

Invention Convention

Invention Convention was originally developed as part of the Kennedy Center Imagination Celebration through the *New York State Alliance for Arts*. Over time, the Alliance moved out of direct programming for children toward arts advocacy and professional development for teachers.

In 1997, two GE patent attorneys approached the Alliance about reinstating Invention Convention in the Capital Region. The Alliance opted not to be involved, but directed them to the Schenectady Museum. The Museum took on the program, given the strong connection with its mission and collections. A planning committee with members from GE and the Museum was formed, along with representatives from Schmeiser, Olsen & Watts LLP, Eastern New York Intellectual Property Law Association, and later Heslin Rothenberg Farley & Mesiti P.C. The team has been dedicated to engaging students in the innovation process for more than 10 years.

Participation has increased from 167 in 1998 to a record high of 1,441 for 2011. This year, more than 60 volunteers will contribute more than 500 hours toward the running of Invention Convention.

In 2003, three separate divisions were established for separate judging by grade level: Edison (K-2), Steinmetz (3-5) and Coolidge (6-8). The number of semifinalists in each division is proportionate to the total number of entries per division.

The models on display tonight were selected from the 1,336 applications submitted in 2011. **25 finalists** will be announced during tonight's awards ceremony.

To learn more about the contest, go to the Invention Convention website at www.crd.ge.com/invent/.



Reception & Awards Ceremony

May 26, 2011

Innovator
GE Volunteers



Inventors



Problem Solvers

M&T Bank •
Price Chopper's
Golub Foundation

Tinkerers

1st Playable Productions, LLC • Berkshire Bank •
Eastern New York Intellectual Property Law Association •
Heslin Rothenberg Farley & Mesiti P.C. • Hoffman Warnick LLC •
New York State United Teachers • Schmeiser, Olsen & Watts LLP

