

Small Libraries Create Smart Spaces

TRANSFORMATION STORY

Madison Public Library

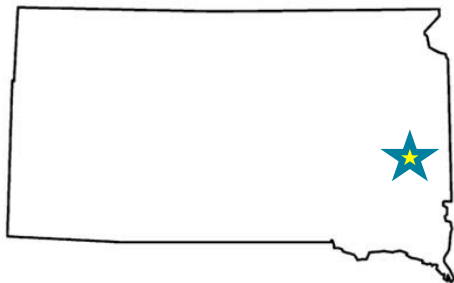
Madison, South Dakota

The Community

Every community is unique

Madison, South Dakota

- **Service population:** 12,622
- **Location:** Eastern South Dakota, close to Minnesota border
- **Library website:**
madisonpubliclibrarysd.com



“Like many rural areas, Madison, South Dakota—part of Lake County—is a welcoming place to put down roots and raise a family, start a business, or retire. Madison also has that work ethic and kindness the Midwest is famous for.”

Lisa Martin, Children's Librarian

Before the Changes

Small libraries can create Smart Spaces

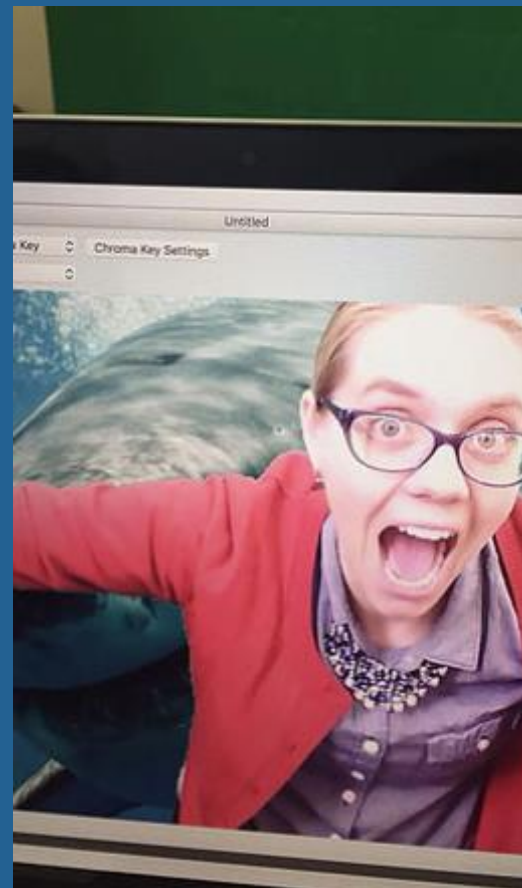
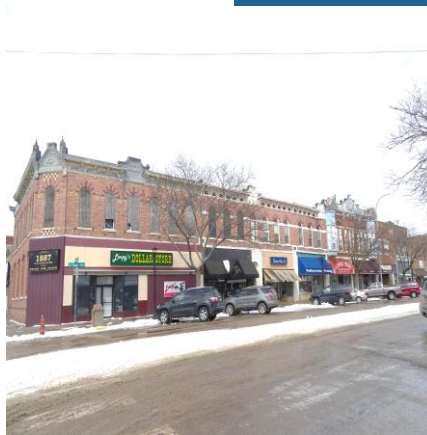
“Still, even with our work ethic and in-it-together outlook, Lake County and Madison Public Library struggle to cover all the community’s learning needs, especially regarding new technology.”

Lisa Martin

Meet Children's Librarian Lisa Martin

Lisa Martin is not afraid to have fun. You can see that enthusiasm in her greenscreen adventures, at right. Since becoming children's librarian at the Madison Public Library, Martin has worked to provide technology for learners of all ages, including an iPad program for two- to six-year-olds. However, she wants a space that will grow and adapt to the community's changing needs.

“Madison Public Library is willing to rearrange shelving and seating, reassess storage, and rethink the space we currently have.”



Engage & Explore

Engaging community members in visioning and planning

**The library used a Wish Tree activity
to determine the community's needs
and wants.**

Madison Public Library's Wish Trees

Wish Trees were placed around the community in nine places: the library (pictured right), local pizza place, a coffee shop, community center, hospital, and college campus, as well as elementary, middle and high schools.

Community members were asked to write responses on a paper leaf to these two questions:

- What do you like about Madison?
- What would make it even better?



Asking non library-specific questions helped community members get beyond their traditional assumptions about the library and think more broadly about their aspirations for the community.

Dot Board Discovery



Madison Public Library used the data gathered and came up with four ideas to dot board: gaming space, teen space, maker space, and business incubator.



