

## Follow-Up 1 – Libraries Building Community – July 14, 2015

Facilitated by Pat Wagner

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The first follow-up session to the Libraries Building Community Summit was held on July 14, 2015. The archive and slides for the session can be found at <http://libraries.idaho.gov/community>.

**CALDWELL PUBLIC LIBRARY** reported on their outreach to Hispanic Community project. This will culminate in a Fiesta in the Park to be held Saturday July 18. Working on this project has resulted in community engagement with an enhanced community awareness of the library, increased visibility of the library and its services within Hispanic community, and new partnerships with Hispanic organizations, both local and statewide. We have learned to Ask, not assume, approaching everything with an open mind. We quickly discovered a real life example of the Avatar created at the Summit. Barriers have included language and culture. We learned that all food trucks are not road worthy. Looking forward to Saturday and future events. Great experience, especially in fostering community partnerships.

### CHAT NOTES

- Do you offer English classes and/or Spanish language classes at your library as part of addressing the language barriers over the long-term? We are piloting an ESL class at our library this summer, and I'm wondering how it has worked elsewhere.
- Long-term language barrier: You could have a bilingual group. Pair an English speaker with a Spanish speaker and encourage them to learn each other's language. I've heard of groups like this work before.

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**EAGLE PUBLIC LIBRARY** is working on creating a space for teens. The greatest challenge is finding a space within the facility that will work, not too big, not too small, and able to contain the noise. Most likely the tools for the space will be portable. A space has been identified (although worried about the noise level), a budget has been submitted and are in the process of getting tools for the space such as a Wii and 3-D Printer. The challenges include not sure about the budget being approved, who will supervise this area, what days of the week the space will be available, what activities will be not duplicating regular programming, how to get the teens in, and how to keep it to teens only. Others present who have experience with teen program indicated that the age limit should be enforced. Will continue to work through the process.

### CHAT NOTES

- I'd much rather have too much space than not enough. It gives you room to grow :-)
- Go for the BIG room!!
- An unobtrusive door sweep on the door would help with noise
- Caldwell can provide a list of truck vendors
- Create a separate time for tweens
- Nick from Hayden recommended to me to actually enforce minimum ages. He does.
- I have looked at empty store fronts for additional space.
- Can you train and utilize volunteers?
- I absolutely believe the kids need an adult in the room.
- Lewiston City Library has a teen space - we really rely on teen input - Teen Advisory Group (TAG) was formed. But that doesn't necessarily help your staff issues ...

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**EAST BONNER COUNTY LIBRARY DISTRICT** is preparing to host their first comicon event which will be named Sandemonium. Several of the team members have either attended comicons or ALA to get ideas. They have pulled together a strong operations committee. Mostly on schedule, the event will be August 29. Still tweaking logo and working on marketing. (Encouraged to be very careful about copyright issues regarding logo.) There is great acceptance from the community. Have set up a Facebook page for brainstorming [<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1424414421211086/>]. Parking will be a challenge. Board approval for vendors has been accomplished.

### CHAT NOTES

- Logos can be more complicated than expected, but I think they do a lot to make a concept REAL for the people.
- I would be very concerned to use the comic book if it is in copyright.
- Encourage everyone to walk or ride
- What if a student drew a comic "background" to fill the space?
- It sounds fun and I love how involved the community is!

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**HAILEY PUBLIC LIBRARY** is working on a collaborative project with the 3 Wood River Valley Libraries (Community Library, Hailey and Bellevue). The valley-wide read will be To Kill a Mockingbird. Assistance from area businesses in hosting displays and distributing books. Biggest challenge has been the funding because all area businesses/groups get asked a lot for donations. Seeking creative fundraising ideas. Have received \$1000 from Idaho Humanities Council and Smith Optics has donated \$500. Author Charles Shields will present during the program months of September / October. One means of marketing was participating in the 4<sup>th</sup> of July parade. Going to end the program months with a Harvest Festival. The libraries have realized the value of collaborating. The libraries are more informed about what each other is doing, better collaboration, and "a minor revolution for the Wood River Valley!" The Valley-Wide Read will be featured on their local Channel 6 – the news reporter was working on another story and happened to go into the Bellevue Public Library, saw the Valley-Wide Read display and asked about it. As a result she will be airing a story about the event.

### CHAT NOTES

- Love that the selected author will make several appearances to encourage discussion
  - I walked around wearing a sandwich board with the information of the project at the business after hours event. It was a lot of fun and I feel we informed a lot of people at the event
  - I like the idea of selling the t-shirts
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**LEWISTON CITY LIBRARY** is working on defining a makerspace. They have introduced the project to the library board, with the hope of using the currently unused area of the second floor of the library. Working on refining the definition of a maker space, tweaking the avatar, getting a better handle on what the makerspace will be like for Lewiston. More conversations planned with community members, small business community development association and LCSC in regard to makerspace for Lewiston. Will be looking for money, engaging community members, considering staffing, and will maintain a community driven focus.

### CHAT NOTES

- One reason to have timelines, so you can track progress and success!
- Makerspace can be hard to define. Look at YOUR community and their wants and needs.
- Maker's network! Great idea!
- Utilize civic groups. Rotarians will always offer an opinion.
- It is impressive how you are looking at the range of current options and identifying new niches/gaps/opportunities.

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### **MERIDIAN LIBRARY DISTRICT**

- What's working: partnership with Parks & Rec.
- Challenges: identifying a population, getting members for our community board
- Progress: community board planning meetings this month and next

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### **Session Summary**

- Great use of the planning tools provided at the Summit. Good to see folks are using the Avatars, partnership building and other tools.
- Wonderful examples of community engagement and collaboration.
- Projects are moving forward regardless of bumps in the road.
- It will be exciting to hear some of the outcomes in September.