**Making Space for Active Learning in Your Library**

<https://www.webjunction.org/events/webjunction/making-space-for-active-learning.html>

**Event Description**: Transformation happens when a library reimagines and reconfigures its physical space so that community engagement shifts from passive to active. The fifteen libraries that participated in the [Small Libraries Create Smart Spaces](https://www.webjunction.org/explore-topics/smart-spaces.html) project are dynamic proof of that. They learned and applied principles of active learning, placemaking and design thinking to create “smart spaces” where the community learns and creates together and strengthens social bonds. In this webinar, we’ll describe an innovative process that any size of library can follow to uncover community needs and translate those needs into flexible lively learning space. Hear about the real experiences of two project participants who transformed drab, underused spaces into hubs of activity and energy. It can happen at your library.

**Presented by:**

**Betha Gutsche**, WebJunction Programs Manager

**Brianna Hoffman**, WebJunction Project Coordinator

**Jennifer Trail**, Director, Glenns Ferry (ID) Public Library

**Melanie Morgan**, Director, Madison County (NC) Public Libraries

|  |
| --- |
| **What are your goals for viewing this webinar?** |
| **Personal Goals** |  |
| **Team Goals** |  |
| **Why Active Learning in libraries?** |
| Review the key concepts presented that define ACTIVE LEARNING in libraries. * Everyone can participate
* Learning happens by doing
* Challenge is constant
* Everything is interconnected

What aspects of ACTIVE LEARNING are already part of your library programming? What more could you do to foster social connections and encourage multiple kinds of learning and problem-solving among community members? |
| **Where to start?** |
| Examples of ACTIVE LEARNING spaces in libraries include early learning and play spaces, digital media labs, learning gardens, makerspaces, culinary literacy centers (kitchen) and multi-purpose spaces for a variety of group activities (e.g. Lego clubs, Qigong classes, knit night, etc.) Which examples are most intriguing to you? Why do you think this might be a good fit for your community?Take a look at the [Small Libraries Create Smart Spaces Project](https://www.webjunction.org/explore-topics/smart-spaces.html) on WebJunction for inspiration! |
| **Community Discovery**  |
| Review the possible community discovery tools. Which one(s) have you tried and what did the results tell you about your community? Which tools do you think will enable you to listen more genuinely to your community? * Surveys
* Stakeholder Interviews
* Topical Focus Groups
* Observation
* Visioning/Idea Workshops
* Open Brainstorming
* Dot Boards/Wish Tree
* Other:
 |
| **Prepare for change** |
| Making space for ACTIVE LEARNING includes weeding collections and opening physical space, and arranging the space so that it is open, inviting and flexible.Think of a space in your library that you’d like to transform. What do you need to do to prepare it for active learning? What do you need to let go of? |
| **Your Active Learning Space** |
| Using the examples shared by the Jennifer and Melanie, create a wish-list of items for your vison of an ACTIVE LEARNING space. 1.2.3.4.5.6. |
| **Potential Partners** |
| List potential community partners you could ask to help facilitate the creation of an ACTIVE LEARNING space in your library (e.g. college professors, public utilities).1.2.3.4.5. |
| **Explore the *Making Space for Active Learning in Your Library* Self-Paced Learning Experience**  |
| [**Making Space for Active Learning in Your Library**](https://learn.webjunction.org/course/index.php?categoryid=54)is a self-paced learning experience to guide your library through the process of rethinking and reconfiguring physical space to make room for active learning and work with your community to create new services and programs.*The program is presented in a three-course sequence.**1.* ***Active Learning and Community Discovery*** introduces the concepts of active learning and placemaking, and the tools and process for community discovery.*2.* ***From Discovery to Design***builds on the results of the community discovery process, adapting design thinking approaches to arrive at an actionable idea and a space ready for transformation.*3.* ***Action Planning and Implementation***takes the planning through the steps of making the space and service transformation happen.Course 1 (Active Learning and Community Discovery) is launching in conjunction with this webinar, and Courses 2 and 3 will be available soon.Find these courses in the [WebJunction course catalog](https://learn.webjunction.org/course/index.php?categoryid=54) under Space Planning. |