



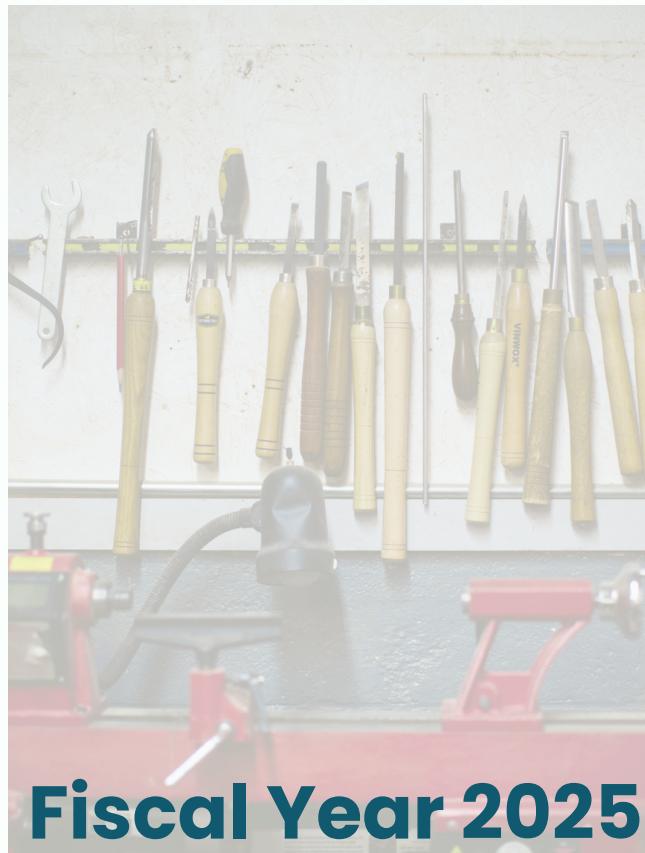
## Breaking Barriers, Building Community

# Our Year in Making



Fiscal Year 2025

Annual Report



**Fiscal Year 2025**

Annual Report

# A Message from the Executive Director

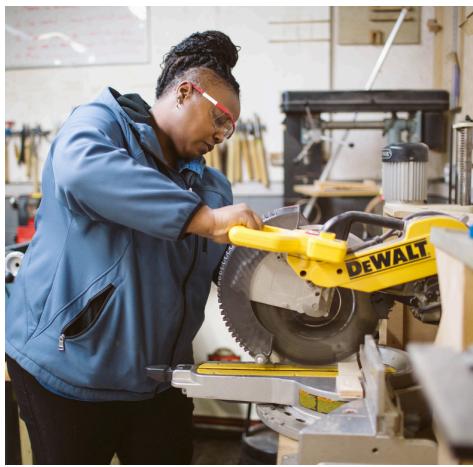


Photo by: Decatur City Lifestyle and Connally Crowe

This year at Decatur Makers, we took bold steps to break barriers — refining our identity with a renewed strategic plan, strengthening partnerships, hosting some of our most successful events, and ending the year on solid financial footing. Along the way, we deepened relationships with nonprofits, welcomed more youth and families than ever before, and saw firsthand how creativity grows when access is open — from a child soldering for the first time to members gaining confidence with new skills and organizations collaborating in new ways. Thank you for being part of this journey; together, we are building more than projects — we are building a community where innovation and collaboration thrive.

“  
**Creativity  
grows when  
access is open.**  
”

Kalia Morrison  
Executive Director

## Mission Statement

Our mission is to cultivate a diverse community of makers by providing access to tools, resources, and education in a supportive environment.

## Vision Statement

Decatur Makers envisions a world where creativity, learning, collaboration, and skill development are accessible to all.

## Who we are

Decatur Makers is a community where barriers to creativity and learning are broken down every day. We welcome people of all ages, backgrounds, and skill levels to explore tools, develop new skills, and collaborate on projects that inspire innovation and connection. Our commitment to accessibility remains central — through affordable membership options, scholarships, and free or low-cost programs, we ensure that cost is never a barrier to participation. Beyond our walls, we partner with schools, nonprofits, and community organizations to expand access to hands-on learning and making. Together, we are not only building projects but also building confidence, curiosity, and a stronger, more connected community.

