



BUILDING COMMUNITY & OUR LOCAL ECONOMY

Tualatin has been selected as one of America’s Best Communities, and is a finalist in the competition sponsored by Frontier Communications. An application was submitted in March 2015 outlining a proposal to add shared community gathering space to bring the elements of STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math) together in one place. Tualatin is a growing community in the Portland metropolitan region. Its businesses have a demand for a highly technically skilled workforce to meet its increasing number of jobs. There is a great need to develop students’ skills and cultivate interest at all grade levels in careers in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM). Tualatin needs a plan to develop the workforce of the future.

Tualatin’s application was about more than just STEM jobs, but about STEAM...the ‘A’ stands for the Arts. Technical jobs also require creativity and ingenuity, so it is important to cultivate those skills in students. The purpose of STEAM is not just about teaching the arts (language, performing, design, etc.) but to apply art in real situations. Applied knowledge leads to deeper learning.

Tualatin faces an intrinsic need in the community for gathering space. This has been outlined in the community vision ‘Tualatin Tomorrow,’ and it is central to this proposal. To assist in building skills and programs related to STEAM, Tualatin needs space to gather. While technology has helped many individuals connect online, there is still a great need to connect in person for education, appreciating the arts and cultural experiences, and entertainment. These activities help to build strong communities and a robust economy.



THE PLAN

This vision is for a shared community space to bring the elements of STEAM together in one place. This center will be a place to educate people of all ages, a venue for the performing arts, a cultural discovery experience and a community gathering space. It will also support the needs of Tualatin's local businesses by providing a space for training and continuing education, recruiting and meetings. This center will serve as a catalyst for economic development and community revitalization. Programs supported by this center will include:

STEM Education and Training

- Support STEM and CTE (Career Technical Education) education for students and teachers through programs with the South Metro-Salem STEM Partnership and other public and private institutions.
- Technical training for job applicants and entry-level employees.

Local Economic Development

- Business mentoring for high school students, small business owners and entrepreneurs.
- Community and corporate meeting space, including advanced audio-visual equipment and broadband connection

Tourism and the Arts

- Community theatre and music performance space.
- Gallery space for local artists and an Ice Age Museum documenting Tualatin's origins.

THE COMPETITION

The America's Best Communities (ABC) competition, sponsored by Frontier Communications, selected Tualatin as one of fifty nationwide quarter-finalist teams. A total of \$50,000 has been received from the national sponsors and Tualatin's local sponsor, Intel. This money is to be used to complete the planning process for the competition entry. The process will be an inclusive one, with many opportunities for Tualatin residents and businesses to offer ideas and provide feedback.

However, another \$15,000 must be raised in matching contributions from the community to demonstrate local support for the plan and to qualify for the semifinal round. Eight finalist teams will receive an additional \$100,000 to implement their plans and compete for the three top prizes of \$1, \$2 and \$3 million dollars! You can find out how to donate to the effort and join Team Tualatin at www.tualatinabc.org.

OUR TEAM

The Tualatin ABC Team is led by Mask & Mirror Community Theatre and the Tualatin Chamber of Commerce, with additional support from the City of Tualatin, Tualatin Tomorrow Advisory Committee, and the South Metro-Salem STEM Partnership, hosted by Oregon Tech.



www.tualatinabc.org