

Today's Presenter



Susan McClellan
Executive Director,
Millvale Community
Library (PA)



Small Library Innovation and Management

Susan McClellan

Executive Director,
Millvale Community Library

Millvale Community Library

- Innovating in our Unusual Space
- Connected to a tea shop with 3 apartments above the library

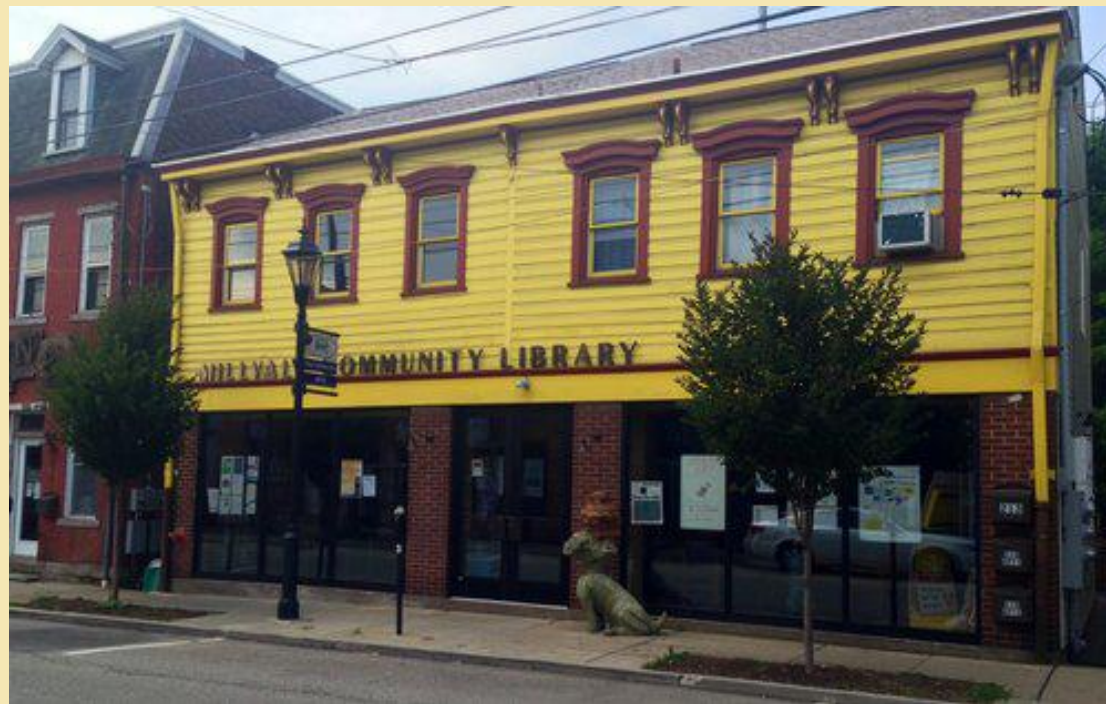


Photo by Millvale Community Library, used with permission



Our Mission

More than a library – an agent of positive change

Our Vision

We envision a happy, engaged community

Innovative Space

- 83 solar panels on our roof
- Community Gardens in back
- Rain Garden
- Makerspace in the Library

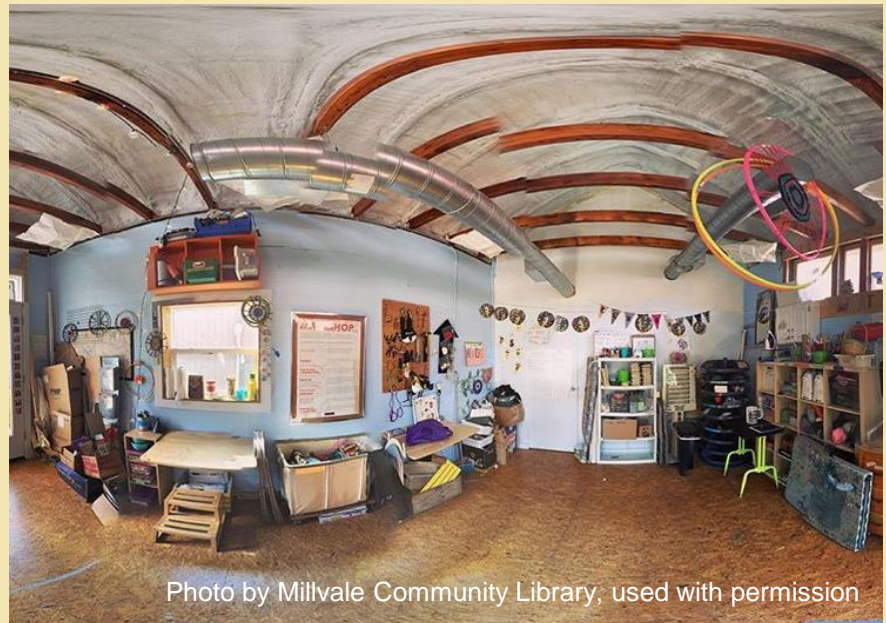


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Millvale, PA

- 3,744 residents – 48 percent of children below poverty level
- Median Income – \$30,000