# Strategic Plan at a Glance

## Making A Clear Path Forward

This year, Decatur Makers refined our strategic plan to strengthen our identity, deepen community impact, and build a sustainable foundation for growth. Our plan focuses on five key areas that guide every decision, partnership, and initiative moving forward.

### Strategic Focus Areas



**Sustainability & Resource Management** – Strengthening finances, reducing reliance on volunteers, and building leadership capacity.



**Space Utilization & Expansion** – Optimizing our current space while exploring new opportunities for growth.



**Community Engagement & Program Diversification** – Broadening access through new events, partnerships, and activities.



**Operational & Organizational Efficiency** – Streamlining systems, policies, and procedures to support smooth operations.



**Perception & Brand Management** – Enhancing visibility, communication, and community understanding of who we are.



### Looking Ahead

As we move into FY26, our focus remains on building capacity, strengthening partnerships, and continuing to break barriers—ensuring Decatur Makers thrives for years to come.

# Membership

Making Connections, Strengthening Communities

**578**

**Active  
Members**

**289**

**New  
Memberships  
Welcomed**

**55**

**Access  
Memberships**



**\$23,100**

**Access & Affordability**

Equity and accessibility are at the heart of what we do. Through our Access Membership program, we provided over \$2,500 in support this year, ensuring cost is never a barrier to creativity or community.

Each membership helps break barriers and build belonging through making.



**5,762**  
Newsletter  
Subscribers



**9,722**  
Social Media  
Followers



**653**

Training  
Certifications

**352**

Members  
trained  
in the  
Woodshop

**124**

Members  
Trained in  
Laser  
Cutting

**92**

Members  
trained in  
Metal-  
working

**85**

Members  
Trained in  
3D  
Printing



**Collaboration  
& Connection**

At Decatur Makers, membership is about more than tools – it's about community.

This year, our members shared skills, inspired one another, and built meaningful connections through collaboration. Together, we're not just making things – we're making a difference.

# Youth Programs

Making Creativity Accessible for Every Young Maker.

At Decatur Makers, we believe hands-on learning builds confidence, curiosity, and creativity. This year, we expanded youth programming through new partnerships, Youth Maker Experiences, and free community programs that opened doors for even more young makers to explore STEAM. From creative workshops and family build nights to interactive festival activities, every experience gave youth the chance to design, experiment, and bring their ideas to life. Together with our partners, we're breaking barriers to access and inspiring the next generation of problem solvers, inventors, and dreamers.

## Free community Youth Programs

**130**

Projects developed through creative exploration in Girls Maker Club

**415**

Hands-on STEAM projects built at Family Build Nights

**118**

Innovative projects developed in Middle School Build Club

## Youth Outreach Partners

**49**  
Workshops

Decatur Housing Authority  
International Rescue Committee  
City Schools of Decatur

Drew Charter School

Coding With Culture

Children's Museum of Atlanta

Dekalb County Library

Georgia Tech

Washington Street Community Center

Connections School of Atlanta

Girl Scouts of Greater Atlanta

Kate's Club



## Community EVENTS

**2,100+**

Youth reached through community events

- Emory Ideas Festival
- Toomer Science Night
- Santa On the Square
- Decatur Makers Holiday Market
- National Night Out
- Back to School Bash
- Decatur Book Festival
- Super Hero Science Night
- Atlanta Science Festival

# Community impact

## Making a Difference Together

Our passion for making extends beyond our makerspace. We believe in the transformative power of creativity, collaboration, and community engagement. In every project we undertake, we strive to make a meaningful impact not only within our organization but also in the broader community we call home.

### Community Nature Kitchen

In partnership with Compassionate Atlanta, Decatur Makers built a Nature Kitchen play area at Waller's Coffee Shop. Using recycled and natural materials, the space encourages kids to explore, imagine, and connect through sensory play—offering families a creative, restorative place to gather and grow together.



### Back-to-School Community Drive

Decatur Makers hosted a School Supply Drive for City Schools of Decatur, collecting over 70 backpacks and hundreds of essential supplies. This community effort helped ensure local students began the school year ready to learn, reflecting our shared belief that access and opportunity start with support.



