**Incubate Creativity at Your Library**

**Learner Guide**

**Event Description:** The [Library as Incubator Project](http://www.libraryasincubatorproject.org/) (LAIP) promotes the library as a place to connect and create. LAIP has networked with hundreds of libraries who are working with their communities to incubate and inspire creative projects. They have talked with scores of artists, writers, makers, performers, and other creatives about how they use their libraries and how their libraries can serve them even better. In this webinar, LAIP shares program and project ideas, resources and case studies to turn your library into a creativity incubator. Take the workable, scalable programming and resource framework from LAIP and become a hub for supporting creatives of all types and skill levels in your community.

Presented by: **Laura Damon-Moore**, Co-founder and Editor, Library as Incubator Project, and Community Engagement Librarian, Madison Public Library

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| **What are your goals for viewing this webinar?** | |
| **Personal Goals** |  |
| **Team Goals** |  |
| **Exploring Creativity** | |
| [Sir Ken Robinson](https://www.ted.com/speakers/sir_ken_robinson) has led “a massive inquiry into the significance of creativity in the educational system and the economy.” Watch one of his TED Talks (<https://www.ted.com/speakers/sir_ken_robinson>) and consider the role libraries can play in helping to cultivate creative communities. | |
| **Maker/Creative Scene Analysis** | |
| Laura suggests following these steps as you do an analysis of your community:   * Survey your community. * Find out who’s doing what. * Talk to them. Ask how the library can support the work they do. * Let those people lead to you to others. * Take your time. Start small. Embrace this work as an ongoing process. | |
| **Potential Partners** | |
| In the webinar, some of these partners were shared as potential collaborators. Check those that work for your community, and list additional ideas for partners:   * local museum * local arts festivals * United Way * Lutheran Social Services * Arts Council * public schools * Robotics Club * parks & rec * teachers * local business owners * historical society * extension office * health department * 4-H | |
| **Invite the Artists In** | |
| Laura suggests the following steps to invite artists participation:   * Find a partner (an arts guild, commission, or board member) to help you craft the language for a Call for Participation * Set up tour times for artists to come in and explore the library * Keep an open mind. How can you move from “no” to “yes”?   + Caveat: balance with also knowing the physical and policy limitations of the space--can be tricky. * Document the process--keep track of paperwork and policies you’ve crafted for future reference * Document the end product--how will you share the active art space with the public? Art opening, ongoing exhibition, photo or video documentation. | |
| **Innovate with Collections and Space** | |
| Brainstorm what you have in your collection that could inspire patrons to make something new:  1.  2.  3.  Brainstorm the underused/under-activated spaces in your library:  1.  2.  3. | |
| **Action Plan:** (include next steps, who, when, etc.) | | |
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