Photo: [Millvale, PA](#) by [Jon Dawson](#) on [Flickr/CC BY-NC 2.0](#)

Meeting Community Needs

- Community wide assessment via survey (2016)
- On-line and in house surveys



Photo by [Grounded](#), at Millvale Community Library, on Facebook

Community Needs

- Start with the top needs – food, water, and energy
- Living in a food desert
- Clean water
- Solar energy



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Solar Panels

- The MCL's 83 solar panels help generate more electricity than the Library uses over the year
- Duquesne Light actually pays *us*
- This helps us pay staff and create more community programming
- Carbon neutrality has never been sweeter

Community Focus: 3 Key Issues

- Food, Water, and Energy were identified
- EcoDistrict Leadership Team developed to ensure resident-supported implementation



Photo by Millvale Community Library, used with permission

Community Needs

- Strategy #1 – Maximize partnerships
- Strategy #2 – Align your vision with the community
- Strategy #3 – Listen and ask questions

Meeting Community Needs

- What are your building blocks?
- Create a strategic plan

A Question for You

- What are your ways of identifying community needs?

Share in chat!

Identify Community Needs

- Attend or host business meet and greet
- Hang out where there is the most “conversation”- tea or coffee shop, store, etc.
- Attend council and business meetings

Tool Lending Library

- Over 350 Tools available for checkout
- Over 90 percent donated from patrons
- Bike, Masonry, Electrical, Plumbing...



Millvale Tool Lending Library

Open Tuesday, 6pm-8pm

Friday, 10am-12pm

Saturday, 10am-12pm

Lend out Unique Items

- Music Lending
- Radon Detectors
- Air Quality Monitors
- Share in chat, unique items you lend!

How do you get the Board “on board”?

- Make time to brainstorm
- Check in on your strategic plan frequently
- Bring possible answers to your question

Time to Innovate

- Brainstorming
- Partnering
- Outreach



Photo by Millvale Community Library, used with permission

Making Time to Innovate

- If you don't know, ask
- Don't go to every meeting
- Experiment
- Collaboration and cooperation is key



What is your most
innovative project?

Share in chat!

Time Management

- Delegate tasks
- Use volunteers wisely
- Seek out interns
- Break things into chunks of time



Making Time to Innovate

- How do YOU make time to Innovate?

Share in chat!

Volunteer Groups

- Colleges and School
- AmeriCorps VISTA (Volunteers in Service to America)
- Organizations
- Day of Giving



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Food Desert of Millvale

- No grocery store in town-where do you shop?
- Family Dollar, gas station, convenience store

Our Sustainability

Rain Garden and Cistern:

In the backyard, you'll find a 500 gallon cistern that collects rain water from our rooftop, and through an underground pipe channels it into our rain garden.



Photo by Millvale Community Library, used with permission

Garden Sustainability

Rain Garden



Photo by Millvale Community Library, used with permission

Garden

Growing Food: Garden beds and fruit trees used to teach Millvale youth how to grow their own food.



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Food Desert Response

Green Grocer Partnership: mobile farmer's market that comes into town once a week for 2 hours.



Youth Food Sustainability

- Vista Volunteer started an Afterschool Program
- Partnered with 412 Food Rescue
- Gardens of Millvale

Raising Funds for Food Sustainability

- Fundraising
 - Art show with local gallery
 - Children's comedy show
 - Poetry readings
 - Lobby campaign



MILLVALE COMMUNITY LIBRARY PRESENTS

**FIRST EVER KIDS
COMEDY SHOW!!!**

HOSTED BY ERICK WILLIAMS

Watch the MCL kids do stand-up, improv, sketches, & whatever they want!

Tuesday, April 24th
from 5-6 PM

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Long Term Food Solutions

- More partnerships
- Seek long-term sponsor

You Too Can Innovate

- Move beyond gathering information
- See what other library and businesses are doing
- Don't be afraid to try
- Embrace Innovation



Thank You!

Contact me!

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