### Welding Workshop with Shepherd Center

Decatur Makers partnered with the Shepherd Center to host a welding workshop that empowered participants through hands-on creativity and skill-building. The experience fostered confidence, connection, and a sense of accomplishment—showing how accessible making can support both recovery and community.



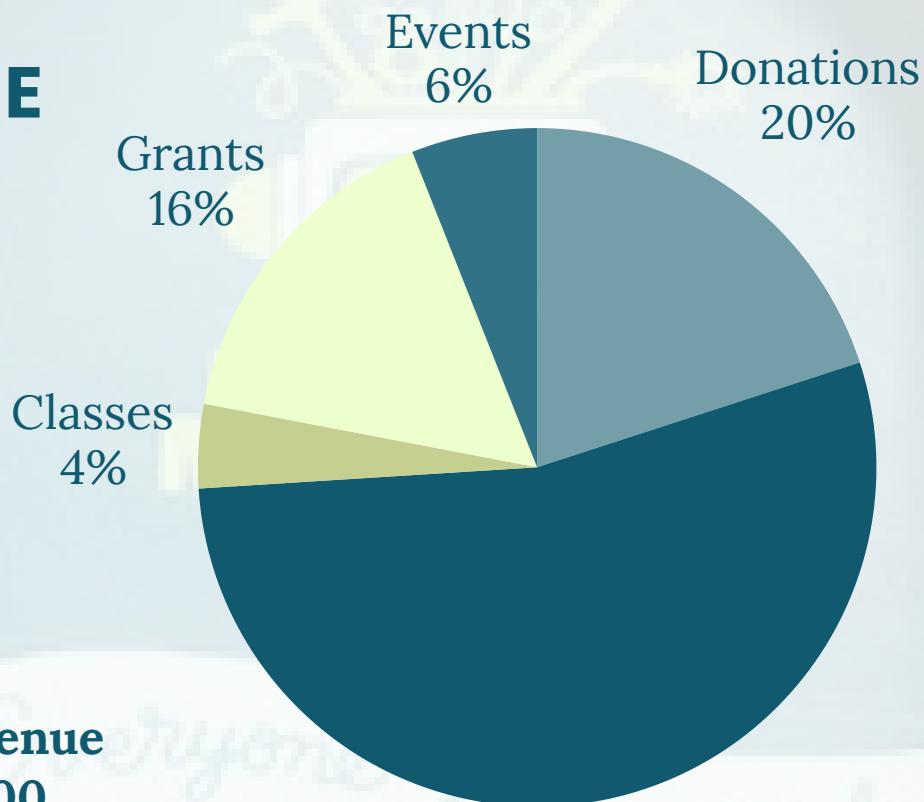
### Garden Stakes Project

In partnership with Woodlands Garden, Decatur Makers members handcrafted metal fencing posts to support a local restoration project. Using his portable forge, Bill Crispell helped transform raw metal into artful, functional pieces—showing how creative collaboration can grow community connections right here in Decatur.

