

Notes from Second Meeting of Libraries Building Community Cohort – September 14, 2015

Caldwell Public Library – Hispanic Outreach Community Event

In July we were on the verge of hosting our event targeted at the community Hispanic population. The event was successful with 25 organizations and vendors who participated. The attendance was 300-350 people.

Outcomes:

- Connected with a lot of organizations that the library had not previously worked with. Now working with the Idaho Hispanic Coalition and other local groups. Have been invited to three other community events focusing on this target audience.
- Increased visibility of the library

Lessons Learned:

- Planned for a day long event, next time will shorten the time frame
- Built good relationships with previously unconnected organizations.
- Will put more effort in to the sustainability factor. Currently struggling with next steps.
- Keep expectations realistic.

Eagle Public Library – Teen Space

Feeling like we are in a holding pattern. Waiting for definitive information about budget and space planning.

Hiring 3 new people for youth services. Waiting for the hiring to be completed before identifying next steps.

Outcome:

- More staff for creating new teen programming.
- New space for teen programming

Lessons Learned

- Communication is important.
- Patience is needed in waiting for the budget, new staff, and remodeling plans.
- Lots of resources for training, such as the Accidental Librarian

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East Bonner County Library - Sandemonium

There were between 350 and 500 people. We found the perfect person (Avatar) and they came in droves. We had a strong contingent of community partners.

Outcomes

- Community fully embraced the event and is now taking leadership for next year's event.
- One of the success points was keeping it free to the public
- Connected with the 20-30 year target audience.
- Expanded our patron demographic
- Made the library look cool
- Built sustainable partnerships

Lessons Learned

- always have a back up as weather happens!
- Coordinate with area libraries who are doing the same type of event.

Hailey Public Library – Wood River Read Program

Outcome:

- Cooperation of three distinct libraries: Community Library (private), Hailey Public Library and Bellevue Public Library. Working together has brought enhanced recognition of the libraries and what they do in the valley.
- Great shared programs among the 3 libraries. Stretched more than we anticipated. Communicating more than before.

Lessons Learned:

- Having a float in the 4th of July parade created a lot of buzz, however, there was a lot of time between the kick off and the actual events.
- Staffing issues have been a challenge.
- Different funding mechanisms for the different libraries. However, single large gift from a private donor will enable this event to occur. Need to incorporate more time for developing the funding aspect.

Lewiston City Public Library – Maker Project

In a holding pattern. Have had a great success with ongoing conversations with the library board and community organizations about the role of libraries and maker spaces in libraries (3 separate presentations). Working with LCSC and the local Art History Center – conversations about creative spaces. Have met with local artists. Heather Stout went to ALA and came back with information on Little Bits programming. There is funding for Little Bits. Have had conversations with UW Upward

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Bound program and their STEM activities. Looking at partnering in future activities. Hope to work on grants for future work.

Outcomes:

- Increased visibility of the library in the community via conversations and presentations.
- Partnerships are developing.
- Interest is growing in regard to creative spaces for all ages.

Lessons Learned:

- Building partnerships takes time
- Some times plans have to change or be put on hold until timing is correct.

Meridian Library District – Pop Up Libraries

Kathleen and Skye have taken over the project from an employee who move to another library. The new project management group is working on formulating the vision for this project. The pop up Library program has participated in the Youth Farmers Market, NF Walk local community activities and plans to continue. They are locating segments of population who don't come to the library and go to them. Future activities will include Trunk or Treat (tailgate party with trick or treating – community event)

Outcomes:

- Have started to connect with previously unserved populations.
- Hope to continue to connect with unserved areas in the district with hopes of gaining support for new satellite libraries.

Lessons Learned:

- It takes time to build library recognition in previously unserved areas.
- Pop Up Libraries bring services to people who might not otherwise get them.