

## And Now, Today's GOOD NEWS: With Some Help, Kids Are Making Things Cooler Than We've Ever Made



Every day in Philadelphia, there are people out there *making things* with their hands and their minds. Some of those people, at the appropriately named **Maker Jawn**, happen to have a whole lot of cool stuff going on.

The Maker Jawn people (actually the **Maker Corps** at the Free Library of Philadelphia) won **an award at the Digital Media and Learning Competition 5** — **awards were also won by locals** the Clay Studio and Catholic Social Services Out of School Time Programs, so go us — to help fund the **Connected Messages** Project. The project, to create “digitally augmented postcard murals,” allows the city’s youth to come together to work on something unique. As the award page says:

Participants will engage with near-peer mentors through the Free Library’s existing Maker Ed Initiative. In daily workshops, youth will make digital postcards using conductive materials and programmable lighting elements. The postcards will be compiled, creating 5 interactive murals. The murals will be connected to a web platform, eCrafting.org, where youth and online viewers can build icons, images and messages by controlling the lighting elements on the postcards through a web interface.

Connected Messages will culminate in a public celebration on August 17, 2013 — a Maker Faire where 50 youth presenters and over 100 additional attendees gather in the lobby of the Central Library to share their messages of kindness. Participants will have the opportunity to share the meaning behind their postcards, as well as the technological knowledge they have accumulated over the summer by helping attendees create their own postcards.”

In addition to all of the stuff the kids have made — which we’re sure we could have never made — the **Maker Faire** will also feature participants from the Philly maker community, and you can find out more info and sign up over **here**.

*So there you have it: The world is not totally made of shit. Have you got some good news? If so, send it to [tips\[at\]philebrity\[dot\]com](mailto:tips[at]philebrity[dot]com) with “**GOOD MOTHERFUCKING NEWS!**” in the subject header — we’d love to hear about it.*

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