# Finance report

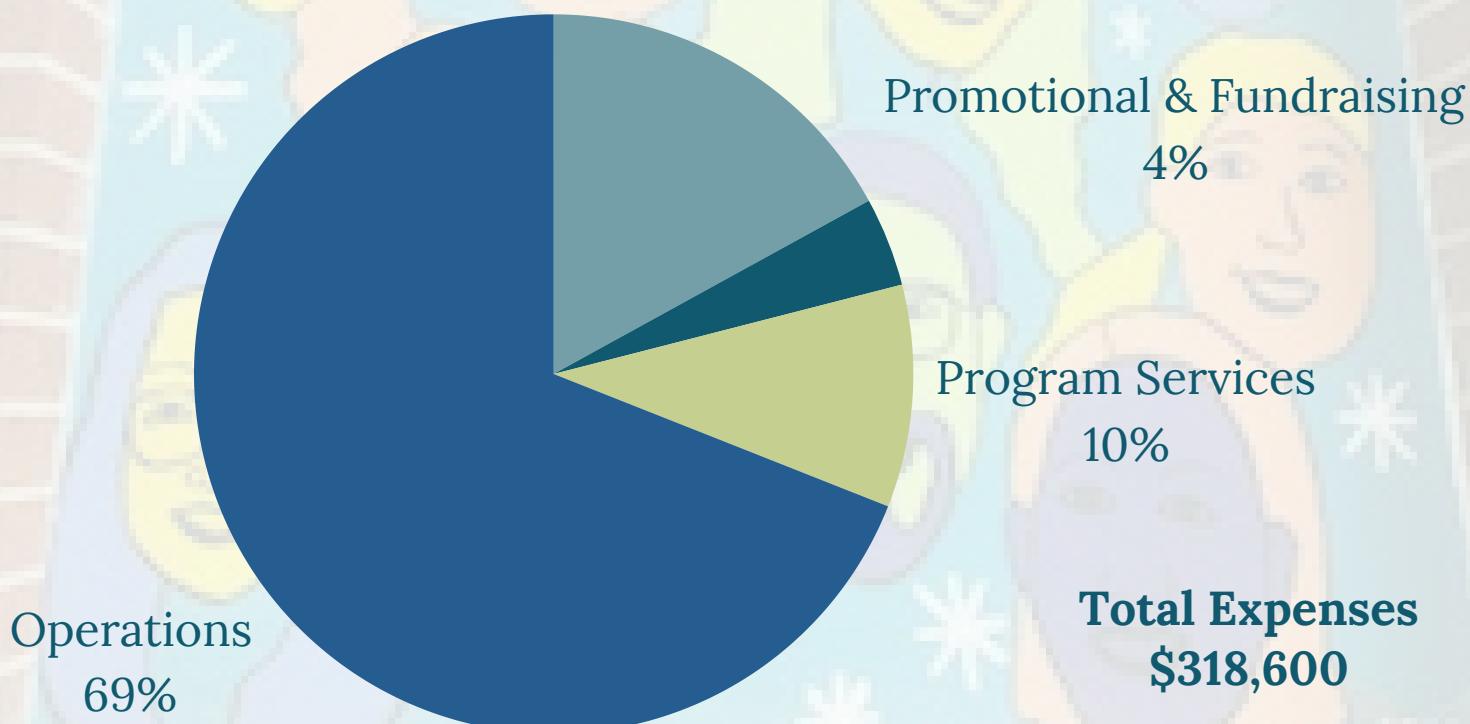
## Making Cents of It All

### REVENUE



**Total Revenue**  
**\$362,000**

### EXPENSES



**Total Expenses**  
**\$318,600**

# Classes & Events

## Making Creativity Come Alive

- CNC Hands-on Training
- Woodshop: Dimensioning Tools
- Arduino/Raspberry Pi Meetup
- Intro to Metal Fabrication
- Textile Arts Meetup
- Metal Working 101
- Solar Powered Fairy Lights
- Pen Turning
- Build A Bird House



500+  
Classes, events  
& meetups

- 3D Printing for Beginners
- Printmaking w/Linocut
- Basics of Speaker Design
- Metal Lathe 101
- Woodshop Power Tools
- Guitar Makers Meetup
- Bead Earring Workshop
- Glowforge Training
- Art Maker Meetup



AI in the Classroom  
Teacher Professional Development



Atlanta Science Festival



Maker Mixer



TopGolf  
Tournament



Holiday Market

# Our Team

## Making Vision Reality

### Our Staff



Kalia Morrison  
Executive Director



Lorraine Kowalski  
Program Manager



Crystal Byrd  
Youth Programs  
Specialist



James Vincent  
Makerspace  
Manager



June Torrance  
Bookkeeper

### Our Board



Tommy Barrow  
PRESIDENT



Jason Antman  
VICE PRESIDENT



Delucious Patterson  
TREASURER



Caitlin McMunn Dooley  
PSECRETARY



Victor Hicks



Nancy Drumm



Kevin Banks



Shemeeka Gentry



Maureen Haley



Milton Walker



Char Miller King



Jennifer Morrison



Stuart Langer



Sandra Mazlia



Sean Mahoney



**DECATUR  
MAKERS**

# Thank You

To our dedicated members, generous supporters, and passionate volunteers—your unwavering commitment fuels the heart of Decatur Makers. Together, we're shaping a brighter future built on creativity, collaboration, and community. Every contribution, big or small, helps us break barriers and keep making accessible to all. Thank you for being an essential part of our journey.

## **Contact Us :**

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