



## **Public Services Committee Annual Project 2016–2017**

### ***Makerspaces***

A makerspace is community or collaborative space that provides a combination of technology, equipment, and often expertise for patrons to explore, discover, design, create, produce, and share projects. In academic settings, makerspaces often relate directly to pedagogy and learning outcomes across disciplines. The Public Services Committee hosted three days of Open Houses, visiting six different makerspaces. The locations of the open houses highlighted what an institution might be able to provide at different funding levels, from basic or funded-on-a-shoestring makerspaces, to extremely well-funded “Cadillac” versions of a makerspace to highlight the range of options for CARLI member libraries.

Our goal was to leverage the work of these public libraries and academic departments to support CARLI Libraries in their understanding and development of makerspaces, including “on-a-shoestring” budget option. This includes documents on how Libraries added makerspaces using existing space and staff, sample project implementation schedules, lists of tools and materials, and sample user guides. Images of equipment and layouts are also provided.

Please see our website for a complete list of Makerspaces and contacts and handouts. <https://www.carli.illinois.edu/products-services/pub-serv/makerspaces2017>. The website will remain a resource for member libraries investigating Makerspaces until no longer relevant.

The Committee spent about four months leveraging member contacts to identify makerspaces in Chicago, the Chicago suburbs and central Illinois. In academic settings, Makerspaces are often located in Engineering, Art or Education departments, so we expanded our search for makerspaces to public libraries and included them in our open house visits. A 2016 ILA presentation by the Winnetka Public Library was used as a starting resource. Three open houses were held and additional speakers were arranged to provide examples of a variety of makerspaces experiences and budgets.

Makerspace tours of the following locations were offered:

- University of Illinois. Illinois Maker Lab, the Business School’s 3D Printing Lab.
- Champaign-Urbana Community Fab Lab.
- Winnetka-Northfield Public Library’s “The Studio.”
- Northwestern University’s “The Garage.”
- Chicago Public Library’s Maker Lab.
- “The Exploration Space” at Illinois Institute of Technology Galvin Library.

**Presentations were given by:**

- Chad Kahl, Interim Associate Dean and Law Librarian at Illinois State University.
- Rebecca Wolf, Director of the Winnetka-Northfield Public Library.
- Geoff Swindells, Head of User Experience, Northwestern University.
- Mark Andersen, Director of Learning & Economic Advancement, and Sasha Neri and John Christiansen, Chicago Public Library.
- Devin Savage, Associate Dean of Assessment and Scholarly Services, Galvin Library, IIT.