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For Immediate Release:

Startable Final Showcase and Celebration Highlights Teen Entrepreneurship

To celebrate the completion of the 2017 Startable Summer Program, Innovation Works is holding the Startable Final Showcase and Celebration at the Ace Hotel on August 17, 5-9pm.

The event will consist of: a marketplace of student products; a pitch competition where student finalists will compete for up to $1,000 in prize money; and an album release party for a special, limited run album produced by music cohort students. The events will take place in the Ace Hotel's gymnasium and ballroom.

A partnership between Innovation Works/AlphaLab Gear, TechShop Pittsburgh, YMCA's Lighthouse Project and City of Play, Startable Pittsburgh is a free program that teaches students maker skills and entrepreneurship to help them launch their own businesses. Over the course of eight weeks, students aged 16-18 develop, design, prototype, build, brand, market and sell products of their own creation. During the program, students pitch for program "investment" in their businesses, and earn a small program stipends along with their business profits.

The 2017 program consisted of two cohorts: a handmade cohort based at TechShop Pittsburgh, and a music cohort based at Homewood-Brushton YMCA (via the YMCA Lighthouse Project). Both cohorts learned entrepreneurship skills via a curriculum developed by AlphaLab Gear, and life skills from City of Play's play-based curriculum.

"Startable helps make entrepreneurship more accessible to young people who may never have thought of starting a business," says Innovation Works CEO Rich Lunak. "The program teaches maker skills, entrepreneurial skills and important life skills that help put young adults on a path to success while opening their eyes to a host of new career options. It's a privilege for our team to work with so many talented students."

This event is free and open to the public. Registration is not required, but attendees may RSVP on Startable's Facebook event page. For more information about Startable Pittsburgh, visit http://startablepgh.org/.