

Today's Presenters



Melanie Morgan
Director,
Madison County (NC)
Public Libraries



Jennifer Trail
Director,
Glenns Ferry (ID)
Public Library



Brianna Hoffman
WebJunction
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Making Space for Active Learning in the Library

TRANSFORMATION STORIES

Activate the Library with Learning

If small libraries can create Smart Spaces, *any* library can!

GOAL:

Co-create a space
with the community for
participatory, active learning
and **social engagement**

Project Funders and Partners



Active learning in libraries is...

*participatory, informal,
interest-driven
and relevant to real life*

- Everyone can participate.
- Learning happens by doing.
- Challenge is constant.
- Everything is interconnected.

Learning happens by doing



Children's Learning Garden, Lewes (DE) Public Library;
used with permission



STEM program at Wilton Public and Gregg Free Library (NH) ;
courtesy of Wilton Library

DIY becomes DIT (doing it together)



Artist-in-Residence program, Bellingham (WA) Public Library;
courtesy of Jenni Johnson



Build a City by [CSM \(CA\) Libraries](#) on [Flickr](#), [CC BY 2.0](#)

Active learning is for all ages



Pre-school

Alphabet Tree, Early Learning Space,
[Allen County \(IN\) Public Library](#) on
[Flickr CC BY-NC-ND 2.0](#)



Teens

Digital Media Lab, Laurel (DE) Public
Library; courtesy of Tameca Beckett



Adults

You can make it by [Fabrice Florin](#) on
[Flickr CC BY-SA 2.0](#)

The Community

Every community is unique



Bertha Voyer
Memorial Library, TX



Caledonia Public
Library, MN



Cornwall Public
Library, NY



Glenns Ferry Public
Library, ID



Greenwich Free
Library, NY



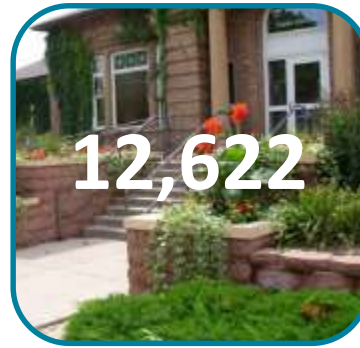
Hot Springs
Library, NC



Ignacio Public
Library, CO



James Kennedy
Public Library, IA



Madison Public
Library, SD



Norelius Community
Library, IA



Punxsutawney
Memorial Library, PA



Ronan Library
District, MT



Town Creek
Public Library, AL



Tucker Free
Library, NH



Wilton-Gregg
Public Library, NH

Challenge

Define a process that leads to active learning space and service transformation for a variety of libraries and their communities

