

# ILA 2022 Maker Meet-up!



Deana Brown, Idaho Commission for Libraries Learning Consultant  
deana.brown@libraries.idaho.gov



# 2013

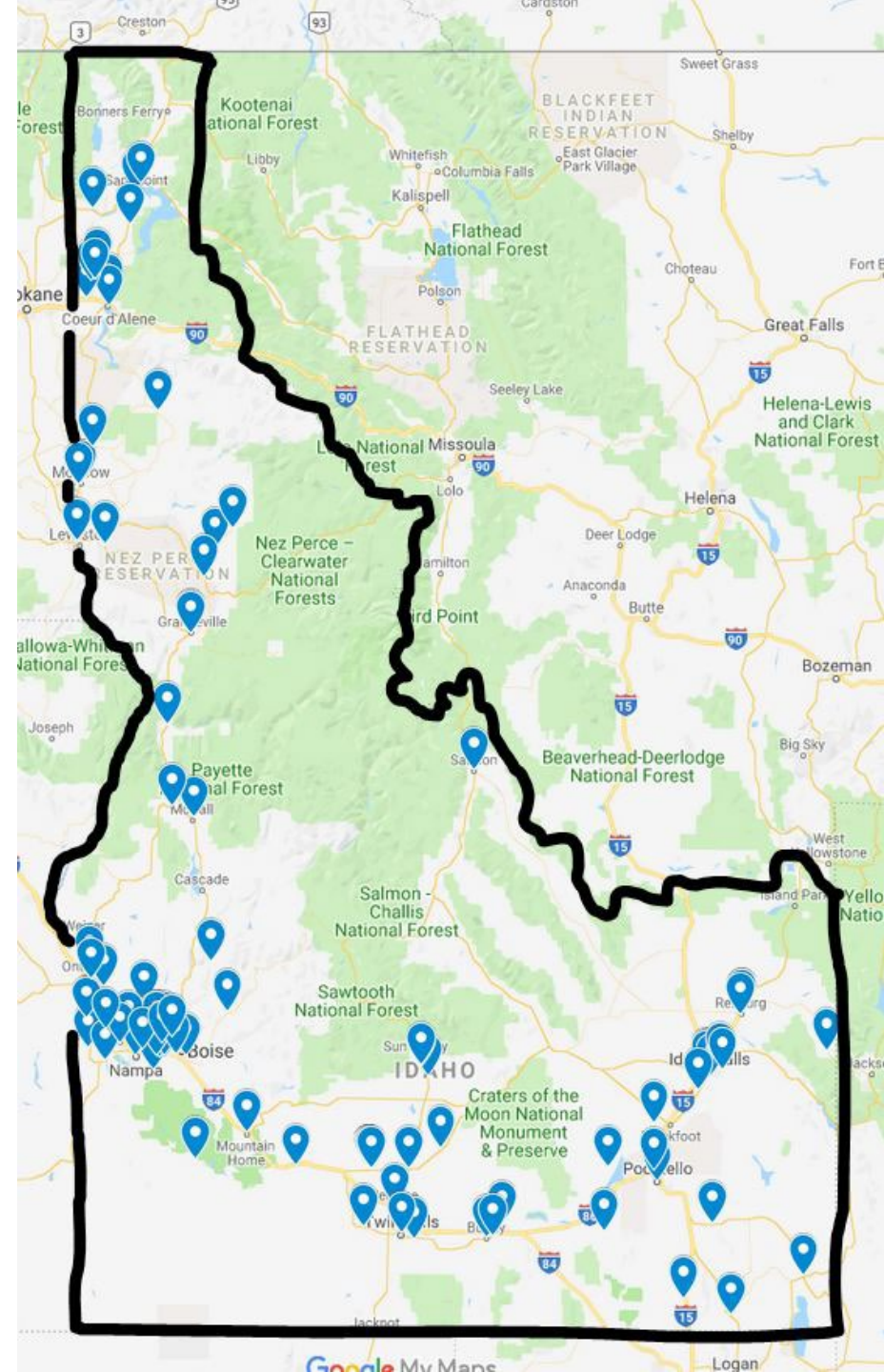
First Make It at the Library training

# 31,792

Students, educators, and community members impacted by 2021 program

# 98%

Of 2021 participants strongly/ agreed will improve library services

