

Today's Presenters



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Auburn, Algona-Pacific and
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Reduce Waste, Build Community: Hosting Repair Events at Your Library

Presented by Tom Watson, Laurie Finlayson, and Steven Bailey

February 13, 2019

WebJunction

Libraries = ideal venues



- 50 King County-sponsored repair events since 2016
- 21 at King County Library System libraries

Event priorities



SAFETY



RESPECT



REPAIR FOR
ALL

What do we work on at these events?

Electronic

- Lamps
- Vacuums
- Sewing machines
- Computers
- Digital devices
- CD players
- Blenders

Mechanical

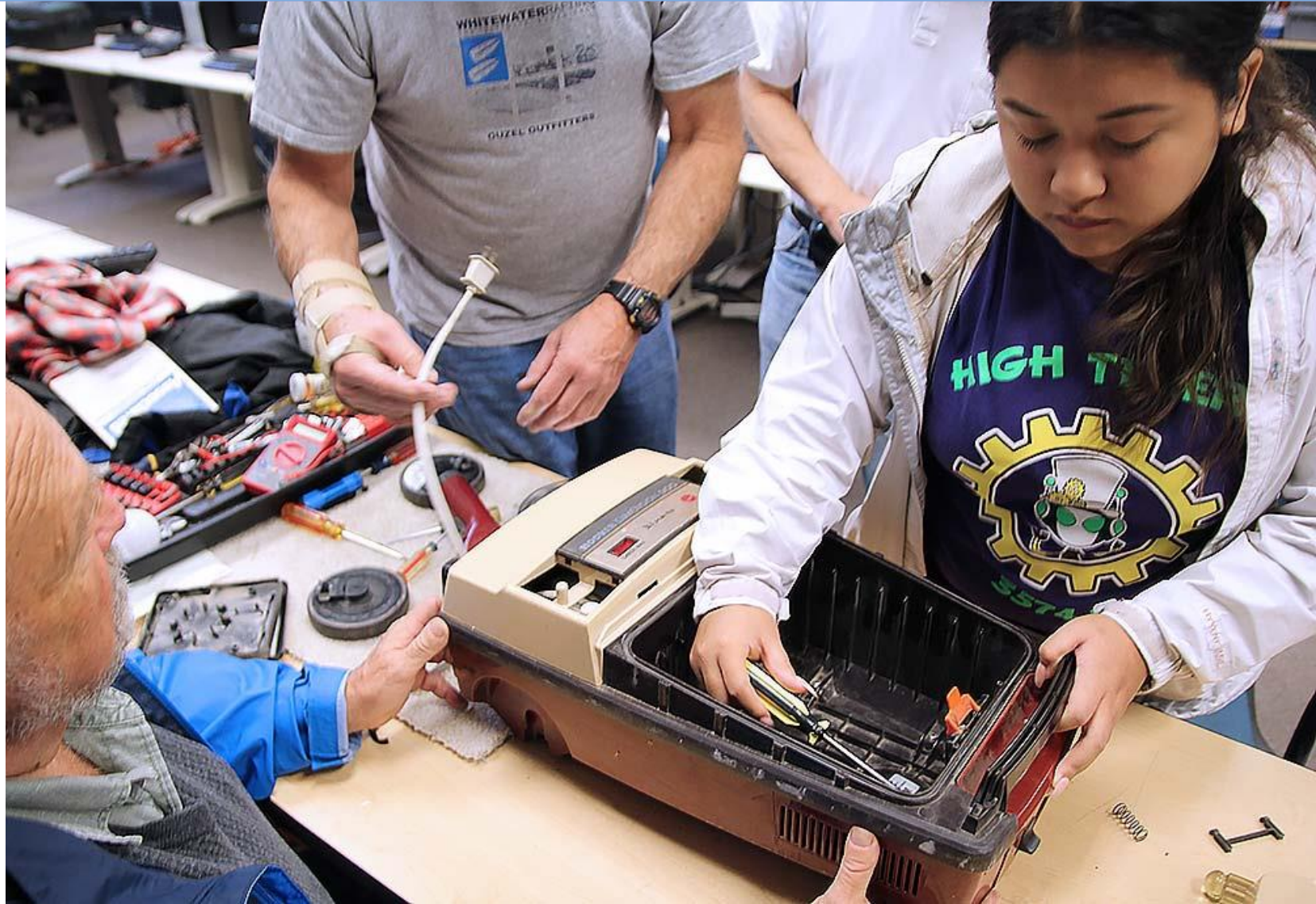
- Chairs
- Tables
- Drawers
- Screens
- Ornaments
- Toys
- Tools

Sewing

- Pants
- Dresses
- Shirts
- Jackets
- Costumes
- Curtains
- Bags

Our fixers are the ❤️ of the program

- Diverse skills and backgrounds
- Enjoy helping people
- Have tools or sewing machines
- Flexible, adaptable



Libraries in partnership (or solo!)