THE
COMMUNITY
IS THE
EXPERT

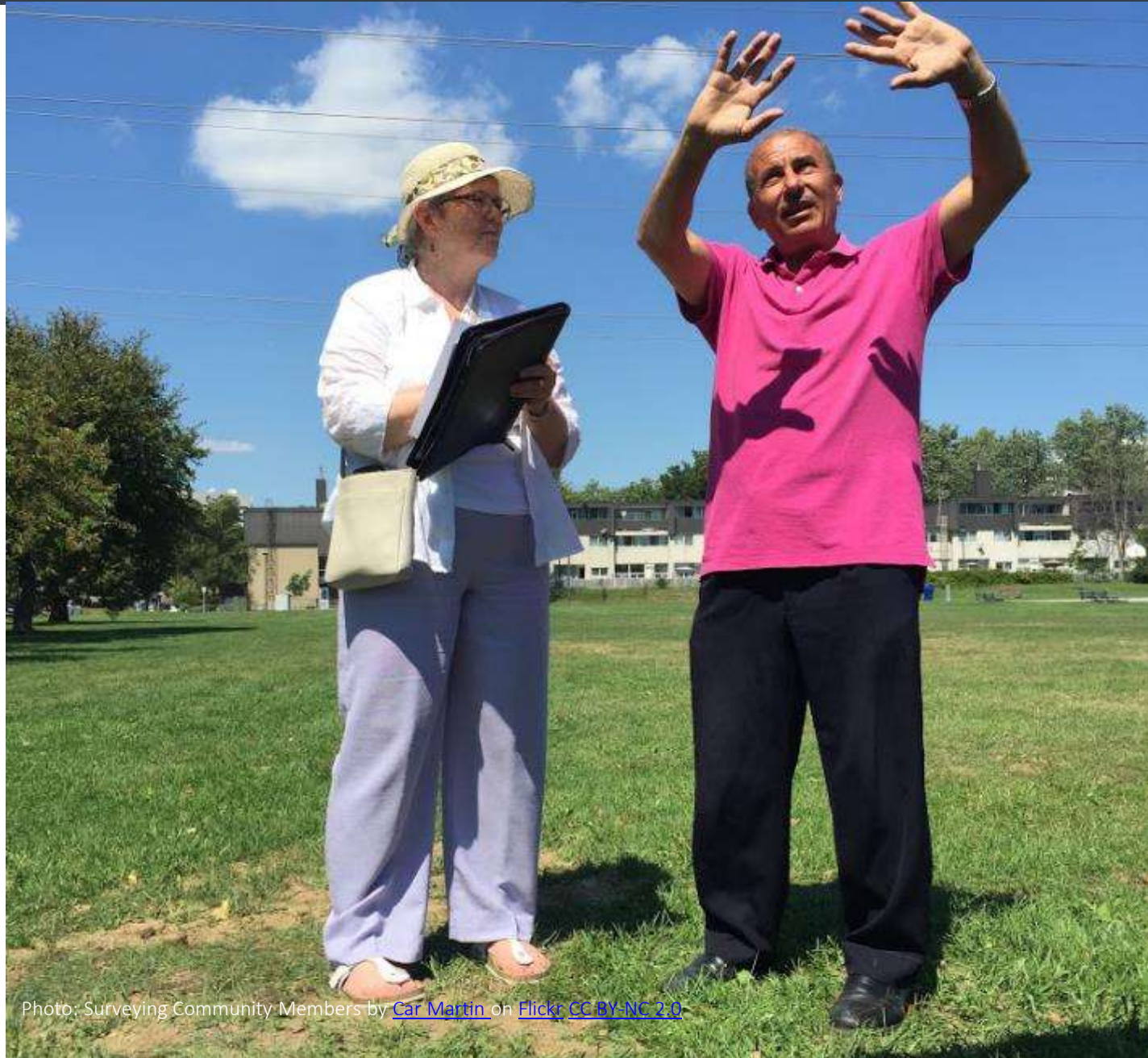


Photo: Surveying Community Members by [Car Martin](#) on [Flickr](#) CC BY-NC 2.0

Engage & Explore

Engaging community members in visioning and planning

“Being from a very small town (1,100), we feel our best tool is a ‘vocal’ survey—listening to the talk at our local coffee shop.”

Discovery Tools:

- Surveys
- Stakeholder Interviews
- Topical Focus Groups
- Observations
- Visioning/ Idea Workshops
- Open brainstorming
- Dot Boards/ Wish Trees

Ask open-ended questions

Grab a leaf and answer these questions:

1. What do you like about Madison?
2. What do you think would make it better?



From Wish Trees to Dot Boards



Four dot board choices: gaming space, teen space, maker space, and business incubator.



Teen space wins!

“It’s a good process to help me stay flexible and open to hearing community ideas, and not stuck on what I think their ideas are. It’s a reminder that this is for the community and needs to be driven by their interests.”

Smart Spaces Participant

Prepare for Change

Making way for transformation

Active learning space is... *open and inviting* Messy is okay



Projects-in-progress are left lying around

EPL Makerspace by [Mack Mal](#) on [Flickr](#) [CC BY-SA 2.0](#)



Tools are visible & accessible

STEM Cart: [Demco.com](#)

Active learning space is... *flexible*

The caster is your best friend



Everything can be made moveable

Mobile Library Shelving, [Group3 Planners](#), [Flickr](#) [CC BY-NC-ND 2.0](#)



Modular tables and mobile reference pod

Tables, chairs, pod: [Demco.com](#)

WEEDING! Reduce choice overload

“Undoubtedly the shelves heave a collective sigh of relief after being liberated from too much weight.”

