MAKING MINI MAKERSPACES
Indiana State Library

Speakers:
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PLAN

- Why Makerspaces?
- About North Riverside
- Patron Surveys and Feedback
- Our Response – Making the Makerspaces
- Making it Work
- Tips and Tricks
WHY MAKERSPACES?

- Responsive to patron needs
- Creative way to do what libraries have always strived to do: provide education, information, and entertainment
- Coding, crafting, access to technology
- Engages patrons even more fully – and a great way to show what all libraries have to offer in the 21st century
ABOUT NORTH RIVERSIDE LIBRARY AND THE COMMUNITY

- 22,000 square foot building opened in June 1999
- The estimated population of the Library District is 6,672
- 4,500 residents holding library cards which represents about 67% of the total population
- Main Floor – Circulation, Young Adult section, Adult section, Meeting Room, one Computer Lab with 6 public computers, one Study Room
- Lower Level – Children’s Department, Storytime Room, two public computers, two Study Rooms, extra under-stair space
LOCAL SCHOOLS AND ORGANIZATIONS

- Komarek - Kindergarten to 8\textsuperscript{th} grade
- Cornerstone Montessori School – 15 months to 6 years old
- Village of North Riverside (across the street) – Preschool (2 to 4 years old)
- Parks and Recreation Department – Programs for All Ages
WHAT DID THE COMMUNITY NEED?

- Suggestion boxes placed around the library
- Main Floor Circulation taking notes from conversations with patrons
- Lower Level Youth Services Help Desk staff members took notes
- Teen Advisory Board Meetings (6 – 12 grade) members meet once a month
- Adult Town Hall Forum (Adults 20-50)
- Technology help (ages 50 and older)
WHAT DID THE COMMUNITY NEED?

KITS TO CHECK OUT
(aka Library of Things)

- Gardening Tools
- Knit/Crochet Kit
- Pumpkin Carving
- Cake Decorating
- Glass Fusing
- Hand Tools
- Painting Kit
- Digital Camera
- Sewing Machine
- House Painting Kit
- Ghost Hunting Kit
- Other___________

WHY BUY WHEN YOU CAN BORROW?

TO USE @ THE LIBRARY
(aka Our Makerspace)

- Laser Cutter
- Engraver
- Button Maker
- Poster Printer
- Laminator
- Card Making Tools
- Vinyl Cutter
- Embroidery Machine
- 3D Printer
- Tshirt Press
- VHS to DVD Converter
- Other___________

WHAT WE HEARD:

- Less desire for “flashy” makerspace materials like 3D printers and a lot of interest in things like t-shirt presses, button makers, laminators, and Cricut machines
- Programs centered around new technologies
- More basic technology help classes
- More resources for parents and students
- Materials/Kits to check out and take home
WHAT DID WE DO WITH THE FEEDBACK?

- Created a “Technology Manager” position (our Circulation Manager)
- Managers met to reconstruct budget to meet the patron needs
- Applied for multiple grants
- Talked to Friends and Foundation about potential support
- Created “Strategic Plan Mini Grants” for staff to suggest ideas to meet patrons needs/strategic plan
- Re-arranged the library to make more room
- Began merging storage closets to open up more “rooms” accessible to the public
- WORK IN PROGRESS!
WHAT DID WE DO WITH THE FEEDBACK?

- Re-arranged the library to make more room
  - Moved computers out of computer lab
    - Benefits:
      - Patrons can ask for help more easily
      - Computers are less private
      - Room can now be used as a mini-makerspace!
  - Began merging storage closets to open up more “rooms” accessible to the public
    - Gave us space for three more mini-makerspaces around building – Memory Preservation Lab, Kids’ Makerspace, and Hang Out Nook
STARTING THE “MAKERSPACE”

“Project Next Generation (PNG) offers grant funding to public libraries for establishing educational, after-school programs that not only provide access to computers, software and various technology devices, but also hire mentors who are crucial to helping students develop self-confidence and pride in their newly acquired skills.”

- First time applying - $25,000
- Hired 5 mentors
- Rest went into technology
- Technology is kept in “Makerspace” room where old Computer Lab was
MAKING THE MEMORY PRESERVATION LAB

- **Age Options Grant**
  - First time applying - $12,000 to create community spaces/programs for Seniors
  - Only 18 libraries applied for 20 grants – there is money out there!

