

by some folks attempting to gauge interest in opening a makerspace here in metro Birmingham. Also known as hackerspaces, they've gained increased popularity in recent years here in the United States.

They are normally facilities that can resemble workshops where members have access to the equipment and space necessary to pursue whatever creative interests they might have. Classes may also be offered as opportunities to learn about and develop new skills. The landing page for the survey suggests while the organizers are envisioning a facility, they may start out offering a webbased resource that allows for organizing classes in the area.

It would actually be the second known attempt at establishing such a space in Birmingham in recent years. <u>Local coworking space Sparkbox</u> used to host makerspace sessions in their original home on the city's Southside.

A link to <u>the eight-question survey</u> has been <u>shared on Facebook by Jared Fulton</u> – a status update where he included the space or concept "will be about developing and cultivating Birmingham's growing community of makers and creatives."

Interested in learning more about the concept? There was a phone number included in the post – Bruce Lanier's (222-8226). You can also check out what's been described as <u>the international directory for the hackerspace movement</u>. There's also <u>this site making the connection between making and education</u>.

Photo: *MakerSpace Urbana, Feb-2012.* maltman23/Flickr.