Idaho MakerSpaces- Engaging Teens through Making

Erica Compton, Megan Egbert & Travis Porter
Why Library Makerspaces?
Make It at the Library
Three Phase Plan

Outreach
3D Printing/Design
E-Textiles/Circuitry
3

Mentor
Evaluation
Partnerships
Programming & Robotics
2

Evaluation
Communication
Design & Engineering
Maker Culture & Foundational Skills
1
Our Building Blocks – Cool Tools…

- **FISCHERTECHNIK®**
- **ELECTRONICS KITS**
- **PCS EDVENTURES ROBOTICS**
- **RECYCLED OBJECTS**
- **SOLDERING BASICS**
…And Cutting-Edge Technologies

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3D Design & Printing

E-Textiles & Circuitry
Training is KEY!

- Foundational work
- Phased-in slowly
- Responsive to needs

- Hands-on with real tools
- Relevant to outcomes
- Exploration time
And Builds Support
So What About Space?
Bridge Challenge
Taught Structural Engineering & Critical Thinking

Life-Size Angry Birds
Fosters Creativity!

Zhu-Zhu Pet Battles
Involved Problem Solving

LEGO® Pinball
Machines Use Levers

Fischertechnik® Carnival Ride
Explores Force & Gravity
Not Just Technology!

Meet the Sheep!

All about shearing

Washing wool

Final product!
Re-Cycle and Re-Use!

Boat race challenge

Problem-Solving and Creativity
More Ideas…

Generate interest through displays

All ages love to MAKE!

Get started faster through organization

Seek out mentors and community partners

Think outside the box!
Stealth Programs

Challenge: Build model, snap a picture, post information, enter to win!

Build a hedgehog!

Write your name in Braille using bricks…
Stealthier...
Evaluation

• Pre & post survey for teen participants
  – Skill acquisition, attitudinal and behavioral changes

• Reports from libraries
  – Program details, attendance, partnerships, marketing, attitudinal changes, space planning, next steps
High Points

• Staff gained confidence
• Encouraged new thinking about:
  – Space
  – Collections
  – Programming

• Branch libraries on board
• National attention
• Positive feedback
Lessons Learned

- Relevant training is key
- Ongoing communication facilitates growth
- Flexibility is essential
- Unconventional ideas welcomed…and needed
- Prepare to adapt!
Challenges

SPACE

Inventory Management

Staff Buy-In
What’s Next

YEAR TWO

- Dedicated spaces
- Expand to branch libraries

- Open opportunity to new libraries
- Refine evaluation process
- Continue to spread the word
What Will You Make?
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*Make It at the Library* Facebook page  
https://www.facebook.com/MakeltIdaho

Idaho Commission for Libraries’ *Make It at the Library* webpage  
http://libraries.idaho.gov/page/make-it-library-where-idaho-makers-meet