

*Small Libraries Create Smart Spaces*

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TRANSFORMATION STORY

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# Tucker Free Library

Henniker, New Hampshire

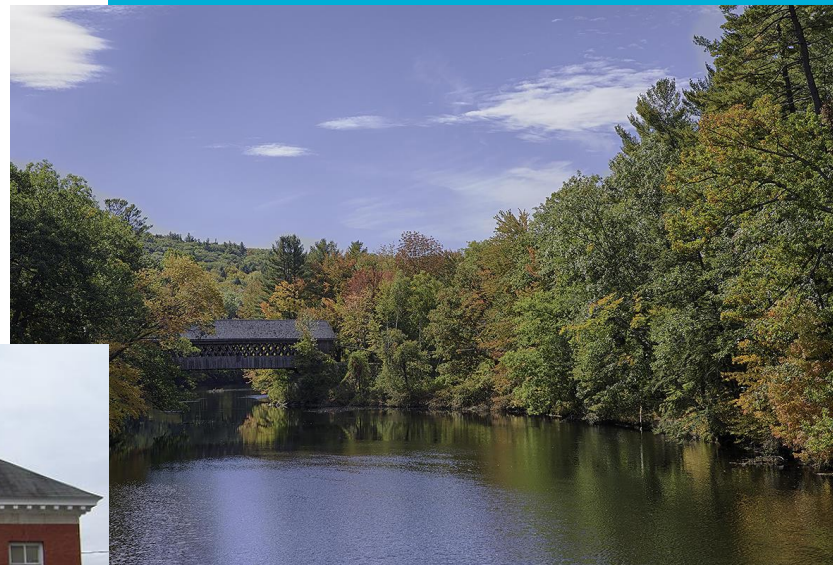
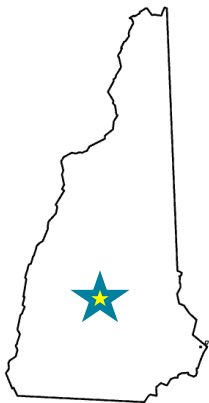
# The Community

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*Every community is unique*

# Henniker, New Hampshire

- **Service population:** 4,900
- **Location:** Foothills of the White Mountains
- **Library website:** [tuckerfreelibrary.org/](http://tuckerfreelibrary.org/)
- Four season outdoor recreation and “the only Henniker on Earth”



Covered Bridge by [John Hilliard](#) on [Flickr CC BY 2.0](#)

**“D-I-Yers, chefs, educators,  
town managers all choose to live  
in Henniker.”**

*Lynn Piotrowicz, Library Director*

# Before the Changes

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*Small Libraries can create Smart Spaces*

*Original idea at the start of the program*

**“We have a space we would like to develop into a community incubator, but need some direction in accomplishing that.”**



## Meet the TFL Thought Leaders

This mighty staff of three is proud of their ability to recognize and respond to community needs. They are looking to future innovations while preserving the history and elegance of the historic library building. They'd like to have a space where tables can be brought together for brainstorming or innovation and there's room for things like inventor clubs and art classes.



“At storytime, our staff is stuffed in amongst the chaos.”



- Lynn Piotrowicz, Director
- Denise Getts, Emerging Technologies Specialist
- Erin Longan, Children & Youth Services Specialist



# Engage & Explore

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*Engaging community members in visioning and planning*

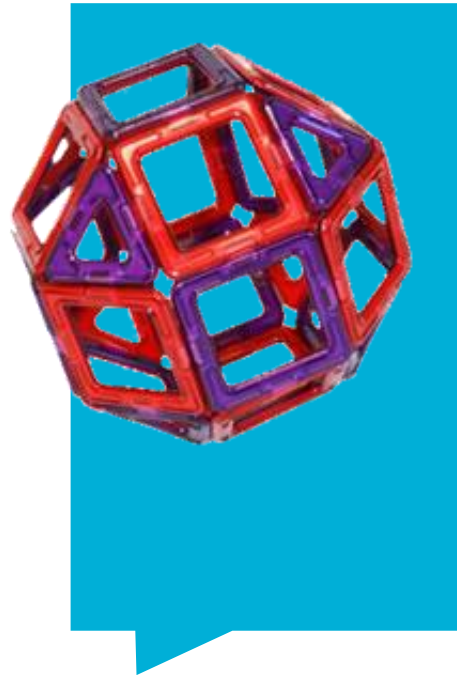


*Community exploration led to a change in the original plan*

**“I learned a long time ago that you have to be willing to throw away your ‘best plan’ in order to achieve greatness. What started as a community discussion on how to create an adult program space was derailed by a building toy.”**

