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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **Generator, a New Maker Space Opens in Downtown Burlington**

Burlington, Vt. (March 27, 2014) -- Burlington City Arts, Burlington Parks and Recreation, the Burlington Community and Economic Development Office and the Generator Board of Directors are excited to announce the opening of Generator, Burlington's first Maker Space. Generator, located in the lower level of Memorial Auditorium on Main Street, is a combination of artist studio, classroom, and business incubator focused on the act of making things. Generator exists at the intersection of art, science and technology and as such creates a community of collaboration between artists, engineers, entrepreneurs, and artisans.

Generator is a community space that will offer events, workspace, state of the art tools, cutting-edge software and education for anyone interested in creative endeavors. Monthly membership starts at \$50, giving access to tools and workspace. Studio membership starts at \$100 a month and includes a private workspace. Classes for adult and teens programmed and managed by Burlington City Arts, begin in April and will feature subjects like Laser Cutting and 3D printing. More information about programming can be found at [generatorvt.com](http://generatorvt.com).

The public is invited to a launch party on Saturday, March 29 from 4 to 8 p.m., featuring demos, tours, tomato soup and grilled cheese bar, cash bar and music by Disco Phantom – all are invited to attend to learn more about what Generator has to offer.

Working in partnership with Generator, the Champlain College Maker Lab is set to open in late April as part of the Emergent Media Center's expansion at the Miller Center building on Lakeside Avenue. The Champlain Maker Lab will give Champlain students, alumni and Generator members access to 3D printers and scanners - including the ProJet 4500, the most sophisticated 3D color printer available - laser cutters, computer-controlled milling machines, electronics and microcontrollers, along with a range of traditional fabrication tools.

"Burlington's economic future is closely tied to the growth of our tech sector and the degree to which the City fosters innovation and creativity. The City of Burlington's BTV Ignite initiative is a commitment to leverage our resources and relationships to accelerate this growth. The City is proud to host Generator in Memorial Auditorium – great opportunities, creations, and energy will flow from today's opening," said Burlington Mayor Miro Weinberger.

"I believe that Generator will fuel the dynamic, innovative energy that exists in Vermont—and break boundaries between the arts and sciences --usher in a new day for entrepreneurs, creatives and those whose dreams have yet to be realized. The city is putting out a big welcome mat to the diverse community of tinkerers and thinkers who will find incredible resources and lots of encouragement in this do it yourself environment," said Burlington City Arts Executive Director Doreen Kraft.

"I believe Generator has a powerful role to play in the education of our youth, the empowerment of our entrepreneurs, and as a primary driver of Vermont's larger creative economy," said Ken Howell, vice president of the Generator board of directors, and assistant professor in Champlain College's Division of Communication & Creative Media.

"The Generator is the first of its kind in Vermont where people have a place and space to really be creative with access to state of the art tools and to each other," said Doug Webster, Generator board member and director of the Champlain Maker Faire.

When speaking about the creation of Generator, Peter Owens, director of Burlington's Community and Economic Development Office said, "'Generator is our future. Its new economy orientation on collaboration, invention, rapid proto-typing and open platform community building will help write the entrepreneurial code of Burlington's economic future. And most importantly.... have fun doing it!"

Generator tools for member and class use include advanced rapid prototyping capability (Stratasys uPrint 3D printer, Epilog Fusion 32" laser cutter, Roland CNC milling machine), a 24" Blackcat Cougar Vinyl Cutter, Mac and PC workstations with software for data visualization, 3D modeling and app development, electronic test equipment, circuit assembly, Arduino and electronic fabrication supplies, six soldering stations, gigabit Internet access (some of the fastest in New England) and the hardware required for next generation high-speed Internet application development jewelry design and production, as well as a variety of hand and power tools and more to be added.

Generator partners include Champlain College, Burlington City Arts, Burlington Parks & Recreation, The University of Vermont, CEDO, Smith Buckley Architects, Burlington Telecom, Vermont Makers, Logic Supply, Champlain Maker Faire, Lab B, Gravel and Shea, Vermont Woodworking School, Burlington College, Surdna Foundation, Peter Swift and Diana McCargo, Metz Family, Mary and Tom Evslin.

