



The FCDI Quarterly - Fall 2025



FCDI is 10 Yrs. Old and Growing!

FCDI marks its 10th anniversary this summer, providing a great opportunity to reintroduce ourselves to friends, neighbors, partners and donors through our new quarterly newsletter. This 1st issue is going out to everyone on our mailing list, to give you an opportunity to opt in to future updates via the subscription button at the end of this newsletter.

We promise not to spam you, or to sell or share your contact information. If you don't subscribe, we won't send you future newsletters. But we have a lot of expanded programming underway, new opportunities to Make Your Future and plans for making our own that we hope you'll enjoy and want to be part of.

So read on to learn where we've been and to see where we're going next!

Terri Willingham

Executive Director, FCDI

Terri@ffcdi.org



2015 to Now

When the **Foundation for Community Driven Innovation** launched a decade ago, founders had a good idea of what they wanted to accomplish with the nonprofit, but we never really imagined that three years in, we'd have a space for our Fab Lab concept, or that seven years later we'd have come this far.

But here we are! Just in the last two years, FCDI has racked up a number of honors:

- 2025 University of South Florida Good Neighbor Award
- 2025 Nonprofit Lightning Community Hero Award
- 2024 Temple Terrace Uptown Chamber of Commerce Nonprofit of the Year
- 2024 Equity Impact Investments, Phase 1 & 2 cohort member, U.S. Dept of Commerce/NGIN/LISC – 1 of only 24 sites selected nationwide for this 3 yr program
- 2024 Chevron Fab Fellowship Host Site
- 2023 Tampa Bay Business Journal, One Tampa Bay Nonprofit Honoree
- 2023, 2024 & 2025 Best of Florida, Charitable Organizations

2024-25: An Amazing Year!



In the past year alone:

- Hosted a dozen competitive robotics events
- Held 4th annual **Young Innovators Challenge**, in partnership with the Florida High Tech Corridor, anchoring a key component of 2025 Synapse Summit
- Developed **STEAM to Go** programming and outreach initiative, with robotics kit loan programs for local educators and other organizations – including BayCare Health Systems to provide enrichment opportunities for staff
- Partnered with **Prodigy Cultural Arts** to bring multimedia arts experiences to more youth in the University area
- Our in-house **Community Youth Robotics** teams earned top awards in competitions
- Relaunched **Gulf Coast MakerCon**
- Expanded our **Equity in Entrepreneurship** program with the addition of an Entrepreneurship Program Coordinator, Martika Jones, adding new and improved programming in our early-stage entrepreneurship education program
- Launched **Entrepreneurship and Machine Shop Credentials program**
- Launched our **Future Makers** initiative supporting mentor guided student-led STEM & entrepreneurship programming
- Launched **Community Innovation Collaborative** in partnership with Tampa Bay Community Network (TBCN)
- Hosted inaugural **Start Up Across America: Uptown Tampa Edition** event celebrating area entrepreneurs
- Hosted inaugural **813 Day Made in Tampa Open House at AMRoC**, in collaboration with the Tampa Bay Inventors Council, to celebrate

homegrown innovation

See our full overview in the video below.



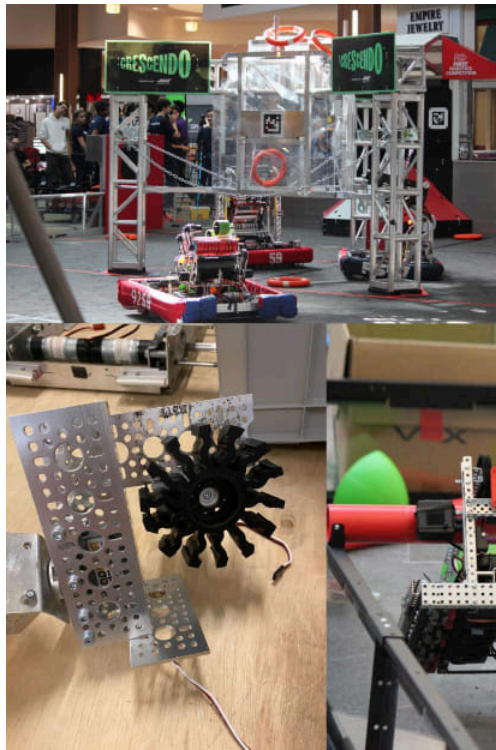
Support our Work Today!

Coming up this fall!

**New & Upcoming
this Fall**

*Keep your eye on
the [AMRoC Fab
Lab Calendar
page](#) and social
media to learn
more and get
involved!*

- [Fall Equity in Entrepreneurship](#) cohort starting in October
- [2025 ROBOTICON Tampa Bay](#) - October 11-November 1
- Expanded [AMRoC Fab Lab Manufacturing Essentials](#) microcert program
- [Educators Lab @ AMRoC Fab Lab](#)
- Future Makers Network student led-initiative kicks off
- Sew Chill expands to 3 days/week



ROBOTICON
2025 TAMPA BAY
Oct. 11-Nov. 1
 Visit ROBOTICON.net
 for schedule



AMRoC Fab Lab Machine

Shop use is available to credentialed individuals ages 18+ . Credentials are earned through FCDI's Credly Machine Shop Essentials program and range from basic Workbench Fundamentals, allowing use of basic workbench tools like the bandsaw, drill press, belt sander and related small power tools to Laser Cutting and CNC milling machines use.

Visit [Machine Shop Certification](#) | [AMRoC](#) for more information.

Out and About

While we're usually at AMRoC Fab Lab most of the time, we're also pretty active out in the community. Here are some special events where you can

find us this fall, and also find some cool community resources!

- Oct. 4 & 5: [Prosthesis HealthHacks 2025](#) at USF MUMA College of Business
- Oct 16: Hillsborough County Public Schools Family STEM Night at MOSI
- Oct. 31: [MacDill Air Force Base STEM Day](#)
- Nov. 18: [Entrepreneur Resource Fair](#) at Entrepreneur Collaborative Center

A vibrant purple-tinted collage of images showing diverse teachers and students working together in a workshop setting. They are using laptops, tools, and various materials to create projects. The text is overlaid on this background.

EDUCATORS LAB @
AMRoC
F A B • L A B

FREE access for teachers to Tampa Bay's only full-service community-based Fab Lab!*

The Educators Lab aims to support the development of a Community of Practice for Tampa Bay teachers by providing space for peer-to-peer support, collaboration, and resources for teachers to enjoy creative time together.

- Create fun instructional activities
- Quarterly meet ups
- Explore STEAM curriculum development
- Use of AMRoC Fab Lab tools and resources
- Piloting and testing ideas and programs

Teachers can register at AMROCTampaBay.com



**WE CAN'T WAIT TO SEE
WHAT TAMPA BAY'S
AMAZING TEACHERS WILL
CREATE AT THE FAB LAB!**

Sponsored by

FCDI
The Foundation of Innovation

* Where applicable, materials and/or equipment use instructional fees may apply, but will be fully disclosed in advance.

Subscribe to Quarterly Updates

Foundation For Community Driven Innovation Inc

A COPY OF THE OFFICIAL REGISTRATION AND FINANCIAL INFORMATION MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE DIVISION OF CONSUMER SERVICES BY CALLING TOLL-FREE WITHIN THE STATE. REGISTRATION DOES NOT IMPLY ENDORSEMENT,

Sent with Zeffy

The only 100% free fundraising suite in North America.

[Learn more about Zeffy](#)

[Unsubscribe from these emails](#)