

ANNOUNCING NEARLY \$1.4 MILLION IN FUNDING FOR GROUNDBREAKING LEARNING INNOVATION

(PITTSBURGH, PA) Sept. 1, 2020: This past spring, the [Tomorrow campaign](#) asked 17 nonprofit organizations to boldly imagine what smart risks they might take if they had R&D funding – not for covering current activities, but for pursuing experimental ideas, testing new concepts and finding powerful ways to move their field toward the future of learning.

Since COVID-19 first disrupted our schools and other sites of learning, heroic work has been done on behalf of students and their families, and meaningful collaborations have been forged. During this uniquely challenging back-to-school season, the ambitious new programming funded by these grants focuses on collaboration. Each recipient organization will partner with additional schools and other organizations to broaden engagement and benefit learners, their families and educators.

Today, the Tomorrow campaign has announced 17 grants totaling nearly \$1.43 million dollars over the next 12 months to fund groundbreaking projects.

Children's Museum of Pittsburgh has received grants for the following projects:

- ***"Making a Difference"*** is a collaboration between the Children's Museum and Assemble focusing on youth voice and staff capacity building. The museum and Assemble will engage youth during afterschool hours to 1) define a personal project that connects making and social justice, and 2) support them in planning a series of youth-led events at Assemble and the museum for their peers, culminating with a Youth Social Change Expo.

"We are thrilled to partner with Assemble to expand our afterschool programs and leverage making as a way to empower youth voice," said Jane Werner, Executive Director of Children's Museum of Pittsburgh. "The Tomorrow grant allows us to continue to deliver joy, creativity, and curiosity to youth, and support their vision around social justice work."

Assemble and the Children's Museum will also co-create and share a Tip Sheet and an Introductory Guide to Working with and Empowering Youth in informal education spaces.

"In working together, we are not only supporting youth from across the city. We are empowering our collective teaching artist staff, who are responsible for the growth and development of our youth, the change-makers of the future. I look forward to building the capacity of our teachers to be the champions of youth voice and agency through making," said Nina Barbuto, Assemble's Executive Director. "This is also an opportunity to help Children's Museum of Pittsburgh to be more reflective of their everyday practices as they grow towards a museum that is truly more welcoming, even when folks are not permitted inside due to COVID."

- **The Allegheny Intermediate Unit's *Professional Learning for Educators*** project to support the radical rethinking of traditional models of educator professional learning. **Children's Museum of Pittsburgh** will be collaborating with The Allegheny Intermediate Unit (AIU), Carnegie Mellon University's Entertainment Technology Center, CodeJoy, and a partner representing local industry to design to design and test new paradigms that are flexible, agile, and created with research-based best practices.
- **Allegheny County Department of Human Services' *Social Supports for Learning*** a project supporting "Making and Celebrating Community". **Children's Museum of Pittsburgh (CMP)** will partner with the Allegheny County Family Support Network (FSN) to train staff at 28 FSN centers about how to celebrate learning through creating and making, focused on the theme "We Are a Community." FSN staff will then support parents to work with their young children on collaborative projects. A day of celebration at the Children's Museum in June 2021 will highlight examples of families' projects.

[Click here for a full list of grant recipients](#) and their projects.

[Tomorrow](#), powered by [Remake Learning](#), is a campaign of grantmaking, storytelling and events that explore not only how we can do things better for all learners, but how we can do better things -- with equity at the center of the conversation. The campaign is supported by the Grable Foundation, ASTC, Global Minds Initiative, Kidsburgh, KnowledgeWorks, Project Fuel, The Saturday Light Brigade and transformED.