IDAHO LIBRARY MAKERSPACES

A project implemented in 2013 to support the implementation of “Making” in Idaho libraries.

The Commission provides the necessary materials and trainings to implement creative, STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, Mathematics)-based programming for tweens and teens. The project encourages the use of these technologies and tools to engage patrons in new ways and has expanded to include opportunities for all ages. In 2015 two school libraries joined the project to expand making opportunities into formal educational settings.

- 2013 participation: 4,650 at five libraries
- 2014 participation: 23,064 at eleven libraries

Idaho’s National Impact

ICFL staff presented at:
- The Mayors Conference on Entrepreneurship, Kaufmann Foundation, Louisville, KY, October 2014
- MakerCon, a national conference for and by makers, Oracle Headquarters, CA, May 2014
- Maker Faire Bay Area, May 2014

ICFL staff invited to join:
- White House “Week of Making” Kick-Off, June 2015
- National convening to better understand, advance, support, and connect makerspaces and maker programming in museums and libraries
- Federal convening on “Libraries as Learning Spaces”
- Advisory Committee on 3D Printing in Libraries for Accessible Education

Expanding Access through Outreach

The 2013 cohort will use the knowledge gained over the past two years to host a training workshop for at least four school or public libraries, community centers, or other after-school centers to share what they have learned, including a basic foundation on the maker culture and hands-on training with a variety of tools and materials. The goal is to “bubble-up” making in new ways and to a wider audience.

The 2015 school librarians will work with teachers to develop and implement “maker” assignments that support the Idaho Core Curriculum standards for each teacher’s subject area using the tools and materials provided through the project. Student responses to the assignments and teacher willingness to participate in future “making” assignments will be evaluated.

For more information please contact sue.walker@libraries.idaho.gov or visit facebook.com/makeitidaho

Find out more on the ICFL website: libraries.idaho.gov/make-it-idaho

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