



BUILDING COMMUNITY & OUR LOCAL ECONOMY

Tualatin has been selected as one of America's Best Communities, and is one of 15 semi-finalists in the competition sponsored by Frontier Communications. An application was submitted in March 2015 outlining a proposal 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. It's 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, arts and math (STEAM). Employers in Advanced Manufacturing are finding it increasingly difficult to find STEAM-proficient employees. Tualatin needs a plan to develop the workforce of the future.

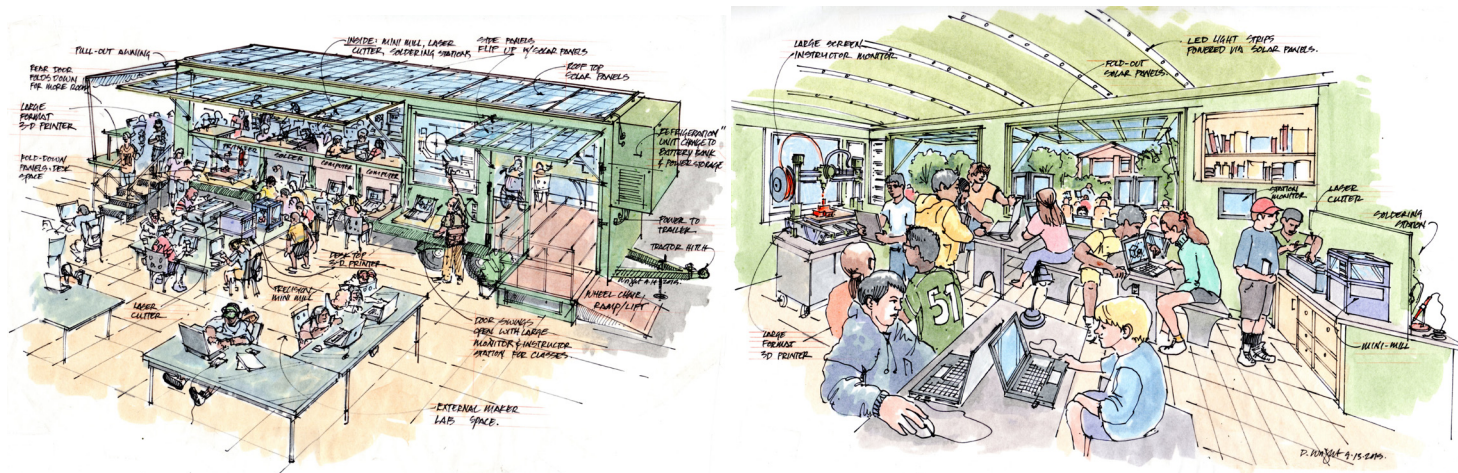
Tualatin's application was about more than just STEM jobs, but about STEAM...the 'A' stands for the Arts. Technical jobs also require creativity and ingenuity, so it is important to cultivate those skills in students. The purpose of STEAM is not just about teaching the arts (language, performing, design,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

During the America's Best Communities quarterfinals, local leaders began to develop a comprehensive strategy to revitalize the local economy and further enhance quality of life. To assist in building skills and programs related to STEAM, Tualatin needs creative 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

Our revitalization plan is focused on increasing opportunity and standard of living for all population segments. While we will continue to seek solutions to all community-defined needs and priorities described in our Tualatin Tomorrow Vision, our ABC initiative is hyper-focused on one specific target: connecting youth and underserved populations to STEAM education and CTE training that align with our advanced manufacturing industry base. In addition to providing jobs and personal growth opportunities for residents, we can begin to develop a workforce pipeline for a large cross-section of our employers. In the near-term, we intend to develop a mobile Makerspace and associated programming. Longer-term, we intend to supplement the mobile Makerspace with a permanent Community Career and Creative Center.



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 was used to complete the planning process for the competition entry.

Another \$28,000 was raised in matching contributions from the community to demonstrate local support for the plan and to qualify for the semifinal round. In April 2016, team members will travel to the national America's Best Communities summit in Raleigh-Durham, North Carolina. From the 15 teams that present their plans, 8 will finalists will be chosen, each receiving \$100,000 to implement their plans and compete for the three top prizes of \$1, \$2 and \$3 million dollars! To learn more about the plan and how to get involved, visit www.tualatinabc.org.

OUR TEAM

