



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

**PBS INVENTOR DOCUSERIES MAKE48 TO DEBUT NATIONAL
COMPETITION IN WICHITA MARCH 25-27**

GOCREATE TO HOST EIGHT TEAMS COMPETING FOR \$10K

EXPANDS BRANDING OPPORTUNITIES WITH NEW LICENSING INITIATIVE

KANSAS CITY, MO - December 6, 2021 - Invention-competition docuseries [Make48](#) will call Wichita, KS home for their first-ever national inventor challenge and concurrent filming of the popular series that broadcasts on PBS. **GoCreate**, a Koch Collaborative 18,000-square foot state of the art makerspace located on the Wichita State University campus, has been selected to host the event which will take place **March 25-27, 2022**. The eight participating teams are winners from four 2021 regional competitions held in Wichita, Madison, Indianapolis, and Hartford. They will now compete on the national stage for a grand prize of \$10K. The teams, composed of varied backgrounds including students, co-workers, friends or family members, will also feature prominently in the docuseries, ensuring recognition to the national maker community. Competition theme will be announced in early 2022. Make48 has held fruitful partnerships with industry leaders Eli Lilly, Stanley Black & Decker, Harley Davidson, Midwest Prototyping, Koch Industries, and more.

Make48 is a nationwide invention-competition docuseries distributed by leading syndicator American Public Television that gives teams a challenge at the start of a two-day event. With just 48 hours, teams must create a prototype, promotional video and sales sheet, and present their idea to a panel of judges. The teams have access to a makerspace and numerous Tool Techs that can

make almost anything, patent attorneys, marketing experts, and more. This format allows everyone to have a level playing field and the chance to win, with no prior technical knowledge necessary.

“We have been working hard to expand the concept into more cities and become more inclusive to everyday people wanting to innovate. Having Wichita’s GoCreate makerspace be the nationals host is testament to their well run and resource rich makerspace,” said Make48 **Co-Creator and CEO Tom Gray**. “The city itself, leadership and supporting companies combined are allowing Wichita to become one of the leading innovation cities in the country and with that, a perfect host for the Make48 Nationals.”

The event will mark Season 5 of Make48’s docuseries, which airs on PBS. The challenge will be filmed in real time once the 48-hour clock starts ticking. Production on 10 episodes will begin following the competition, with Season 5 set to premiere in September 2022. Make48 currently reaches viewers in 95% of US homes, with plans to expand to other platforms in 2022.

Since its inception in 2015, Make48 has continued to expand exponentially, in tandem with the global maker movement. Today the company announced a new initiative which will allow for community makerspaces as well as those at colleges and high schools to license the Make48 name and competition format to host their own events. Make48 will provide the turn-key blueprint to successful maker events, including timelines, promotional materials, detailed checklists, sponsorship templates, and dedicated space on Make48.com. Most importantly, access to Make48 staff for guidance from planning through execution will be part of the licensing agreement.

“One of the things we continue to see during our events is how engaging and inclusive the maker community is,” said Gray. “At Make48, we pride ourselves on recognizing that talent and great ideas can come from anyone, anywhere. There is enormous growth potential at both the professional and educational levels. While we can’t get to every city yet, we’ve found a way to hopefully get there through licensed events and continue to cement our footprint as leaders in the movement.”

More information can be found [here](#) for makerspaces, and [here](#) for learning institutions.

Casting for Season 6 is currently underway. Interested inventors should visit make48.com for information on upcoming 2022 city events.

Make48 is:

Inventing against the clock.

Everyday people apply as teams and compete to develop a new commercial product in a 48-hour invent-a-thon weekend. Teams have 48 hours to plan, prototype, and pitch a new idea, within the

specifications of a challenge, determined by the challenge sponsor. Teams utilize a variety of tools, materials, workspaces, and expert guidance provided by a resource-rich fabrication workshop. Teams have access to qualified expert “Tool Techs.” Tool techs will assist teams with the provided fabrication tools to prototype ideas of ranging complexity. No prior invention experience is necessary. Teams create a promotional video and pitch their prototype to the judges. Winner is announced at the end of the 48-hour window.

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