

Small Libraries Create Smart Spaces

TRANSFORMATION STORIES

Ignacio Community Library

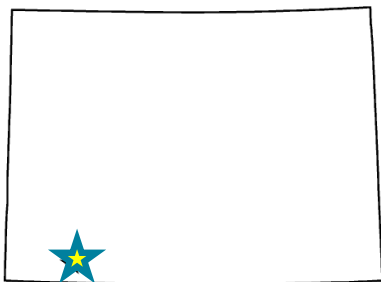
Ignacio, Colorado

The Community

Every community is unique

Ignacio, Colorado

- **Service population:** 5,200
- **Location:** Southwestern Colorado
- **Library website:** ignaciolibrary.org/
- Borders the Southern Ute Tribal Reservation



The town of Ignacio, Colorado

**The town describes itself as a
"tri-ethnic community" comprising whites,
latinx and Native Americans.**

**“The diversity of our community alone makes us
unique, but our unity and ability to work
together also separate Ignacio from
other small towns.”**

Marcia Vining, Library Director

Before the Changes

Small Libraries can create Smart Spaces

Ignacio's Modern Library

The community of Ignacio voted to fund its first library in 1991. When the original building—an 1800 square foot remodeled store—began bursting at the seams, voters again approved a levy increase to build a much larger library to accommodate the enthusiastic patronage. The modern light-filled library opened in 2007.

“Libraries are instruments of change, growth and community-building, a focal point of the community that provides a variety of learning opportunities,” says director Marcia Vining.



Ripe for change: a nondescript room



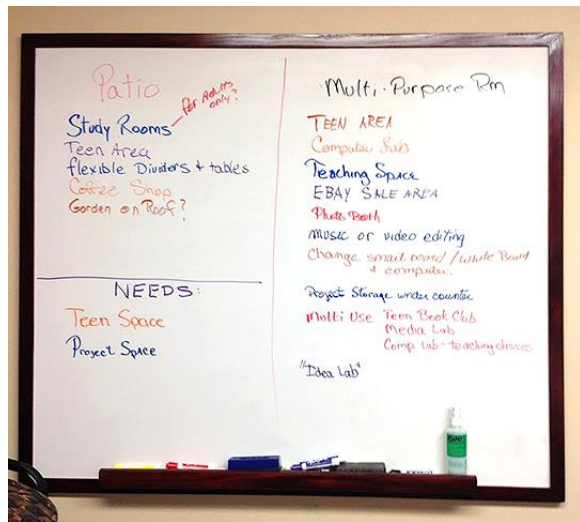
In spite of the modern architecture of the building as a whole, this multi-purpose room was, in Vining's words, "bare, uninspired, no storage, inflexible and cramped."

We want to provide a place for social and engaged learning, allowing individuals to learn from each other in a multi-generational format.

Engage & Explore

Engaging community members in visioning and planning

With input from surveys and individual interviews with patrons, library staff held ideation brainstorming sessions to identify ways the library could meet community needs.