- Local solid waste/recycling agencies
- Public works departments
- State environmental agencies
- Non-profit tool libraries
- Other environmental non-profits
- University extension services



Getting support to start



- Cite examples of existing successful repair events programs/partnerships
- Explain how liability will be addressed (customers sign release form)
- Keep simple, avoiding MOUs or formal contracts if possible
- Get library management and staff on board
- Or leverage programming freedom and build your partnership and fixer networks!

Guidelines for attendees

- Bring items small enough to be carried in
- Don't bring items that are leaking, dangerous, contain gasoline, or have a strong odor
- Stay around during repair
- Have fun!



Expect the unexpected



- 10 to 50 attendees
- 30 to 120 items to work on
- Our fixers and customers are wonderful 99.9 percent of the time!
- Under-promise and over-deliver
- Apologize sincerely as needed, fix the problem, move on

What's in a name?

- Repair Café, Repair Fair, Repair Event, Repair Time Event, Fix-It Event, U-fix-it Clinic....share your ideas in chat!
- King County program lets venue or host choose name
- If any complaints, pick a different name
- Naming or bureaucracy around repair events not important; attendees and “fixers” should be focus



Make it your own!

- 
- A photograph of a community workshop or maker space. In the foreground, a man with a grey beard and glasses is looking down at a small object in his hands. Next to him, a man with a beard and glasses is also looking down. In the background, a man with dark hair and a beard is smiling and looking towards the camera. To his right, a man with glasses and a beanie is looking at a small object in his hands. The room has large windows on the left side, showing trees outside. There are various tools and materials on tables in the foreground, including a red bag with the word "Lewat" on it. A blue semi-transparent box with white text is overlaid on the bottom right of the image.
- Start small and simple
 - Learn from others but use your creativity
 - Build a program that reflects your community

Why a Repair Café at the library?



- Barrier-free access to skilled repair people
- Build community
 - KCLS Strategic Focus: Create opportunities through meaningful connections.

More reasons!

- Save money
- Reduce waste
- Outreach
 - Attract people who may not come to the library otherwise
 - Expose Fixers, partners, city officials to services the library offers



Recruiting fixers



In three main areas:

- Sewing
- Mechanical
(handywomen/men)
- Electronic

Finding volunteers for sewing

- Quilting groups
- Craft fairs
- Farmers Markets
- Ask patrons
- Post flyer on craft/sewing bookshelves
- Post sign at craft shops