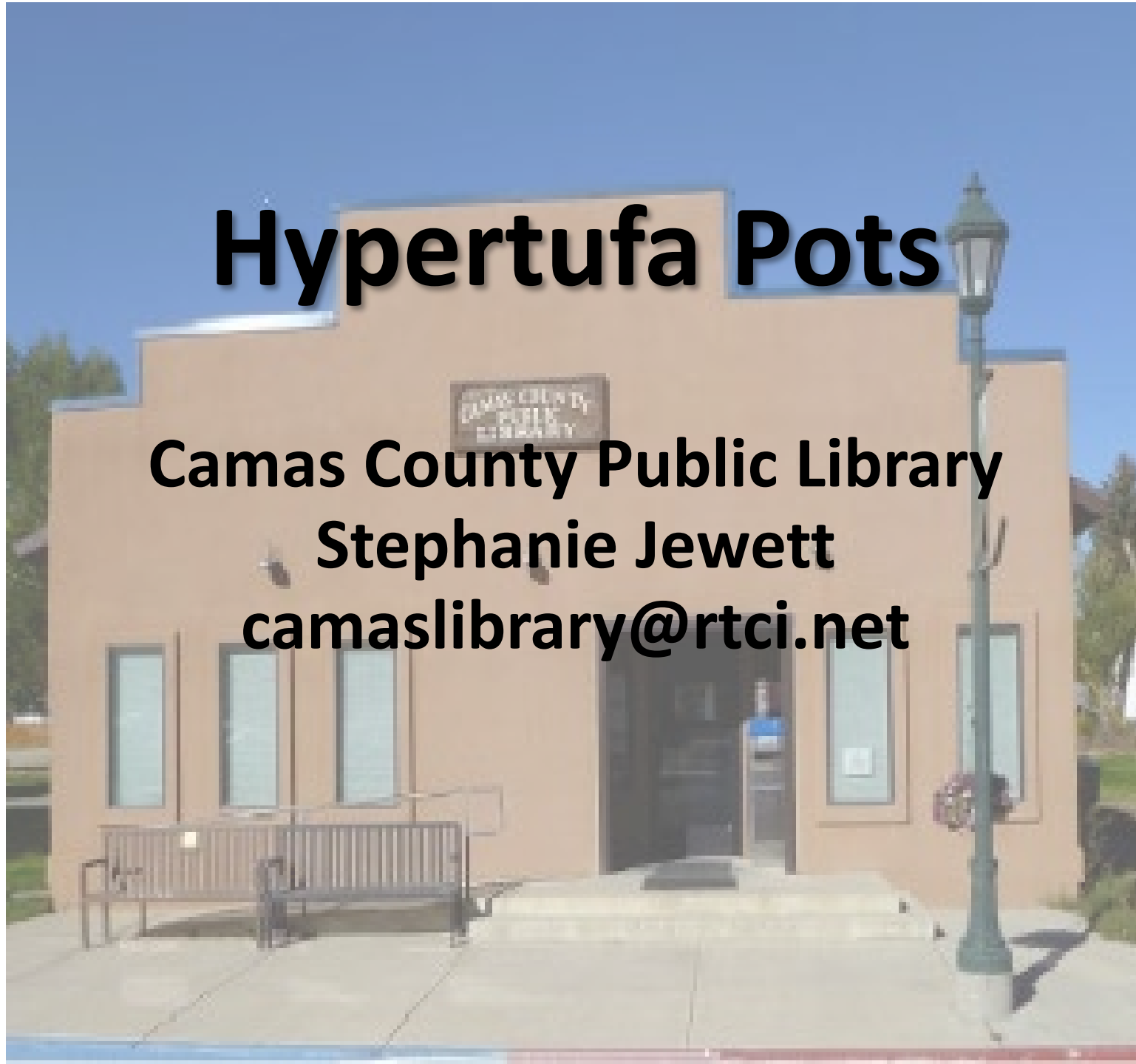


# **Hypertufa Pots**

**Camas County Public Library**

**Stephanie Jewett**

**[camaslibrary@rtci.net](mailto:camaslibrary@rtci.net)**



# Program Overview

- Age group(s): Adults
- Time to set-up: 30 mins
- Time to complete: 1 hour
- Time to clean-up: 30 mins
- Mess level: high!
- Difficulty level: medium
- Approximate cost: \$40