*For more information about studio space, membership, events, classes and workshops, please visit [generatorvt.com](http://generatorvt.com)*

Generator is:

**Executive Director**

**Christy Mitchell** is an entrepreneur with over 10 years of creative facilitation and arts management experience. She has reclaimed four industrial spaces in Burlington for working artists, and oversees at present nearly 40 art studios of her own design. She also curates and schedules shows for five exhibition areas, including The S.P.A.C.E. Gallery. In

February, Mitchell became the executive director of Generator and is working diligently to foster a successful launch and first year.

### **Board of Directors**

**John Cohn** is a fellow at IBM, Essex Junction, a founding member of the Vermont Makers, on the Board of Directors at the Echo Center, and all-around mad scientist, self-described but only because he beat us to it.

**Dan Harvey** is the assistant dean at the University of Vermont's Graduate College as well as business operations manager for the Office of the Vice President for Research. Prior to arriving at UVM in 2005, Harvey was the general manager of VPT, Vermont's public television network. He has been on the Burlington City Arts advisory board for 11 years, serving as president from 2004-2013. Harvey also serves on Mayor Weinberger's BTV IGNITE Advisory Board and serves as Generator's board secretary and chair of the Safety Committee.

**Ken Howell** is an assistant professor in Champlain College's Division of Communication & Creative Media, where he teaches primarily in the MFA in Emergent Media Program. He is a founding member of the Vermont Makers, an organizer of the Champlain Maker Faire, and a lifelong artist and tinkerer. His longstanding interest in work that happens at the intersection of art, technology, and communication has informed all aspects of his creative and professional life. In addition to Generator, Howell is also working on a maker space at Champlain College's Emergent Media Center. The Champlain Maker Lab will be a place for creative exploration, interdisciplinary collaboration, and iterative design. Its facilities, opening Spring 2014, will be open for use by the Generator membership.

**Doreen Kraft** is the long-time executive director of Burlington City Arts (BCA) and has overseen its impressive growth over the last 20 years. Kraft's ability to shepherd projects through City process has resulted in increases in programs, staff, budget, and in the creation of studio and gallery space including the nationally-recognized, historically-preserved BCA Center.

**Pauline Law** is an attorney at Gravel & Shea PC and routinely works with nonprofit organizations, advising them on tax matters, governance and organizational structure. Law graduated from a techie college where art + technology were integral to campus life, promptly forgot all of her programming knowledge and went to a significantly less tech-savvy law school. Law is thrilled to be part of a high-energy start-up organization that will serve creative enthusiasts and entrepreneurs alike.

**Michael Metz** is a materials scientist, a business consultant in precious metals technology, a photographer, and an active board member of BCA, The BCA Foundation, Champlain College, and the Vermont Community Foundation. He has extensive non-profit development, served as the chair of two successful multi-million-dollar capital campaigns, and has a long-standing interest in art, education and technology.

**Peter Owens** represents Burlington's Community and Economic Development Office (CEDO). In the 1980's he worked on a number of local projects including the Community Boathouse and the Burlington Urban Design Study (BUDS). In 2012, Owens returned to Burlington to lead CEDO's efforts to grow a more innovative and vibrant city for all citizens. His prior experience includes master planning the Presidio National Park in San Francisco and heading up urban design at ORW and creating Company 77, a solar-powered-pizza-cooking-fire-truck with his maker brother.

**Denise Shekerjian** is an attorney and writer with a long-time interest in the creative process. She is the author of "Uncommon Genius," a look at creativity based on a group of MacArthur Prize winners. She is also the author of literary essays, a blog and short stories. A new work on the creative process is underway. She is a longtime supporter of arts and education, and has longstanding friendships with BCA and Champlain College.

**Chris Thompson** is an artist and maker focused on art and technology with 20 years experience in corporate technology management, and four years as the curator at the BCA center where he organized over 30 exhibitions. Thompson is also a member of Vermont Makers and is involved in the creation of maker space at Champlain College including the development of curriculum.

**Doug Webster** is the career and technical education coordinator for the Vermont Agency of Education as well as an active participant of CMF Innovations, which promotes maker activities nationally. He has also produced and hosted an educational show on the culture of innovation, and is president of the National Association for Workforce Improvement, which focuses on innovation education.

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