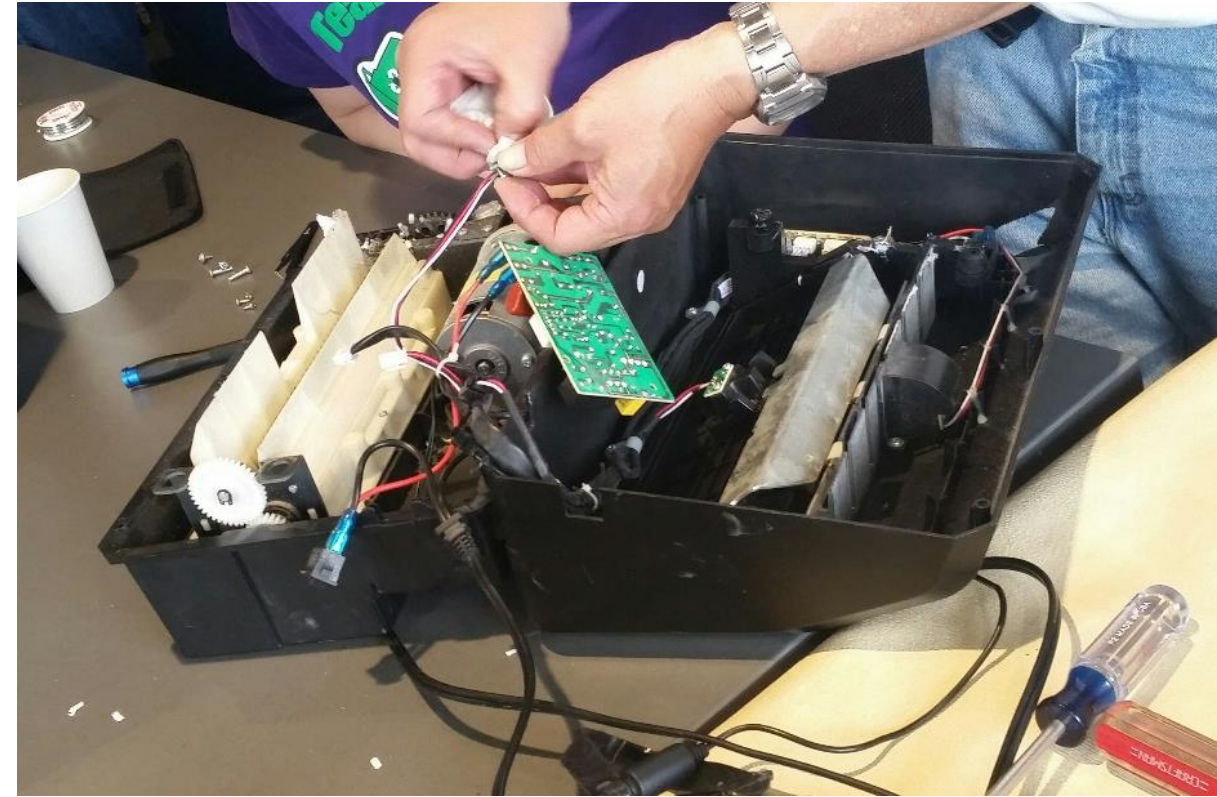
Finding volunteer handywomen/men

- Ask at Senior Center
- Post flyers at hardware stores
- Call VFW, Rotary, etc.
- Woodworking clubs
- High School woodshop
- Scout troops



Finding electronics repairers

- High School Robotics Clubs
- Senior Center
- Radio Control Car/Plane Clubs
- Radio Shack
- Ask at Electronics Recycling
- Post on Social Media



Logistics



- Space
- Tables & Chairs
- Power
- Clean up

Space

- Library's meeting room
- Community Center
- Other venue
- Size of room
- Access to outside
- Waiting area



Set-up

- How many tables?
- Where are outlets?
- Sign-in area/Welcome desk
- Children activity area
- Seating area for waiting
- Allow room for large objects



Other factors



- Have plenty of trash cans
- Tarps for messy repairs
- Provide water for repairers
- It will be noisy (and chaotic!)
- Fresh air is helpful
- Stay flexible!



Promotion

- Help people think of all the broken things they might have around (share yours in chat!)
- “Look in your attic!”





Promote with flyers everywhere!



MUCKLESHOOT REPAIR CAFE

Thursday, May 10, 3-6pm

Muckleshoot Library

Don't toss your broken lamp, pair of ripped jeans or busted chair!
Bring them to the free Repair Cafe! Skilled "fixers" will help you repair your damaged household items to keep them out of the landfill and save you money!

- Free repair of small household items (small enough for one person to carry)
- No leaky, dangerous or smelly items and nothing that uses gasoline.
- You must be present during the repair
- No guarantees that an item can be fixed or won't be made worse during the repair

*Please sign up in advance with what you're bringing so the "fixers" can be prepared.
Registration is encouraged but walk-ins are welcome. Everyone will be assisted as time is available.*

*To sign up to attend the Repair Cafe, or if you have questions, contact Tom Watson
via email at tom.watson@kingcounty.gov or by calling 206.477.4481.*

Sponsored by the King County EcoConsumer
program's Repair Time project.



Reasonable accommodation for individuals with disabilities is available; please contact the library prior to the event if you require accommodation.

Muckleshoot Library • 39917 Auburn Enumclaw Road SE • Auburn, WA 98092 • 253.931.6779
Monday-Thursday, 10am-9pm • Friday, 10am-6pm • Saturday, 10am-5pm
kcls.org/muckleshoot • facebook.com/MuckleshootLibrary

kcls

- Give a bunch to Thrift Store drop-off locations
- Post at local hangouts
- Ask Fixers to spread the word
- Take to hardware stores
- Post at the dump/transfer stations
- Promote in library with displays of broken items
- Have translated versions!

Promote digitally everywhere!



- Email it to all your contacts
- Post on social media
- Ask Fixers to share it on Facebook, etc.
- Post on library web page
- Answer neighborhood queries about recycling, repair (NextDoor, Patch, etc.)

Day of event!

- Allow plenty of time for setup
- Be available and check in periodically
- Put out flyers about library programs
- Have a display of repair books
- Mix and mingle!
- Take pictures!
- Have a bell to ring when an item is repaired



Afterwards

- Clean up
- Thank your fixers and partners
- Share success stories, including with staff
- Repeat!



Thank you!

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