

For Immediate Release

FAIRCHILD INNOVATION STUDIO ACTIVATES TO MANUFACTURE 3D PRINTED FACE SHIELDS IN PARTNERSHIP WITH MOONLIGHTER MAKERSPACE

The Wynwood-Based Digital Fabrication Lab Has Partnered with Fairchild Garden to 3D Print Face Shield Head Bands for Medical Community

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MIAMI, FL. (APRIL 2020) – Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, local organizations and companies have rallied to create innovative ways to serve the community during this critical time. As the shortage of personal protective equipment (PPE) has become a growing issue for healthcare and essential workers, [Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden](#) has partnered with [Moonlighter Makerspace](#), a non-profit S.T.E.A.M. Learning Center + Fabrication Lab, to manufacture face shields using 3D printers. Fairchild Garden is one of the premier conservation and education-based gardens in the world and a recognized international leader in both Florida and international conservation.

In March 2020, Fairchild joined Moonlighter Makerspace to assist in the 3D printing of head bands for face shields using PETG plastic donated by Coca-Cola Florida. Every day, Fairchild manufactures an average of 35 head bands and will continue to produce these integral pieces of protective gear until they are no longer needed. Together with many local partners, Moonlighter Makerspace has been able to source the material for production and secure a distribution process to donate over 1,500 face shields to organizations including the Miami Beach Fire Department, Holy Cross Hospital, Miami Cerebral Palsy Residence Service and Hialeah Fire Department to name a few.

“Along with Fairchild Garden and makers across the community, we are on track to make over 8,500 shields and donate them for free,” says Tom Pupo and Daisy Nodal, Co-founders of Moonlighter Makerspace. “Our fabrication lab is serving as a regional hub for the Open Source Medical Supplies group which has over 70,000 members worldwide sharing medically-reviewed design files and organizing logistics that allow the public to manufacture medical supply items locally.”

For the last two years, Fairchild has partnered with Moonlighter Makerspace to develop the [Growing Beyond Earth](#) Innovation Studio, a makerspace at Fairchild dedicated to addressing the technology of food production issues on Earth and for long distance space travel. With funding from NASA, the Institute of Museums and Library Services and The Kendal H. Kennedy Foundation, Fairchild had purchased three 3D printers, a laser cutter and an industrial CNC mill. The garden has been using the equipment to build prototypes of designs created by local students as well as to teach classes for adults and children while the space is being built. Fairchild will continue doing so to produce the 3D printed headbands.

“We are proud to join forces with Moonlighter Makerspace and give back to the community in any way we can,” says Amy Padolf, Director of Education at Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden. “Together, we will rise to the occasion to meet the current demands of this global pandemic and continue supplying PPE to support our health heroes.”

For more information on how to donate or become a volunteer, please visit www.Miamifightingcovid.com or call (305) 699-2041. Stay up to date by following along on social media at [@moonlightermiami](https://twitter.com/moonlightermiami) and [@FairchildGarden](https://twitter.com/FairchildGarden).

About Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden

Fairchild Garden is currently celebrating its 82nd anniversary in the community. Established in 1938 and comprising of 83 acres, Fairchild is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization committed to exploring, explaining and conserving the world of tropical plants. The Garden is recognized both nationally and internationally as the premier leader in conservation and education-based programs with field operations in over 20 countries including support to protected areas globally from Madagascar to Central America. Fairchild has the largest education program of any metropolitan area, reaching more than 300,000 schoolchildren each year with programs like [The Fairchild Challenge](#), [The Million Orchid Project](#), [Growing Beyond Earth](#), and its BioTECH High School. Special events include Chocolate, Mango and Orchid Festivals in addition to art exhibitions, concerts, plant sales and more. Information at www.fairchildgarden.org and follow at [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [Instagram](#).