the benefits and impact a CHET 529 account can have on growing a child's future education savings with the MakeFest community."

More Community Partners and Event Highlights:

- Local gardeners representing the Hartford Urban Agricultural Network
- The **Keney Park Sustainability Project** will provide hands-on training and educational outreach to help families become more self-sustainable and environmentally conscious.
- Ungardening native plants with **Aubree Keurajian**
- Soapmaking with **Jodi Clark**
- Presentation of the Solar Compost Booster from **Jordan Collie** winner of the Connecticut Science Center award through the Connecticut Invention Convention

MakeFest: Make it Grow at the Connecticut Science Center is a great way to come together to enjoy a fun, safe day at a great price. This fun and informative family event will take place on Saturday, May 21, from 11AM -3PM.

MakeFest: Make it Grow, presented by Stanley Black & Decker and supported by CHET 529 College Savings Program, Connecticut Master Gardener Association (CMGA), Petit Family Foundation, Institute of Museum and Library Services, and USA Hauling & Recycling.

Tickets include all day-access to the Connecticut Science Center's exhibits, including its blockbuster traveling exhibit, *Mummies of the World: The Exhibition*, as well as MakeFest activities. Parking is available at regular rates. Visitors are highly encouraged to purchase tickets online in advance of their visit to guarantee entry for the day. Children under three years of age are admitted free. Tickets are available online at CTScienceCenter.org.

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About the Connecticut Science Center The LEED-Gold certified Connecticut Science Center, located in downtown Hartford, sparks creative imagination and an appreciation for science by immersing visitors in fun and educational hands-on, minds-on interactive experiences while maintaining an environmentally conscious presence. Serving 3.5 million people since opening in 2009, the Science Center features more than 165 exhibits in ten galleries and a range of topics, including space and earth sciences, physical sciences, biology, the Connecticut River watershed, alternative energy sources, Connecticut inventors and innovations, a children's gallery, and much more. Other features include four educational labs, a 200-seat 3D digital theater, a function room, a gift store, and ongoing events for all ages. The Science Center is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization dedicated to enhancing science education throughout the state of Connecticut and New England, providing learning opportunities for students and adults of all ages, and engaging the community in scientific exploration. The Connecticut Science Center is also the home of the Joyce D. and Andrew J. Mandell Academy for Teachers, offering powerful professional development for educators. More information: CTScienceCenter.org or 860.SCIENCE.