*Lynn Piotrowicz*

## The TFL “MAGFORMERS®” story



A father and son visited TFL one weekend and were playing with the MAGFORMERS® that we had borrowed from the New Hampshire State Library Rotating STEM Collection.

The boy loved them so much that he begged his grandmother to bring him to the library to play with them again.

Unfortunately, when the boy arrived with his grandmother, they discovered that the toy had been boxed up and returned to the State Library. *Grandson cried.*

Grandma said she wished we could have more opportunities like this. All her grandson talked about was coming to the library and building with MAGFORMERS®.

Nobody likes to see an upset child so we resolved to **create a space where any child could come and learn through the fun of play.**

*And we bought our own set of MAGFORMERS®.*

The library  
will become  
a magnet  
for kids and  
families.

**TUCKER FREE LIBRARY KIDSPACE - the INDOOR PLAYGROUND FOR THE MIND!**

We will create a family play and learning space designed to inspire and spark the intellectual, social, and creative development of our youngest minds.





# Prepare for Change

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*Making way for transformation*

## A month of meeting, weeding, and dismantling shelves...



The Youth Services Librarian Erin did some “heroic weeding,” reducing the collection by 1,062 titles. And circulation skyrocketed.



Clearing 144 square feet of floor space in the children's department

# Transform

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*Make it happen!*



**“We didn’t build a cardboard prototype. Instead we spent time in the space actively moving things around... in our imaginations and with our tape measurers and chalk.”**

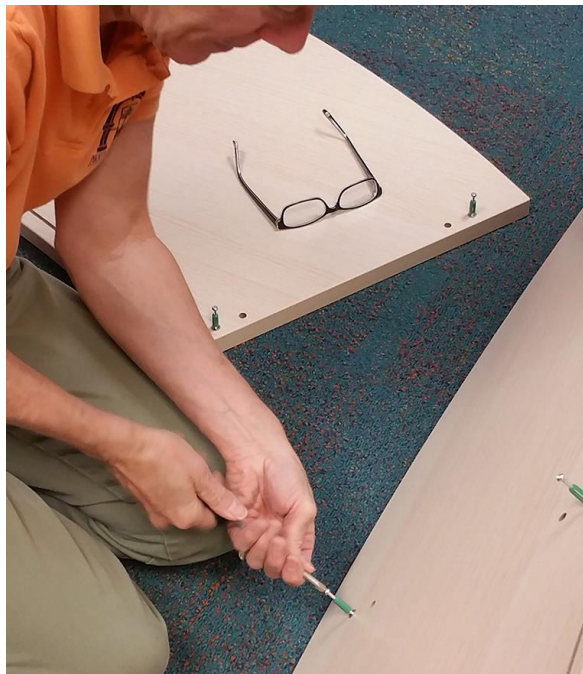
# Moving things mentally

Every Tuesday morning in August/early September, staff members met for an hour before the library opened to “hash-out” ideas.

From those meetings we all left with assignments and projects to work on.



## Moving in the new furnishings



Our local college was at the library doing some gardening for us. We decided to ask them to help deploy our new furniture!



Our first beneficiary of the space! One would think he has a career in modeling as he was working the space like the catwalk!



# Learn

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*Activate the space with people and programming*

## An amphitheater of seating for cozy storytimes



How many kids can fit on the  
curved red seats?



