

Press Release | For Immediate Release

Ireland's oldest hackerspace needs a new home

- After 5 years in Blackpitts, Dublin, TOG hackerspace has been given notice on its current premises.
- A community of 100 makers, hackers, creators and the 100s of visitors to TOG's weekly events are about to lose their space with no new home to move to.

TOG, Ireland's oldest hackerspace, needs to find a new home after it was given notice on its current premises at 22 Blackpitts. A hackerspace is a community run space in which people can work on projects from electronics to crafting, beer brewing to metal working. Founded in 2009, TOG is a community of hackers and makers located in Dublin city centre. It has welcomed thousands of people into its space to create and make with like minded people. In the various classrooms and workshops, people could pick up a new skill or have access to equipment to make their projects a reality. In 2020, the space was featured in RTÉ's *Big Life Fix*.

Known as TOG 3.0, this was the third space the group has called home since 2016, and the search for the new TOG 4.0 has proven difficult in the current rental market.

"Tog is an essential outlet for so many creatives and makers who are not catered for anywhere else. It's the hub for makers and people who want to bring real things from an idea to reality in the city, being away from any commercial pressures and letting their imagination run wild. A community where idea and knowledge sharing go hand in hand" - Jeffrey Roe - Founding member.

"I learned about TOG at the Summer 2019 Dublin Maker event in Merrion Square, and after returning from a holiday I went along to learn about 3D printers. I was stunned, there was so much else going on there. There's woodworking and metalworking and electronics and craft and homebrewing and laser cutting and mending and making and coding and lockpicking – and people engaging in all sorts of personal projects. There's a strong reduce/reuse/recycle ethos in the community. Everyone seems so friendly and happy to help others, both practically and with their knowledge. The fact that more than 90% of members remained even though lockdowns meant we weren't getting much out at the time demonstrates the importance to us of keeping TOG going. It's really a great organisation, where people of different ages, cultures and backgrounds can and do freely mix and help each other. Also they actually help society at large with projects and events on topics such as air pollution monitoring." Arthur Cater, enthusiastic member since October 2019.

At its core, TOG is a community space. It is a non-profit, non-commercial group funded by the membership. The members are a very diverse group of makers with strong software, hardware

and engineering skills as well as arts and design skills, and range in age from students to retired. As a community they have decades of experience in work and industry and they host and attend external events such as Hackathons, Dublin Maker events for Science Week, Engineers Week and a range of other STEM outreach events. A strong social, networking and ideas exchange scene is also part of the membership and its outreach to the wider public.

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Tog

www.tog.ie

http://twitter.com/tog_dublin

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0IX_a2dmdW4

IMAGES from events and our space are available on request
and are free to use