**Culinary Literacy: A Library Recipe for Cooking Up Literacy and Community**

**Learner Guide**

<http://www.webjunction.org/events/webjunction/culinary-literacy.html>

**Event Description:** Opening in 2014, the Free Library of Philadelphia's [Culinary Literacy Center](https://libwww.freelibrary.org/culinary/) offered the country's first commercial-grade kitchen classroom in a library. It is revolutionizing the way Philadelphians think about food, nutrition, and literacy. The Center reaches to every corner of the community. It teaches math and science to kids through measuring and mixing, builds English language skills and nutrition education for non-native speakers, empowers adults with disabilities to cook with confidence, and much more. Hear how this innovative idea was transformed into reality through strategic community partnerships and institutional support. Learn how your library can start teaching community residents everything from butchering a goat to making a vegan stew, boosting literacy and nutritional health for all.

Presented by: **Liz Fitzgerald**, Administrator, Culinary Literacy Center, Parkway Central Library, Free Library of Philadelphia

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| **What are your goals for viewing this webinar?** |  |
| **Personal Goals** |  |  |
| **Team Goals** |  |  |
| **Defining Culinary Literacy** |  |
| The Culinary Literacy Center casts a wide net in terms of identifying the literacies that can be advanced through cooking. **How would you define Culinary Literacy in libraries?** **What are Culinary Literacy programs that you are already doing in your library?** **What are some ideas for programs you can begin to do?**  |  |
| **Potential Partners** |  |
| Liz suggests doing a scan of your community to see who potential partners are. **Identify three to five individuals or organizations that you can collaborate with.** Start with grocery stores that may have dietitians on staff, local hospitals that do outreach, state university extensions’ departments, chefs, cooking schools. List contact information.1.2.3.4.5. |  |
| **Build your Audience** |  |
| In addition to identifying partners, think about **who the audience can be.** The Culinary Literacy Center has had great success offering programs to closed groups: Class visits, veterans groups, ESL classes, organizations that serve adults with disabilities. Brainstorm some **groups that you are already working with** or would like to work with on Culinary Literacy Programs.  |  |
| **Making the Case** |  |
| **Make the case and build support** for Culinary Literacy Programs. The Pew Report [Libraries at the Crossroads](http://www.pewinternet.org/2015/09/15/libraries-at-the-crossroads/) cites that “many view public libraries as important resources for finding health information and some conduct such searches using libraries’ online access resources.” Additionally, it cites that the number of people who come to the library for a class, program, or lecture has dropped since 2012. Culinary Literacy programs serve to both engage library users and to fulfill the need that they have for seeking health information.The CDC has a wealth of information that can build a case for Culinary Literacy Programming that focuses on [health](http://www.cdc.gov/healthliteracy/) and [nutrition](https://www.cdc.gov/nutrition/) literacy. WebJunction's [Health Happens in Libraries](http://www.webjunction.org/explore-topics/ehealth.html) project provides a number of relevant resources for making the case for health and nutrition related programs:* [Community Health Program Worksheet](http://www.webjunction.org/documents/webjunction/community-health-program-worksheet.html)
* [Communications Guide](http://www.webjunction.org/content/dam/WebJunction/Documents/webJunction/2015-04/communications-guide.pdf) (with tips on clearly conveying your library’s role in supporting community health and wellness)
* Library profile, [Healthy Foods Competition Heats Up at Crandon Public Library](http://www.webjunction.org/content/dam/WebJunction/Documents/webJunction/2015-09/healthy-foods-competition-heats-up-at-crandon.pdf)
* Library profile, [St. Charles Parish Library Supports Making Healthy Food Choices](http://www.webjunction.org/content/dam/WebJunction/Documents/webJunction/2015-09/st-charles-parish-addresses-food-insecurity.pdf)
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| **Action Plan:** (include next steps, who, when, etc.) |
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