come learn how to make

## Hypertufa Pots

durable and inexpensive,  
hypertufa is a fun way to  
create pots for your garden!

Monday, June 13 at 6pm

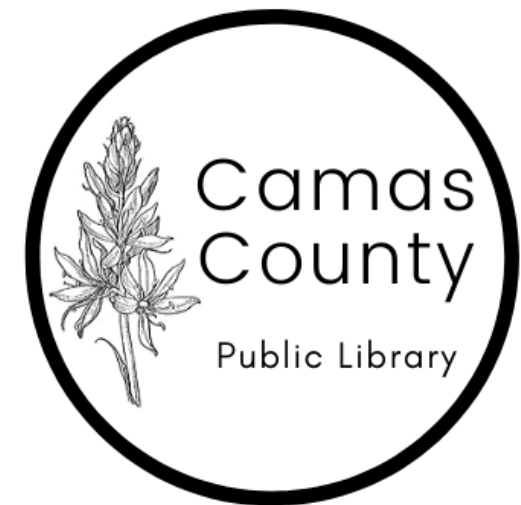
All supplies will be provided.

# Supplies needed

- Peat moss or coir
- Perlite
- Portland cement
- Water
- Gloves
- Bucket or cement mixing tray & trowel for mixing
- Mold release spray (cooking spray)
- Containers to use as molds
- Plastic wrap or grocery bags
- Tarps to protect the carpet if doing program inside



Image from Lowes.com







## Hypertufa Pots

Hypertufa was developed to replicate the stone troughs that were popular among English gardeners in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The lightweight, porous pots are ideal for creative gardeners and plants needing good drainage.

### Materials Needed:

1 part Perlite

1 part Portland Cement

1 part Peat Moss

Water

Dust mask

Goggles

Molds (plastic pots, yogurt cups, etc)

Mold release spray (cooking spray) or plastic wrap

Concrete/masonry stain (optional)

### Instructions:

**Choose mold:** Make a mold from two nested vessels, so you can put the mixture in the space between them. Both should have sides that are straight or taper out, and the gap between them should be at least 3/4" for smaller vessels and 1 1/2" for larger ones.

**Mix materials:** Wearing gloves and a dust mask, mix equal parts Portland cement, perlite, and peat moss in a large bin; stir in masonry stain if desired. Add water gradually to reach the desired consistency (you want a consistency similar to cookie dough) DO NOT add too much water. If you squeeze a clump of it you want a little water to seep out, but you don't want it to be drippy.

**Fill mold:** Coat vessels with mold-release spray (cooking spray or plastic wrap). Work mixture into an outer mold to a 3/4" depth for small pots and at least 1 1/2 to 2" for larger ones. Set an interior mold inside, centering it. Continue adding mixture between vessels. Cover with plastic, and let set for at least 24 hours.

**Finish hypertufa:** After at least 24 hours, remove mold, and if desired, drill holes into the bottom of the pot using a masonry bit (for drainage). Smooth the top edge of the pot with a planer file. Wrap it loosely with plastic, and let cure for at least 3 weeks before planting or moving it outside. Some 'tufa makers insist on misting it with water periodically while it's curing, to strengthen the pot.

**Leaching:** Due to the alkalinity of Portland cement, some gardeners prefer to leach their pots before planting. If your pot is small enough, you can immerse it in a tub filled with water, dumping and refilling the water every couple of days for a week. If it's too big to immerse, just spray it down with the hose. You could also just leave it outside and let it get rained on for a couple of months.