- Developed robust programming schedule centered around the theme of “Preserving Our Memories”

- Created Digital Preservation Lab out of smaller first-floor study room
  - VHS-DVD/USB Converter, Slide Converter, Photo Scanner, 8mm Converter, and more
  - Old TV we had lying around – but had many offers for donations
MAKING THE HANG OUT NOOK

- Grades 2-5
- Crafting
  - This is where the term “makerspace” can come in
- Homework
- Hanging out
- Coloring
- Make and Take
  - Bags that have craft supplies in them
MAKING THE KID’S MAKERSPACE

- Very beginning of process
- Have applied for grants to help us construct the room appropriately
- Toy Library
- Extra programming room
- Technology programs for K-4
  - STEAM
  - Robotics
What if your library doesn’t have space or the staff and budget are too small?
CRAFT EXCHANGE

- Set up directly outside new Makerspace
- Low staff impact – patrons can take a craft supply OR leave a craft supply
  - Circulation helps by keeping things organized but nothing needs to be catalogued or checked in/out
- Massive patron response
  - Wealth of donations which we can also use for programs/bring into the Makerspace
  - Facebook post about it went viral
- Furthers Library/Makerspace mission of expanding creativity and learning
LIBRARY OF THINGS

- Slow start, buying as we get the budget
- So far:
  - Turntables
  - Donated stamp sets
  - Wireless Hotspots
- Future:
  - Rokus with Netflix
  - Game consoles
  - Cooking Supplies
  - ????
MAKER KITS

- Dorr Library: Budget of about 180k, 7 part-time staff members
- Hopkins District Library: Budget of about 100k, 3 part-time staff members
STRATEGIC PLANNING MINI GRANTS

- Staff have the ability to submit an application for an item or program that they feel will help promote the library’s mission.
- Mini Grants can be up to $500.
- Quarterly meetings take place with 2 Managers and the Director to review these Mini Grants.
- Staff can be approved, turned down, or given some of the money they requested to rework their idea.
MAKING THE SPACE WORK

- RAILS Classifieds
- Big Lots (supply budget)
- Old filing drawers
- Extra Bookshelves
- IKEA
- Amazon
- Walmart
- Patron Donations
FINDING GRANTS

- There are grants out there that help with library construction and/or space reconfiguration.
- Apply widely – you won’t get them all, but there is more out there than most people realize.
- See if you can find a staff member willing or excited to take it on and GIVE THEM THE TIME/RESOURCES – even if it’s just an extra hour off desk a day or taking one other thing off their plate.
HOW DO WE MANAGE TO KEEP IT ALL TOGETHER?

- Teen/Tween Makerspace is run by the Teen/Tween Librarian, Technology Manager, and 5 mentors
  - What do they do?

- Memory Preservation Room is run by the Senior Services Librarian, Adult Services Librarian, the Technology Manager, and Circulation Staff
  - What do they do?
HOW DO WE MANAGE TO KEEP IT ALL TOGETHER?

- Children Makerspace will be run by the Youth Services Manager, Youth Services Assistant, Youth Services Staff members assistance, and parents are encouraged to be in the room with their children
  - What do they do?

- Hang Out Nook will be run by the Youth Services Manager, Youth Services Assistant, Youth Services Staff members assistance
  - What do they do?
HOW DO WE MANAGE TO KEEP IT ALL TOGETHER?

- Step-by-Step
- Resources:
  - Making Space for Active Learning in Your Library - WebJunction
TIPS AND TRICKS

- Apply for grants. Just apply!
  - Unsure if you can get it? Apply. Less people apply than you think.
- Survey your community
  - Don’t do it just to do it!
- Get staff on board
  - This can be a big transition and is extra work, and needs buy-in
  - Surveying community to show needs can really help with this.
- While it’s true we’re going fast and whole hog, you don’t have to!
  - The work can be undertaken slowly and/or in a piecemeal fashion as you get the resources to do it – for example, all our spaces are still very much in process
    - We haven’t even changed the signage yet!
CONTACT INFORMATION/PICTURES

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