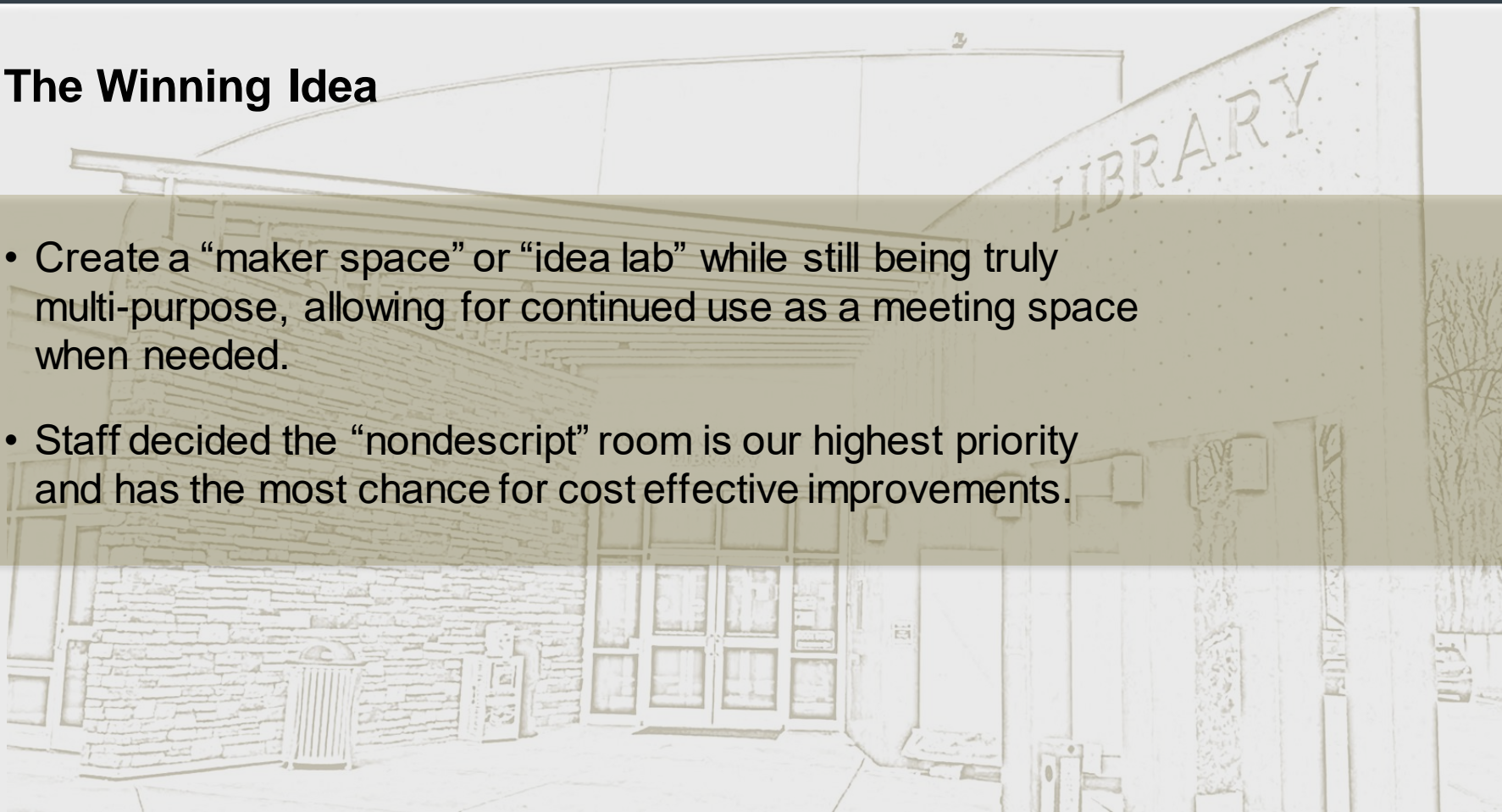


Through our discovery process, we found that our community is particularly interested in DIY or DIT (do it together) type activities.

We also found that our community continues to need computer and internet resources. We still have a large portion of the county that does not have regular access to the internet.

The Winning Idea

- Create a “maker space” or “idea lab” while still being truly multi-purpose, allowing for continued use as a meeting space when needed.
- Staff decided the “nondescript” room is our highest priority and has the most chance for cost effective improvements.



Our Goal:

To promote community interaction and engagement with technology by providing access to a variety of tech resources and learning opportunities

Prototype

Turning ideas into tangible models

Placemaking

From the Project for
Public Spaces
[Eleven Principles for
Creating Great
Community Places](#)

Principle #7:

Triangulate spaces to
intentionally link people
together

“The [placemaking principle] that got my attention was regarding triangulation. It made me think of the old design principle in the kitchen with the stove, fridge and sink being in a triangle for best use.

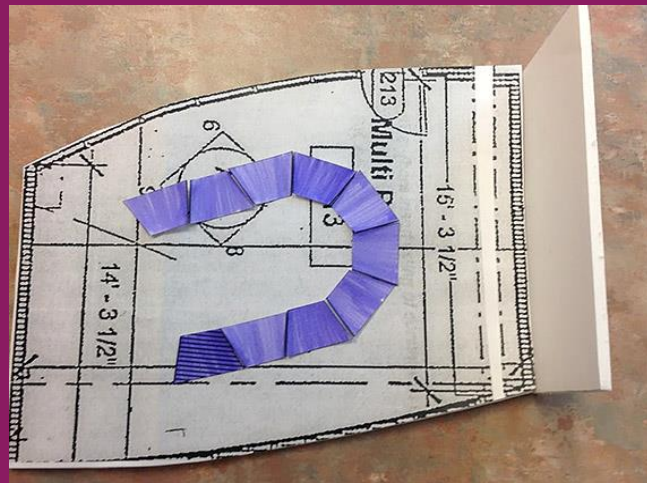
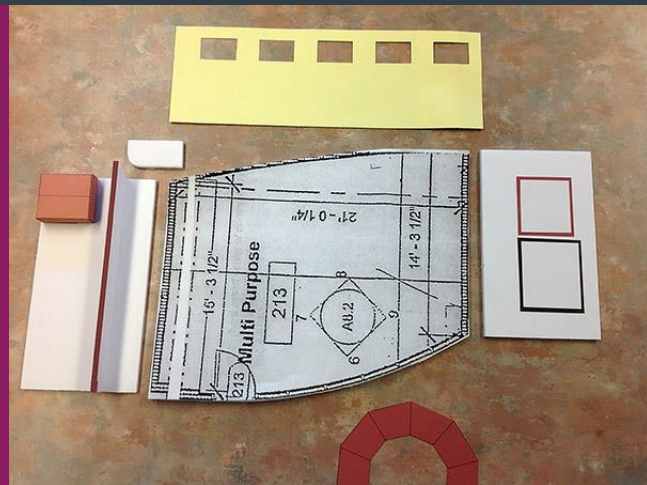
So then I walked through a couple of our "problem" spaces trying to think in terms of triangulating. This helped me to open up some dialogue with staff about use of the space, and how to build in flexibility.”