Be creative! Now that you have the basics down, start experimenting. Use different materials (bubble wrap, leaves, mesh, wire brushing, etc) to add texture and individuality to your creations!

# Reflection

- We had 14 attendees, including 2 kids
- Interest was high, and it brought in at least a couple of people who weren't regular library users
- Holding the program outside was definitely the way to go!
- Mix up the stuff before the program begins, so people aren't standing around waiting for it
- Make a pot or two in advance, to show the finished product
- We forgot to use the release spray, so people reported having a hard time getting their pots out of the molds
- Ask for donations of containers and plastic grocery bags beforehand, to make sure there are enough
- Maybe get some cement dye to try different colors?

A 3D rendering of a grey conveyor belt with white rollers, curving around a central area. Several brown cardboard boxes of various sizes are placed on the belt. Some boxes have black icons on them, including a fragile symbol (a glass) and a 'this side up' symbol (an arrow pointing up).

# Cardboard Challenge

Centennial High School Library

Gena Marker, [marker.gena@westada.org](mailto:marker.gena@westada.org)



# Global Cardboard Challenge

- Age group(s): high school
- Time to set-up: one hour
- Time to complete: 2-3 lunch periods, depending on interest
- Time to clean-up: one hour after each lunch period
- Mess level: medium
- Difficulty level: easy
- Approximate cost: 0 for reusing cardboard, \$20-50 for scissors, glue, strong tape, other art supplies
- [Caine's Arcade - YouTube](#)



# Supplies needed

- Cardboard (lots, all sizes)
- scissors
- Duct tape
- Strapping tape
- Paint, paint pens
- Glitter glue
- Cardboard scissors  
make life easier!
- ❖ Prizes of your choice



# Reflection

- Many students participated on multiple days
- The greatest participation happened on the first day
- Groups/teams of students had fun collaborating
- Making it a contest w/prizes = more participation
- More variety of cardboard shapes = more creativity from students
- Have the vacuum ready!
- You'll need more scissors than you think
- Box cutters should not be available to students :(
- Band-aids should be available



**University of Idaho**

The Making, Innovating  
and Learning Laboratory

Jessica Fleener

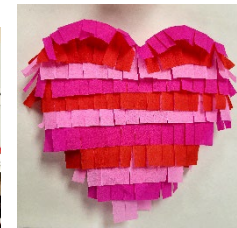
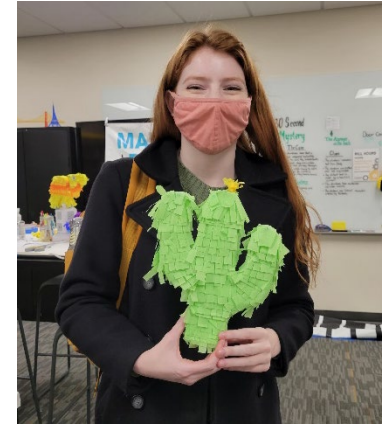
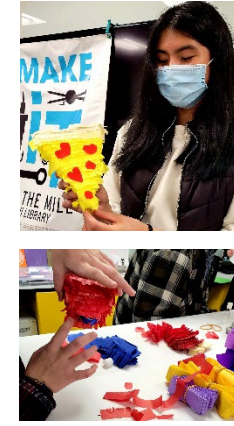
[jkfleener@uidaho.edu](mailto:jkfleener@uidaho.edu)

# Unplugged Programming



# Mini Pinatas

- Age group(s): 8 and up
- Preparation time: ~2 hrs
- Time to set-up: 30 min
- Time to complete:  
1 – 1.5hrs
- Time to clean-up:  
30 mins
- Mess level: 3
- Difficulty level: 2
- Approximate cost:  
~\$117.82





# Supplies needed

- 100lb Cardstock 25pk x4  
\$55.96
- 150 Sheets Tissue Paper  
\$13.49
- 3 Rolls White painter Tape  
\$9.88
- 60 White Glue Sticks  
\$13.49
- Candy ~\$25



# Reflection

This was a highly successful workshop.

We had over 25 different students come in to make unique piñatas.

