

Small Libraries Create Smart Spaces

TRANSFORMATION STORY

Glenns Ferry Public Library

Glenns Ferry, Idaho

The Community

Every community is unique

Glenns Ferry, Idaho

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



“We are a town where everyone knows everyone, you can charge on your local account just about anywhere you go, and deals are still made over coffee and a handshake.”

Jennifer Trail, Library Director

Before the Changes

Small libraries can create Smart Spaces

**“My library is in desperate
need of a facelift.”**

Meet Jennifer Trail, the library director

You can recognize the enthusiasm and creativity by her “Diction-Fairy” costume, at right. Since becoming director, Trail has introduced several STEM programs, which have her community members clamoring for more. However, she has had to host many programs offsite due to space constraints.

“I have a vision for one of the rooms that currently houses a collection of VHS tapes.

My vision includes a space that is filled with resources that will promote learning and exploration through hands-on activities.”



Engage & Explore

Engaging community members in visioning and planning

**The library asked and listened
and the community shared
their aspirations**

Engaging community members in visioning and planning



"I had a great response from all ages in my town so my challenge is to create a space that will accommodate little ones as well as older."

"kitchen came out on top – the kids were into that = a surprise to me; we don't have home-ec in school anymore."

"In a small rural town it's important to work together to fill the community's learning needs."

"The main thing that came through was the partnerships in town and how we can support each other.."



"In general, the community wants to be doing things.."

Prepare for Change

Making way for transformation

“...provide an area that is inviting and inspiring. A space that can be reconfigured to support and promote many different kinds of learning for all ages.”

Purpose statement

Making Way for Transformation



Two smaller doors
become one.

VHS tapes and DVDs were weeded and moved to a former storage room. New Flooring was then installed by a member of the Glenns Ferry Library Board.

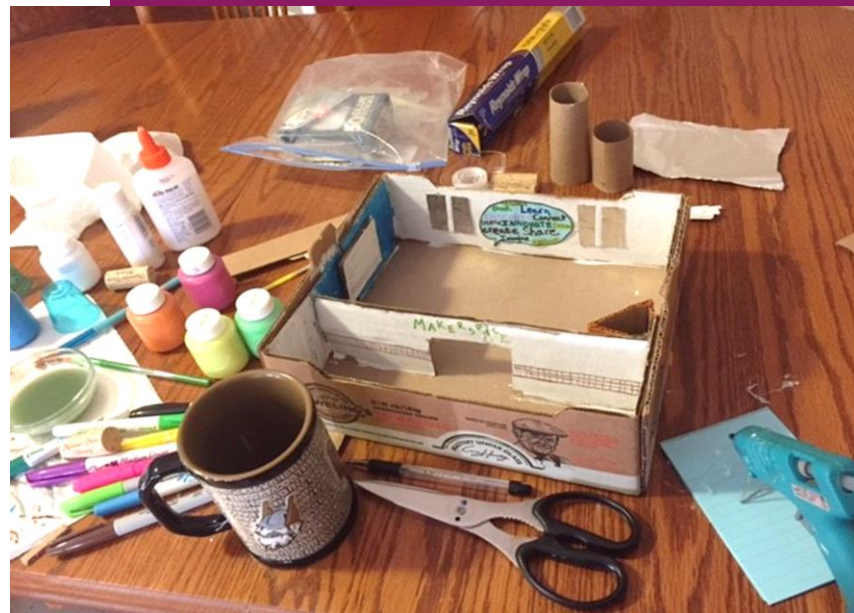
Prototype

Turning ideas into tangible models

**“I was a little hesitant
about this exercise.”**

Making a simple tangible model of the ideas for transformation

Trail admits that she is the kind of person who likes to just launch into something and make adjustments on the fly. She wasn't accustomed to taking the time to make her ideas tangible for others to see. But she went ahead and assembled some cardboard, glue, scissors, tape, ...and a cup of good coffee.



Cardboard as a transformational material

“I really really enjoyed this process. I completed my prototype in one sitting and had a blast doing it.

I’ve showed it to several people who have been so happy to actually see physically the plan that’s been floating around in my head.”



Transform

Make it happen!

From action plan to lively space

Flexible furnishings

The active learning space has the flexibility to rearrange the furniture for different needs. The open display of tools and books makes it easy for users to see the possibilities of what they can create here.



Learn

Activate the space with programming

Activate the space with programming

What are you hearing from the community about the new space?

“They love it! Love the openness and bright colors. They are excited to see it once completed.”





Celebrate & Sustain

Continual community connection

**What the Community
is saying about the
library and its
director, Jennifer
Trail.**



"She [Jennifer] comes to council meetings and shows us what she's doing and we are always so inspired."

"It's new and exciting. It's fun out of the blue, I mean, Gummy Bear towers!"

"When you go into a library you think, 'it's a library, it's going to be boring.' Jenn makes it fun." Favorite part about the library? "Jenn."

"The transformation is unbelievable. The whole library used to be dark and not fun."



"The library has grown leaps and bounds. It has direction, thanks to Jenn."

Future Programming Planned for the Space

- Friday Programming for Kids 8-13
 - Themed programming to appeal to science minded and creative kids
- Trivia Nights
- Drones
- Cooking Classes
- Flower Arranging
- 3D Printing
- Bob Ross Painting Class
- And much more!

For more information on how Small Libraries
Create Smart Spaces and more case studies
please visit oclc.org/SmartSpaces.

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