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*The Idaho Commission for Libraries assists libraries to build the capacity to better serve their clientele.*

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## NEWS RELEASE

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## Idaho's "Make It at the Library" project in the spotlight at national maker events

BOISE, Idaho — Lauded for the last 18 months as a novel approach to supporting innovation in libraries, Idaho's "Make It at the Library" project continues to garner national attention. The Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) has invited Erica Compton, Idaho Commission for Libraries project coordinator and co-developer of the initiative, to speak at a May 15 meeting in San Francisco. "Anchors for Community Engagement: Learning Spaces in Libraries" is one of three nationally webcasted meetings with library leaders and other experts. These interactive events spotlight the importance of strong libraries to benefit all Americans and will explore three areas of funding that align with the IMLS's three goals.

"Idaho's makerspace project is a leading example of how states can support innovative STEAM programming," IMLS director Susan H. Hildreth says. "Makerspaces provide teens and tweens with opportunities to engage with technology and explore STEAM concepts through hands-on, interactive programs and classes. We are delighted to see how these spaces enhance libraries as anchor institutions in their communities and how this project is building an infrastructure for libraries to adopt this promising practice across the State of Idaho."

Compton also will present at the inaugural MakerCon conference at the Oracle campus in San Mateo, Calif., on May 13. [MakerCon](#) connects individuals at the forefront of the maker movement in a two-day conference and workshop that's held in conjunction with the flagship [Maker Faire Bay Area](#). After the MakerCon event, Compton will join makers at the Maker Faire and give a final presentation regarding emerging technology, new practices, and community engagement on May 18.

Visit <http://libraries.idaho.gov/make-it-at-the-library>, [www.facebook.com/MakeItIdaho](http://www.facebook.com/MakeItIdaho), and <http://www.imls.gov/imls> to host meetings with library stakeholders to inform future grant directions [.aspx?CategoryId=1&pg](http://www.imls.gov/imls) for more information.

Idaho's "Make It at the Library" project is made possible through IMLS funding.

The Idaho Commission for Libraries helps libraries build the capacity to better serve their clientele through support of statewide databases and online resources, continuing education, consulting, programming, early literacy skills, and building library community. Visit <http://libraries.idaho.gov/> to learn more about ICfL.

The Institute of Museum and Library Services is the primary source of federal support for the nation's 123,000 libraries and 17,500 museums. Its mission is to inspire libraries and museums to advance innovation, lifelong learning, and cultural and civic engagement. IMLS grant making, policy development, and research help libraries and museums deliver valuable services that make it possible for communities and individuals to thrive. Visit <http://www.imls.gov> to learn more about IMLS.

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