We planned this workshop on Valentine's day so everyone could have something to do on a day that can feel non-inclusive. Everyone one walked out with a smile and a fun little piñata and a few pieces of candy.

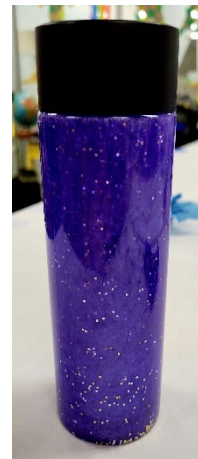
Some of the lessons we learned:

- The rolls of streamers are not enough.
- Buying tissue paper and cutting it into 1.5" strips makes it the perfect size.
- Glue sticks on the cardstock then pressing the tissue paper on is the most effective way to attach it.
- Have pre-made templates.
- Have pre-cut side pieces ready to go.
- Have more color choices.



# Sensory Bottles

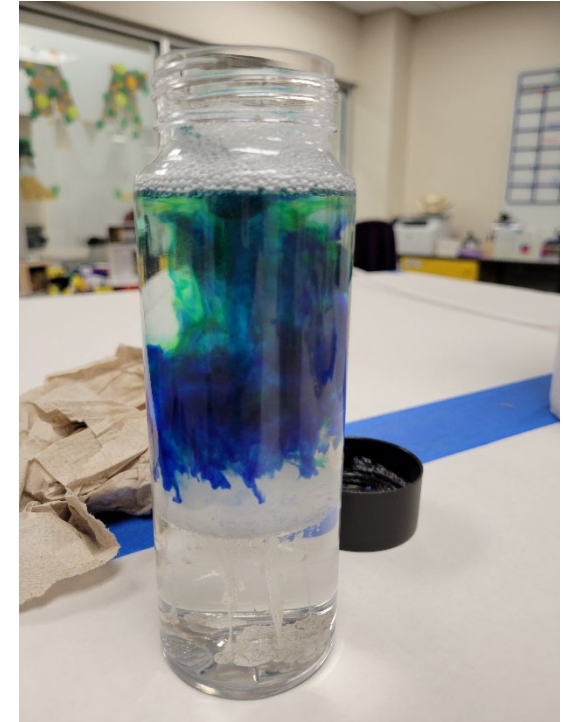
- Age group(s): 5 and up
- Time to set-up: 30 min
- Time to complete:  
~1 hour
- Time to clean-up:  
30 mins
- Mess level: 3
- Difficulty level: 2
- Approximate cost:  
~\$150





# Supplies needed

- 13 oz Clear bottles 20 pk x2 \$49.98
- Liquid watercolor 6 color pack \$12.89
- Amazon Basics clear glue 1 gal 2pk \$26.80
- White Mica powder 50g \$14.94
- Glitter 4 oz 6 pack \$23.26
- Fine Glitter 4 pack \$14.99
- Hot Glue Gun and Glue
- Paper Towels



# Reflection

This workshop brought in many new faces. Every bottle was colored a different color thanks to using the liquid watercolor.

Having a way to destress and make something that is uniquely theirs made everyone very excited.



Some of the lessons we learned:

- The lids of the bottles did not seal. Need to glue them shut with hot glue gun.
- Paper towels were a need to have on hand.
- Testing a couple before the big day is a must. You need to know the exact ratio of everything to advise on.
- Different types of glitter floats differently.
- Have staff pour the glue and help with hot gluing the lid on.
- Let the patron get the hot water.



