The background of the entire slide is a grayscale image of a circuit board. It features a complex network of black lines representing traces, with several circular pads or vias scattered across the surface. The overall aesthetic is technical and futuristic.

Accessing Robofest competitions in Florida and the impact on the Tampa Bay STEM Community

Reflection

REFLECTION

Reflection

Emma Alaba / Director & Host Organizer of Robofest in FL

Owner, Computer Learning Center, Clearwater, FL

REFLECTION: Where we came from

- 2008 – 2009 Robofest Regional Competition (now called Qualifying)
- 2013 – 2014 Robofest RoboParade Competition
- 2014 – 2015 World Robot Olympiad Tournament (LTU-Robofest)





REFLECTION: Where we are now

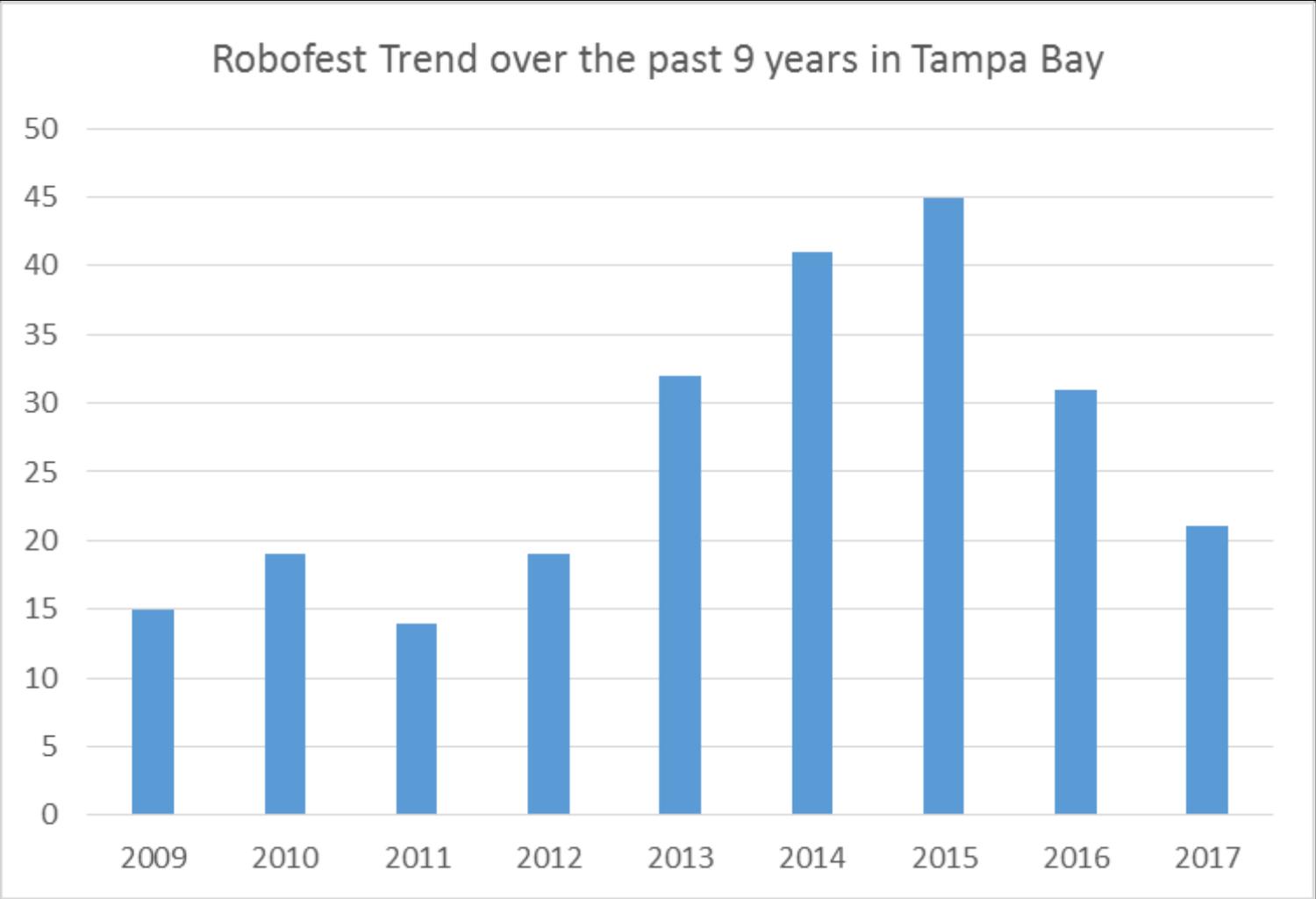
- Robofest 2017 World Championship
Hosted by St Pete Beach Community Center & Computer Learning Center
(major local sponsors)
- Robofest Regional Competition (now called Qualifying)
Hosted by Nielsen in Oldsmar, FL since 2010 (major local sponsor)
- Robofest RoboParade Competition
Hosted by St Pete Beach Community Center since 2014 (major local sponsor)
- World Robot Olympiad Tournament (LTU-Robofest)
Hosted by Clearwater Main Library since 2015 (major local sponsor)



ROBOFEST: # OF TEAMS PER YEAR

Years	Qualifying	RoboParade	WRO*	Total /Year
2009	15			15
2010	19			19
2011	14			14
2012	19			19
2013	32			32
2014	31	10		41
2015	21	9	15	45
2016	14	12	5	31
2017	21			21
	186	31	20	237

Qualifying – RoboParade – World Robot Olympiad Teams Combined



REFLECTION: Where do we go from here?

Accessing the funding challenges for the three competitions

1. Qualifying Competition
Seeking sponsorships and vendors
2. RoboParade
Seeking sponsorships and vendors
3. World Robot Olympiad Tournament
Seeking WRO Host, sponsorships and vendors



REFLECTION: cont. . . .

Accessing our Strengths

- Major strength hosting the 18th World Championship
- Mentoring and Networking across the STEM community (IEEE – RAS, Nielsen, Clearwater Main Library, St Pete Beach Community Center, PCS STEM Coordinator)
- Collaboration between STEM community
Supporting each other programs, sharing resources and communication between entities. Involving formal education, after-school, summer programs, and business community.

REFLECTION: cont. . . .

What can you do today?

- Volunteer
- Mentor
- Raise funds
- Sponsorship
- Grants
- Donate

REFLECTION: cont. . . .

We must learn new pathways that match the needs of the students not the system.

SO

Think outside of the box

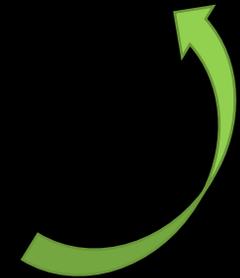
Go beyond the original

Be a part of the solution

Create new non-traditional pathways

Break down the CAN'T walls and walk into the CAN DOs

We are the caretakers of the most valuable resource on earth – our children.



Thank you ROBOFEST
NATIONAL and LOCAL SPONSORS

KIDS + Robotics = THE FUTURE!