–Eileen Shaw, Branch Manager,
Everson (WA) Library



Photo: by [Eric Konon](#) on [Flickr](#) CC BY-NC-SA 2.0

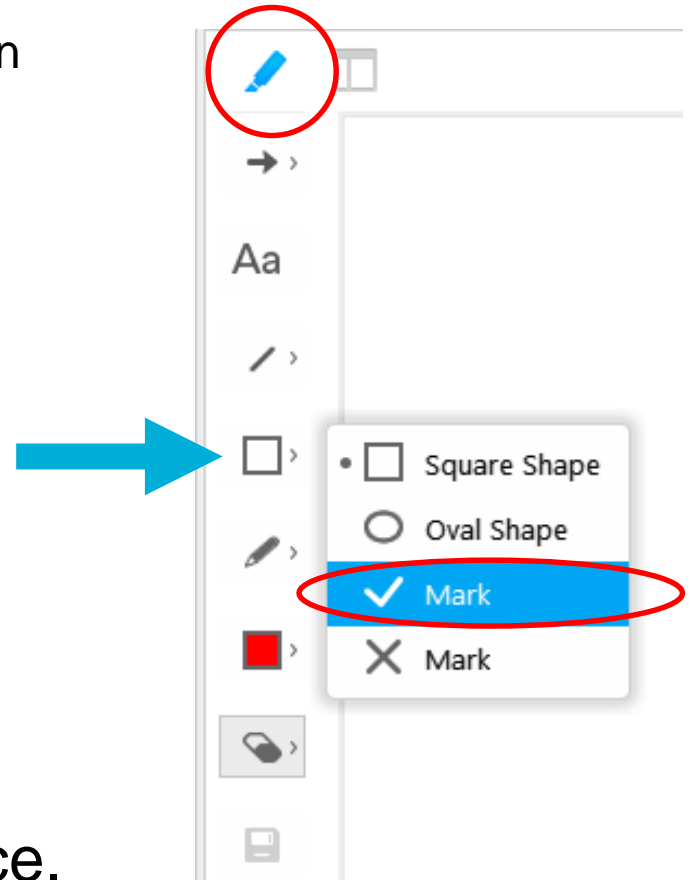
Annotation Tools

Find the **grey marker pen** in top left corner of the presentation screen.

Click to open the tool buttons in a column on the left side; the marker pen will turn **blue**.

Check mark

- Click on square shape, half-way down.
- Use the drop-down menu and choose the check mark.
- Click on slide to indicate choice.



If this were your library, what would you want to change to allow for active learning?



Place checkmarks on areas or items ripe for change.

Photos courtesy of Smart Spaces project participants

Make room for active learning



“Fort Circulation” – the immovable barrier between staff and patrons



Awkward flow, little room to reconfigure space



No social connection – it's a one-person space

Transform

Make it happen!

Jennifer Trail, Library Director

Glenns Ferry Public Library

Glenns Ferry, Idaho

- **Service population:**
1,241
- **Location:** Southeastern Idaho
- Agriculture-centered economy



Glenns Ferry Public Library

Founded in 1927



Homegrown Goodness

Glenns Ferry is a Small, Rural town Based Around Agriculture

- Population is about 1,200

Some Residents would argue the only “culture” available in town is yogurt

- Schools are in one building with a total student population of around 400 from PK-12

The Library would like to change that

- Which in part led me to apply for this opportunity

Historical Role of the Library

- Originally a Medical Clinic
- Transformed into a Library in the late 1990's
- Been Viewed as a Sleepy Little Place that only Housed Books
- Very Little Programming Offered in the Past
- More than Once the City Council had Considered Closing it All Together

Goals Based on Community Input

- Create a flexible space that will adapt to all kinds of programming
- Create a space that feels inviting
- Change the perception in the community about the role of the Library
- Support other groups in town in a common goal of educating all ages in the community

Before



Demo! Reconfiguring the Doors



Ta-Dah!



make it CREATIVE. make it LAST.
MAKE IT INSPIRING. MAKE IT work.
MAKE IT proud. make it BETTER.
make it AWESOME. MAKE IT simple.



Nailed It!



Was it Worth It? Heck Yes!

- Not only has the space provided a place for active learning, it has created an independent work/meeting space
- Started an out of school Tween STEAM Program every week
- Adult Book Club meets in this space
- Project has played a huge role in redefining our Library in the community as an active learning resource

Challenges...

- **Time!** Make sure you assemble a team of support.
- **Money!** This project is a great start, but look towards the future sustainability and seek out other supplemental grant opportunities.
- **Don't know where to start!** Ask lots of questions. Take time to get to know your community's desires
- **I'm not a designer!** I'm not either, yet somehow it all pulls together.

You **CAN** do this

Thank You & Good Luck!

“Don’t worry about failures, worry about the chances you miss when you don’t even try.” - Jack Canfield

Jennifer Trail
glennsferrylib@yahoo.com



Melanie Morgan, Library Director

Madison County Public Libraries

Madison County, North Carolina

- **Hot Springs Library, Hot Springs, NC**
- **Service population:** 560
- **Location:** Western North Carolina, near the Tennessee border
- **Library website:**
www.madisoncountylibrary.net





HOT SPRINGS LIBRARY





CHILDREN'S/TEEN SPACE



COMMUNITY DISCOVERY PROCESS



Tools:

- Survey
- One-on-one Informal Interviews
- Facilitation Sessions
- Idea Board

Audience: Community Members including students, staff, Friends of the Hot Springs Library and key stakeholders