# Paint Pouring

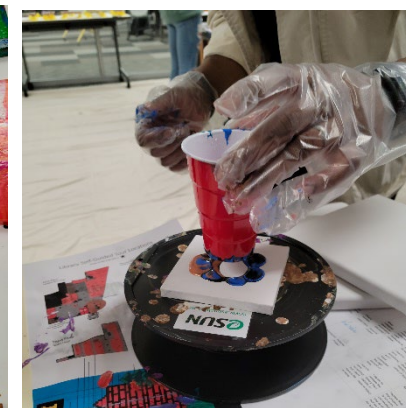
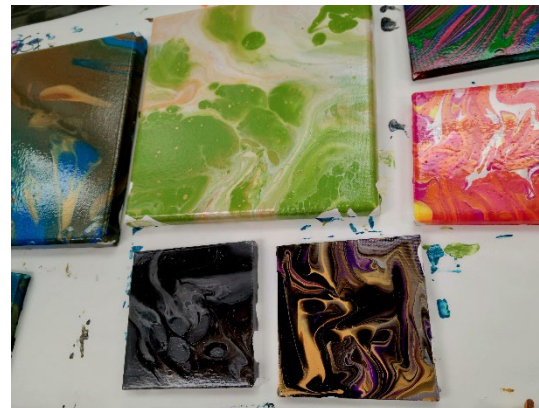
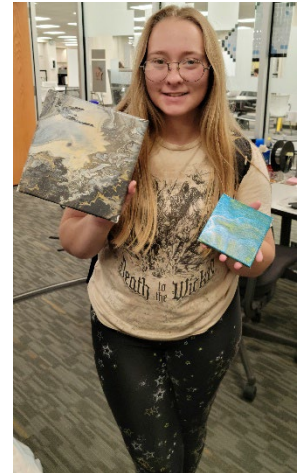
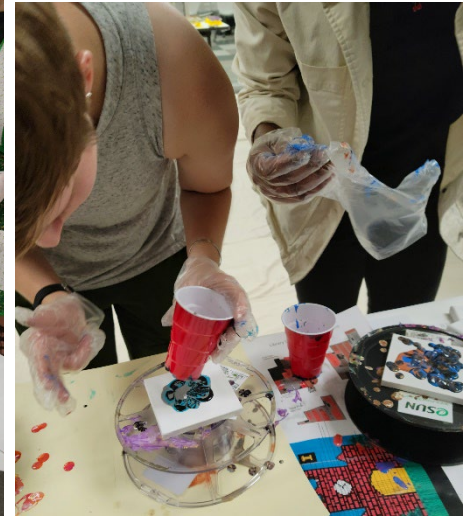
- Age group(s): 8 and up
- Preparation time: ~2 hrs
- Time to set-up: 1 hour
- Time to complete:  
1 – 1.5hrs
- Time to clean-up: 1 hour
- Mess level: 5
- Difficulty level: 2-3
- Approximate cost: ~\$370





# Supplies needed

- Paint Pouring set 4 colors 8oz \$16.19
- Paint Pouring Metallic Kit 8 Colors 8oz \$38.99
- Paint Pouring Paint Kit 14 Colors 8oz \$60.99
- Mini Stretch Canvas 4"x4" \$23.74 x 3 = \$71.22
- 8"x8" Stretch Canvas 12 pack \$12.99 x 5= 64.95
- Paper cups 8oz 50 pack \$9.99 x 4 = \$39.96
- Canvas Drop Cloth 14'x16' \$59.99
- Canvas Drop Cloth 9'x12' \$21.69 x 2= 43.38
- Disposable gloves (some in the kits)
- Paper towels
- Plastic tablecloths or butcher paper for tables





# Reflection

This workshop was fast paced and very fun. We had 3 paint pour techniques to choose from. Each person could choose 2 of the 3. We had examples of each technique. We had everyone write their names on the back of the canvas before getting near the paint.

Some of the lessons we learned:

- Paint will get everywhere!
- Have extra gloves.
- Have enough space for the paintings to sit undisturbed for 12-24 hours.
- Have more than one example of each technique that will be taught.
- Aprons for the staff!



# Resources to keep on making!

- **Make It at the Library**  
<https://libraries.idaho.gov/stem/make-it/>
- **Idaho Library Makers LITTs** <https://libraries.idaho.gov/litt/>
- **Idaho Library Makers Listserv**  
<https://icfl.groups.io/g/IdahoLibraryMakers>
- **Idaho STEM Action Center** <https://stem.idaho.gov/>
- **Join Idaho STEM EcosySTEM**  
<https://stem.idaho.gov/idaho-stem-ecosystem/>
- **Facebook Groups**
  - Makers in the Library
  - Makerspace Teachers