The dot board was up in the library for about two weeks and then taken to *Madison Discovery Days* where over a hundred people voted for their two favorite spaces. Teen space and makerspace were neck in neck, but teen space won.

“Residents love the small town life. But they yearn for more variety.”

Lisa Martin



Prepare for Change

Making way for transformation

To make the Madison Public Library a full family environment by creating a place for tweens and teens not currently coming in to the library.

“In our new Teen Space, kids ages 12-18 will have the opportunity to interact with each other and the community.”

Purpose statement

Finding Room for Teens

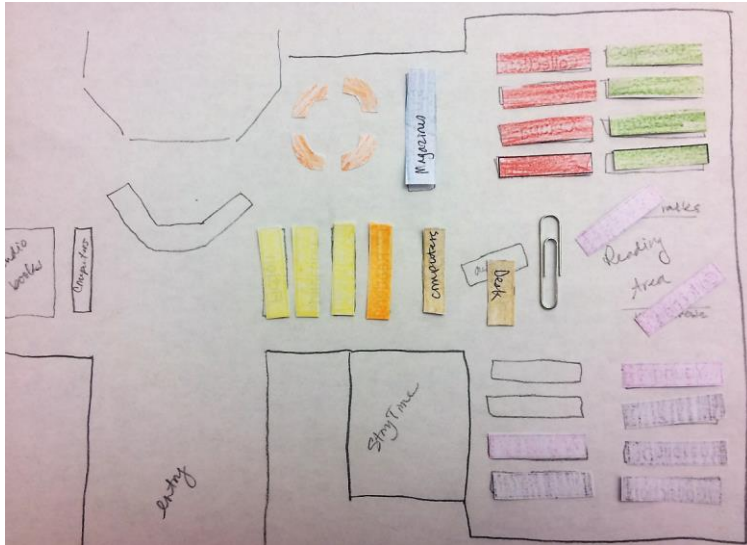


To make way for transformation, the library engaged Life Scout Isaac Meyer, who laid tape lines on the floor to create a plan for relocating collections and moving shelving, thus opening up the area for the new Teen Space.

Prototype

Turning ideas into tangible models

Making a simple, tangible model of the ideas for transformation



Transform

Make it happen!

An action plan to make the space happen

A Teen Space, Surrounded by Books

Through the community discovery process, Madison Public Library learned that teens wanted their own space, one where they could be creative, but also be “surrounded by books.” Shelving units were reconfigured to create the feeling of book-filled walls while still allowing staff an accessible line of sight.



Teens Stage a Harry Potter Party

Before the new space began to take shape, a group of teens took the initiative to produce a fabulous Harry Potter Party. They designed and planned all the details, including the entry to 9¾ through a brick wall.



Party participants avidly pursue the Hunt for Horcruxes scavenger hunt.



Teens fabricated Little Snitches as prizes for the games.

One Small Success

A Madison teen who is very shy, will typically only drop her siblings off at the library and not stay for programs ...until the Harry Potter event.

“This time she decided to stay and she had a good time!”



The Teen Advisory Board also put together a photo booth (seen in the background) for the Harry Potter Party. Several TAB members, and Lisa, decided to do an “aw kw ard pose” way out in front of it.

Learn

Activate the space with programming

Teen Space Open House

Teens showed off their new technology at the Teen Space Open House. Items purchased to activate learning in the new space include a MacBook Pro, camcorder kit, a digital multi-track recorder, Yeti podcasting microphone, studio headphones, and a greenscreen production kit. Adults were just as excited about the items as the teens. Martin hopes teens will be the teachers when adults come to the library to use the items.



Meet the Madison Public Library Teen Advisory Board

Not only did Madison Public Library get a new Teen Space, they got a new Teen Advisory Board (TAB). Comprising approximately 12 tweens and teens, members of the TAB meet regularly to help Lisa Martin plan teen programming at the library.

Their success with organizing the Harry Potter Party was resounding evidence that this teen group is ready to own and enjoy their new space and take the lead in creating programming.



Members of Madison Public Library's Teen Advisory Board at the Teen Space Open House program. Yay cake!

Programming for and *by* teens

“There is a huge population of musical teens in Madison. Teens form bands and have a big interest in technology.”



Celebrate & Sustain

Continual community connection

What the community is saying about the new space, and children's librarian, Lisa Martin

"It's great. Lisa is a great children's librarian with really great ideas."

"When I talk about the town and the library, I talk about how special the library is."

"A huge step forward, technology-wise, for the teens in the community. It's great to see them getting involved."



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

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