BEFORE



DEMO DAY

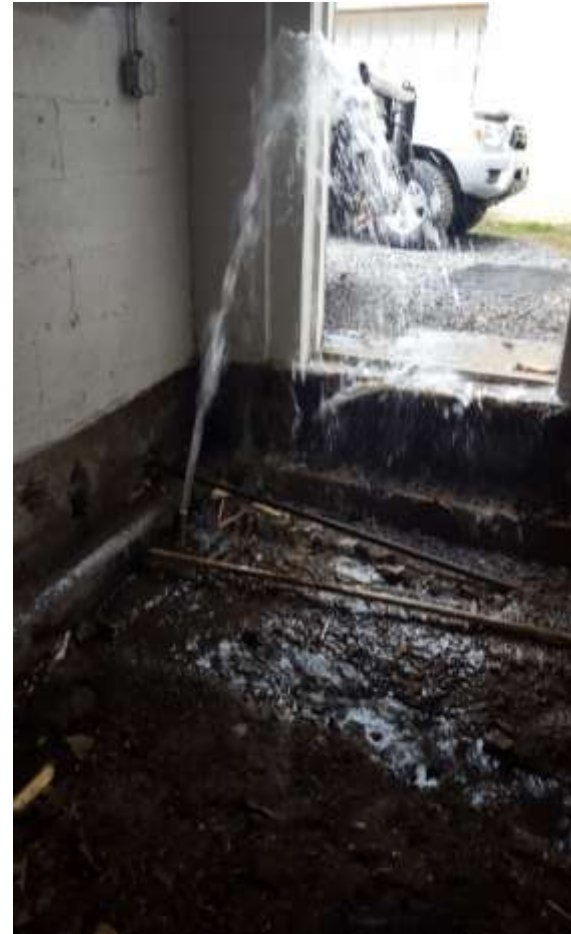




STRUCTURAL ISSUE DISCOVERED



HOT MESS



AFTER





We are
Adventurers & Explorers
Inventors & Discoverers
Finders & Doers of
GREAT things







ACTIVE LEARNING SPACE: STEAM CLUB



ACTIVE LEARNING:FREE PLAY



FUTURE PROGRAMMING INITIATIVES



In collaboration with the Madison County School System, the Madison County Public Libraries will develop two distinct afterschool programs, **Literacy Leaps** and **Tail Waggin' Tutors** that will be offered to help struggling students achieve higher educational attainment through one-on-one and small group tutoring which includes STEAM enrichment activities.



THANK YOU!

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me:

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Transform

Make it Happen!

Caledonia Public Library

Caledonia, Minnesota

Population: 2,786

CITY OF CALEDONIA
CITY HALL
&
PUBLIC LIBRARY

E MAIN ST

Before the changes...



Large, bulky furniture dominated the space.

Community
Reactions:

“It’s so much more
open and welcoming!”

“I’m surprised by how
open it looks now.
How comfortable it
looks. It’s much more
inviting.”

“I love the new
arrangement! It’s
great for group study!”



Light, easy to move tables and chairs were chosen for the space!

Cornwall Public Library

A photograph of the Cornwall Public Library building, a brick structure with a gabled roof and a covered entrance. The building is surrounded by a lawn and trees. The text "CORNWALL PUBLIC LIBRARY" is visible on the brick wall. A person is walking on the sidewalk in front of the entrance, and several cars are parked in the lot to the right.

Cornwall, New York
Population: 12,480

Blank Canvas...



A space full of potential.



Cornwall Public Library did not shy away from color in their transformation!

A photograph of the Madison Public Library building in winter. The building is a two-story brick structure with a prominent triangular pediment over the entrance. The entrance is flanked by two columns and has a small arched window above the door. The ground is covered in snow, and there are snow-covered bushes in the foreground. The text "Madison Public Library" is overlaid in orange on the image.

Madison Public Library

Madison, SD

Population: 7,425

No Place for Teens



“The Teen Space”





Wilton Public & Gregg Free Library

Wilton, New Hampshire

Population: 3,677

Wilton Public and Gregg Free Library, Wilton, NH



Wilton Public and Gregg Free Library, Wilton, NH



A "Performance Corner" for
outdoor performances and
readings



The "Story Walk"



New Stairs and Walkway

An Outdoor Library Experience

Learn

Activate the Space with Programming

Teens and a Green Screen at Madison Public Library



**“Expression
Sessions”**

Art at Punxsutawney
Memorial Library



“Vicarious Visits”

Madison Public
Library & Caledonia
Public Library

Teen Tech Night

Resume Building

Cornwall Public
Library

**“Makers Corner”
for Tweens,
including LEGO
Build Challenges!**

Punxsutawney
Memorial Library

Air Rockets!

Paper Airplanes!

Ignacio Community
Library



**Website Building
for Small
Businesses!**

Greenwich Free
Library

After School at Norelius Community Library



**“Snacks in the
Stacks”
Summer Lunches**

Wilton Public and
Gregg Free
Library



**Music Recording
and Production**

Ignacio Community
Library & Madison
Public Library

“Life Hacks” Series

Greenwich
Community Library

Tango Try-It Night

Wilton Public and
Gregg Free Library

Poetry Slam

Caledonia Public
Library



**Electronics Repair
Café**

Ignacio Community
Library

Wilton Public and Gregg Free Library's Smart Park!



For more information on how Small Libraries Create Smart Spaces and more case studies please visit <https://www.webjunction.org/explore-topics/smart-spaces.html>.

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