How to Best Support Project Manus

OVERVIEW OF THE PROJECT MANUS CATALYST FUND
MIT has long been a leading example of how to integrate “making” on campus. Maintaining this leadership requires adaptation of new technology, tools, training, and means of improving access for students. The Project Manus Catalyst Fund is supporting MIT’s efforts to increase making capacity on campus, improve access to makerspaces and resources, and foster maker communities. Initiated in October 2015 by Provost Martin Schmidt SM ’83, PhD ’88, as part of MIT’s Innovation Initiative, Project Manus is under the leadership of MIT’s “Maker Czar” Professor Martin Culpepper SM ’97, PhD ’00.

EXAMPLES OF AREAS IN NEED OF SUPPORT
Increase Making Capacity on Campus
- Establish the “gold standard” of next-generation academic makersystems by upgrading legacy spaces, and integrating the Metropolitan Warehouse, Kendall innovation makerspaces, and future projects with existing legacy spaces.
- Lead the creation of new spaces such as the new 20,000-square-foot Metropolitan Warehouse makerspace, including the design, layout, and programming of these projects.

Improve Access for Students through Technologies, Tools, and Resources
- Enable students to find the maker resources they need by developing technologies, such as Mobius, that also allow maker shops to collect data for continuous enhancement of the spaces.
- Provide student makers with as much as 25 times faster access to makerspaces and resources through training programs such as MakerLodge.
- Ensure students can easily make outside of academic settings by integrating makerspaces and resources into their dorms via Playbooks that help them get started.

Foster Maker Communities
- Foster a maker culture and community at MIT by providing students and faculty across campus with new programs, manus education, equipment upgrades, and accessible resources in both academic and residential settings.
- Enhance the innovation and entrepreneurship ecosystem on campus by facilitating making as a way that students learn how to design, prototype product ideas, and engage with others in the community to launch successful ventures.
- Inspire hands-on learning and making beyond MIT through collaborations with peer universities, alumni, government, and industry, such as Mobius Boston, so that students can access maker resources in Boston.

GIVING OPPORTUNITY
A gift to the Project Manus Catalyst Fund will maximize your impact for MIT’s efforts to transform making and create the gold standard for next-generation academic makersystems.

Fund Name: Project Manus Fund (#2010094)

Fund Description: Gifts to support the operations of Project Manus, MIT's effort to upgrade its makerspaces and foster maker communities.