—Marcia Vining

Modeling variations of layouts for the space

We cut out various tables, to scale, that staff could position to see the fit and versatility.

We then assembled a scale model for staff and patrons to view and offer suggestions.

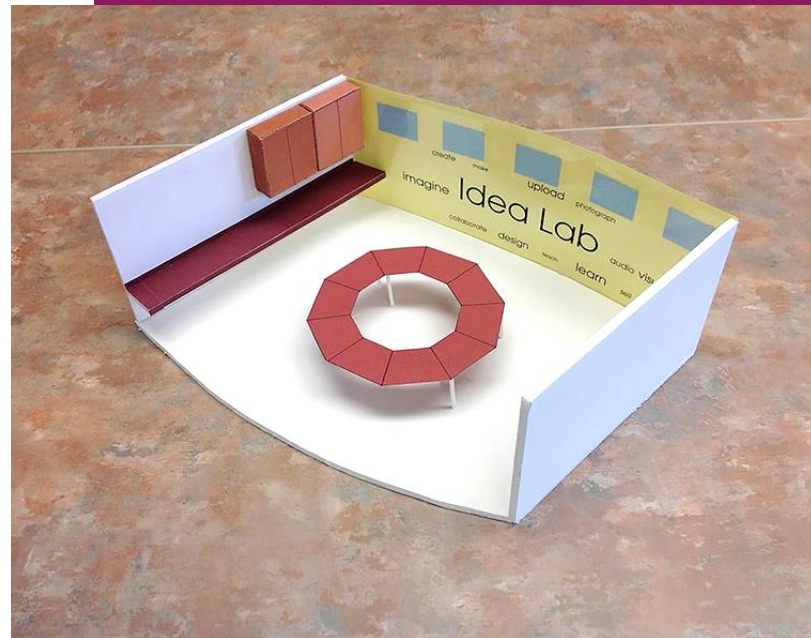


A tangible model shows the community what's coming

Our partially finished prototype has foamboard walls and floor, construction paper cabinets and tables. We would like to paint the back wall, add upper and lower cabinets for storing projects and materials.

“Foam board made creating the prototype easy...(well, easier).”

—Marcia Vining



Having the prototype has helped get even more community involvement.

One of our patron requests was a place to store their projects to return to work on them.

Another staff member suggested the wording on the back wall.

Transform

Make it happen!

We started transforming the room with a simple coat of yellow paint which brightened the room considerably.



**The former multi-purpose room
of the Ignacio Community Library
now houses ICL Make
and the IdeaLab**

Adding 6 locking upper cabinets allows patrons to work on projects without having to finish them in one sitting, offering a place to safely store their work.

The addition of three locking, rolling file cabinets that also double as seating gives an additional space to store equipment and supplies.

Storage bins and a rolling cart give patrons easy access to a variety of project boxes including air rockets, soldering, a photo booth, and more.



“It went from this underused nothing space to now it’s just continually occupied and active.”

Marcia Vining, Library Director

Learn

Activate the space with people and programming

Fun and Making at ICL Make and Idea Lab



- Our new computers offer software for photo and video editing, and we added hardware to support audio creations so that users can record their own work and music.
- The new scanner has helped our in-house art group to scan their work to use online as well as resizing photos they use as models.
- The 3D printer support software is also on these computers.
- Last, we just recently installed equipment that will enable us to convert VHS and slides to digital media.

Supporting Local Entrepreneurs

Equipment in the space allows local artists to shoot photos of their artwork and items they'd like to market. An online selling station has a computer dedicated for access to eBay, Amazon and other online stores.

We're offering a class on how to photograph work and upload it to selling sites such as Etsy.

Our local artists group is excited about the Internet Sales Station where they can learn to create their own Etsy store.



Celebrate & Sustain

Continual community connection

The community is the driver.

Ron Schermacher, service desk manager, volunteered at the fund drive for the local radio station, which prompted the DJs to come visit the library's Idea Lab. Now they are giving advice on how to use the recording equipment for music creation and coming up with ideas for programs.



Easy-to-use flip video cameras allow anyone in Ignacio to make movies.

We have science club and Lego games and flip video cameras and more.

We have kids teaching other kids how to use the 3D printer.

The Idea Lab is shaped by the needs and interests of the community.

It is the place for community members to share their expertise.

**Words to
make and
learn by**



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

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