The journey to 10BitWorks started with a simple question my friend and former college roommate asked me when we were working together at a tech company: "Hey you want to start a hackerspace?" I had no idea what a hackerspace was, but a quick search online specifically to hackerspaces.org filled me in with all the details. I knew it's what I wanted to do.

Fast forward a couple of months or so, I continue to do research along with making friends and contacts. John catches wind that Austin is starting a hackerspace and they're already renting a place. At the same time Jon Kelly gets a job in Austin and starts making plans to move up there. We visit the Austin hackerspace, now called ATX Hackerspace and they're busy building walls and painting. I was introduced to some of the main funders along with the landlord they were currently building the space out with. Everyone was super cool and it really energized me to get this going.

I started going to many group meetups and events and just try and get the word out about starting a hackerspace. I started getting a few emails about people interested and created a mailing list called sa-hackerspace and we started a grand bike-shedding experiment to find out how and what to do for the hackerspace. I also met another fella who had begun the process as well of creating a hackerspace. So we decided to join forces. He filed a DBA as San Antonio Hackerspace and I continued to spread the word, including meeting some big wigs from Rackspace, all the awesome people from XCSSA, SATLUG, and SA-Digital Fabricators.

All of this accumulated with a meeting at the San Antonio Technology Center, roughly dubbed the San Antonio Hackerspace Kickstart on Thursday, the 10th of June 2010. It was a scary day for me as quite a number of people showed up and crammed into the meeting room there. Myself and the San Antonio Hackerspace partner at the time laid out the case for there needing to be a space. Although I feel many were expecting a space already available, we did get lots of input and interest.

One minor set back happened at this time, my hackerspace partner at the time decided to leave. When a hundred or so people show up to an event your leading, coupled with financial baggage, and someone he had only met a few week prior he understandably decided that this was all a bit too much for him. This lead us to needing to rename the Hackerspace though, as he decided to keep the San Antonio Hackerspace name, we sent a message out to our mailing list for a new name. We hurriedly decided on the name 10BitWorks, and I filed the DBA the next day.

Thomas weeks, going by the name Tweeks, was an XCSSA member and also worked at Rackspace. They had been wanting a hackerspace but couldn't find a place to start. A group of young adults laying the foundation seemed a good start. Tweeks introduced me to Dirk, one of the early Rackspace founders, and in a very spur of the moment meeting he and his brother agreed to upfront a good deal of funding to rent a space.

A space was found soon after, it met all the points we were interested in: a central San Antonio location, cheap rent, understanding landlord, and a place we could grow into. It was an old motorcycle repair shop on Roosevelt, repainted into a blinding silver, next to a cheap motel and a Whataburger, two blocks away from the San Antonio river, in the scary part of Southtown. I signed the lease and our move in date was set for August 15th, 10BitWorks was born.

Right around this time, I met two people who wound up being our first members: Greg Bluntzer and Mike Perez. They were both interested in game development, as was I, and were instrumental in getting 10Bit going in the early days.

In our first year 10Bit was little more than a big empty room with piles of junk scattered around. Though, thanks to our connection to ATX Hackerspace we had our first successful simultaneous hackathon. Mike built a robot,

Greg made a game, and I fiddled around in Linux, when Tweeks showed up with a pile of cheeseburgers then promptly locked his keys in his car. We spent an hour trying to jimmy our way back in, until some fumbling around with lockpicks managed to get the door open. It was a great early memory of 10Bit and sold to me that a hackerspace is where awesome stuff happens.

As the years went on, we formed a proper board of directors and got more serious with our corporate structure eventually changing it from an LLC to a 501c3 Non-profit. We routinely got involved with the community, hosting several city council members for a meeting, created our own crowdfunding campaign to fund a laser cutter, were the keynote speakers at a tech conference, and helped out many a maker faire and STEM night.

10BitWorks continues to grow, and every time I'm there I see faces, new and old, with a passion and desire to learn, build, and play.