Want To MAKE Something of It?

How We Added a Makerspace Using Existing Space and Staff
Rebecca Wolf

Library Director at Winnetka-Northfield since April 2013

Wearer of Purple Mustaches

Believes We More than Just Books
Winnetka-Northfield Public Library District

Library District Overview

• **Two Buildings**
  - Northfield Branch Library 4,560 sq. ft.
  - Winnetka Library 14,760 sq. ft.

• **District Service Population**
  - 17,357 Winnetka and Northfield residents
  - By contract, 2,513 Kenilworth residents

*Over 275,000 Visits to the Library this year*

*Over 24,000 Patrons Attended Programs this year*
Library District Overview

- Staff
  - 53 Total Staff
    - 21 Full Time
    - 32 Part Time

Budget $4.2 million
Library District Overview

Winnetka Library
768 Oak Street
Winnetka, IL 60093
(847) 446-7220

Northfield Library
1785 Orchard Lane
Northfield, IL 60093
(847) 446-5990
How Many of You Are Planning On a Makerspace in the near Future?
What Are Your Biggest Concerns?

- Time
- Money
- Staffing
- Sustainability
There are many makerspaces but this one is Ours....

Two years ago we transformed an underutilized area in the Winnetka library into
The Space

Located in Our Lower Level
  • Last update to furnishings 1987
  • Survived Two Floods
  • Underutilized
    • Most of our patrons did not know we had a lower level
Funding

Because of a Generous Donation we had an opportunity to take Underutilized Space and transform it

• The District was given $150,000 to create a memorial space
• $50,000 Dedicated to equipment and $100,000 to Furniture
Concept

• The Studio would be a Multigeneration Space
• The Primary Audience would Adults and Teens
• We would have both Traditional Art and Maker Opportunities
Planning for Our New Space

Part I: The Committee
17 Dedicated Staff Members

• All Departments Were Represented

• Five Sub-Committees Were Created
  • Policy & Field Trips
  • Equipment & Technology
  • PR (Internal & External)
  • Staff Training
  • Programs
Policy & Field Trips: Inspiration

• Be Inspired and learn from our peers
• Visits to Libraries, Museums, private maker clubs
• Gain an understanding of the pitfalls and gains of having a makerspace
• Help Craft Policies and Procedures

Policy = Not Really Fun
Field Trips = Fun

Get ready...
Policy: The Studio Guidelines & Use

The Studio is open to all; however, to use certain pieces of equipment, users must have signed the usage agreement liability waiver. Anyone under age 18 must have the Minor Child document signed by a parent or guardian.

• Guidelines – i.e. No weapons etc.
• Library Card Requirement

All On Our Website www.winnetkalibrary.org
Equipment Selection: Collaborative Effort

• Entire Committee Pitched Ideas About Equipment to Each Other

• Three Main Focal Pieces were Selected:
  • Laser Cutter
  • 3D Printer
  • Embroidery Machine
STAFF TRAINING

Members of the committee formed teams to learn and become experts on our focal pieces of equipment

- Laser
- 3d printer
- Embroidery
- Vinyl cutter

- Working with each other to teach the teacher
- Encouraging experimentation
- Creating documentation
- Figuring Out How our Patrons Would Use the Equipment and Space
STAFF TRAINING: And Beyond

We dedicated an Entire Day to All Staff Learning and Playing Before the Grand Opening of The Studio

Continuous Education Has Been a Focus

Go Beyond- Monthly Schedule of Classes Taught By Staff for Staff
  • Tours of Departments
  • How to Laser Engrave a Glass
  • How to Storytime is Done
Public Relations and Marketing

• Focus on both Internal and External Communications
  • Talking Points
  • Questions and Answers
• Dedicated to Building Excitement in the Community and Amongst the Staff
Tell The World

Event Schedule

Press reveal week of August 25
The Source in homes September 3
Window graphic, signs September 30
The Board tours October 1
Grand Opening invites mailed October 1
Press photo opp October 20/21
News releases appear October 23
Programs

• Whole New Outlet for Staff and Patrons
• In the beginning we had Adults and Teens
• We evolved to include programs to span from ages 8 to adult
• We had to scale classes to better suite the number of students and complete projects in under a certain period of time
• We are learning to repeat
Programs

- We are learning to repeat classes in order to fill the demand
- We are still working to find the balance of programming to fit the needs of the community
- Our newsletter The Source grew from 12 pages to 16 pages
Staffing for Our New Space

Part II: Collaboration
Staffing: The Unique Opportunity

The Studio is open all hours of library operation.

From the first meeting we agreed that staff from across all departments are part of the desk rotation.
Why Did We Choose This Model: The Change in Our Culture

What is the Role of a Librarian? Assistant?

Our profession is changing and so are we as a staff
- What training do we need?
- Who do we hire?
- Can anyone participate?
- Who do we want to be?
Staffing: The Unique Opportunity

Each department has set shifts per week and weekend rotations that they are responsible for filling.

The Studio is considered Part of the Adult Services Department and managed by the Head of Adult Services.
Our Triumphs and Our Challenges

- We have a New Point of Service
- Higher Expectations of Service
- We have changed
  - Programming
  - Usage
  - Engagement
The Studio
Is the most used multi-generational space within our Library District
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