...and outer shelves full of learning and play





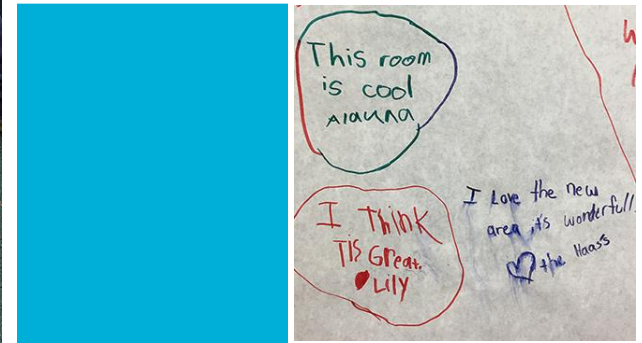
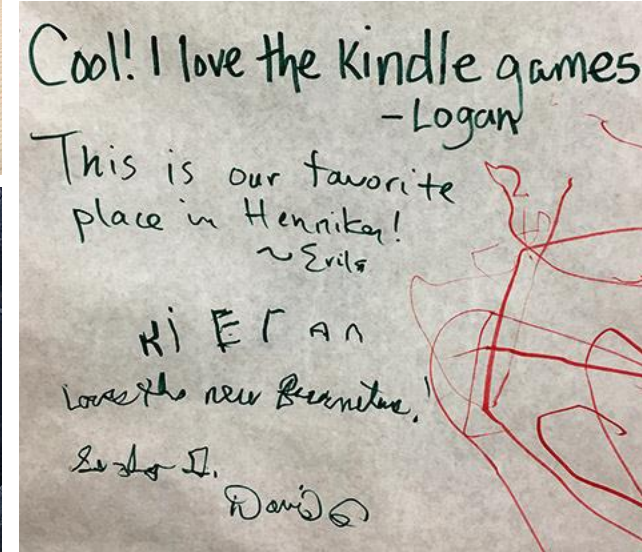
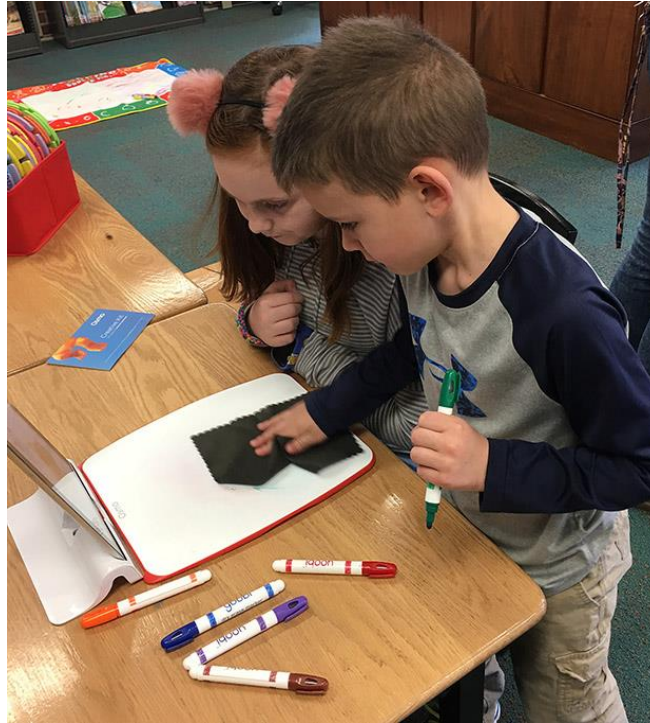
# TFL KIDSPACE

Early learning and play space is welcoming, inspiring and embedded with materials that are inviting for children to pick up and explore.

Little do they realize that they are learning literacy, math, engineering, art and technology skills. All they know is they're having fun with the toys and with each other.

## What kids and community are saying

- “We love coming here! It’s so much fun as a family!”
- “I like how there’s toys and games. Last time you didn’t have toys.”
- “We love the games and puzzles. Makes storytimes with active kids so much fun!”
- “What a wonderful place for my kids to explore and enjoy all the new games and puzzles.”
- “So COOL”





**The KIDSPACE is phase 1.**

**Phase 2 will involve the construction of a new child-friendly circulation desk.**

**Phase 3 will conclude the project with book browsing bins replacing the vertical shelving.**

For more information on how Small Libraries  
Create Smart Spaces and more case studies  
please visit [oclc.org/SmartSpaces](https://oclc.org/SmartSpaces).

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