



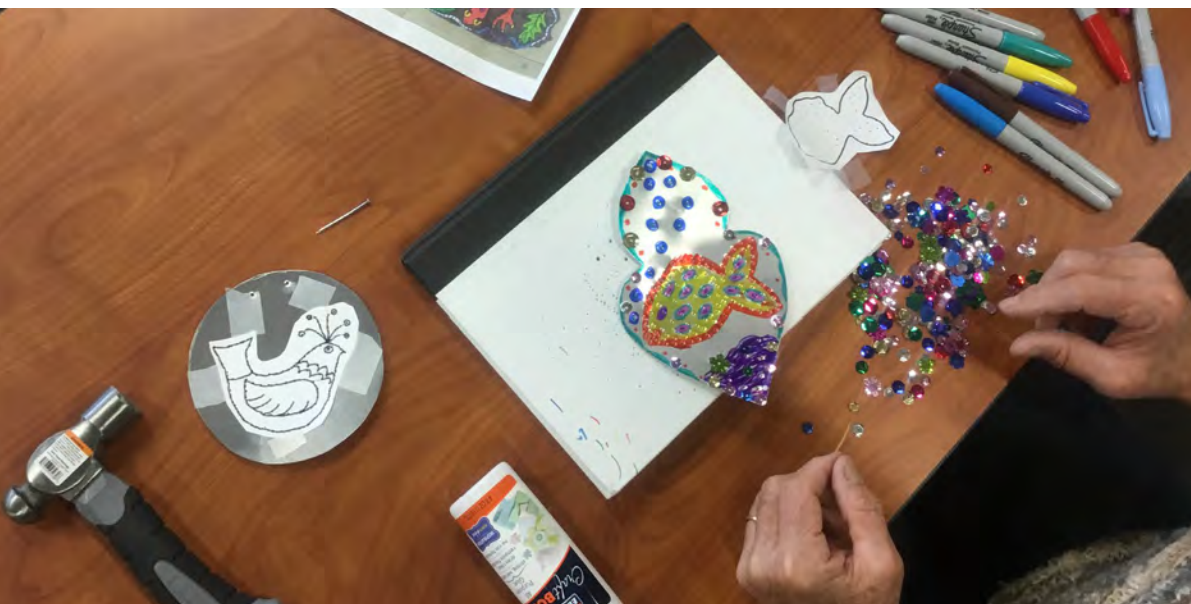
Snapshots

- **ATASCADERO LIBRARY**
- **BLANCHARD COMMUNITY LIBRARY**
- **CORONA PUBLIC LIBRARY**
- **EXETER LIBRARY**
- **FELDHEYM CENTRAL LIBRARY**
- **GILROY LIBRARY**
- **JOHN F. KENNEDY LIBRARY**
- **KINGS COUNTY LIBRARY**
- **LAKEPORT LIBRARY**
- **PONDEROSA JOINT-USE BRANCH**

ATASCADERO, CALIFORNIA

ATASCADERO LIBRARY

Offering the space, equipment, instruction, and tools to help the youth foster a love of learning, gain new skills, and pursue their own creative ventures



SUBURBAN LOCATION

Local population
30,330 (town)
64,386 (county)

LANGUAGES OF PATRONS

English, Spanish

14 BRANCHES

in San Luis Obispo
Library System

MAKERSPACE STAFFING

2 full-timers
(25–60% of time)

2 part-timers (10–25%)
6 volunteers

The A-Town CreateSpace empowers teens to bring their own ideas and interests to help drive program content in a weekly creative makerspace program.



Every week, teens are asked for feedback and program ideas, and the staff is quick to respond and provide activities they request. Inspired by this method, several of the young participants have asked if they could facilitate a workshop to share an interest of their own with their peers.



Creative work made by teens is displayed around the library and helps create a sense of ownership and pride. This display case is in the adult quiet reading area, in hopes that it might inspire parents to bring their teens to the program to explore arts, technology, and gaming.

POPULAR ACTIVITIES

Paper crafts, fiber arts, fine arts, and making with repurposed materials are all well-received.

FAVORITE TOOLS

Permanent markers! No matter the project, markers are always needed. The button maker is also a huge hit.



STAFF SUPERPOWER

Soliciting feedback from teens and using it to improve the program has worked to gain trust and increase engagement.

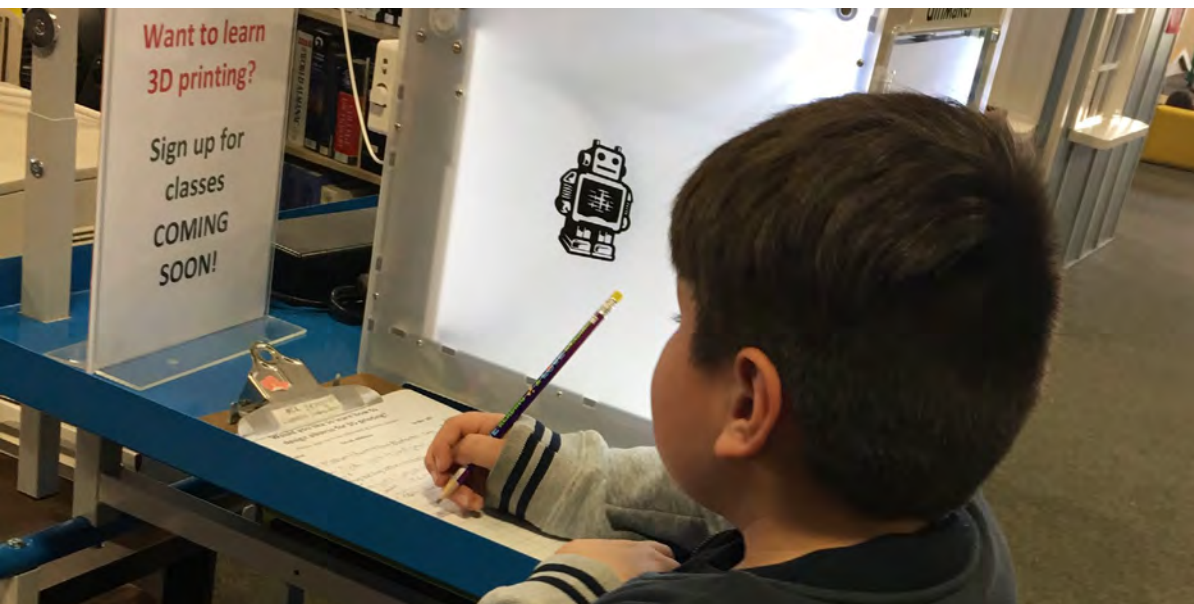
“We highly recommend finding ways to display patron work. They take great pride in completed projects.”

SANTA PAULA, CALIFORNIA



BLANCHARD COMMUNITY LIBRARY

Providing the community opportunities for creativity, exploration, and innovation through STEAM activities that educate and inspire



This flexible maker program is hosted in multi-use spaces for tweens, teens, and adults, while collaboration with other libraries through the Maker Box Collective helps expand offerings.



Access to 3D modeling and printing were not available in the area until the tools came to Blanchard Community Library. Patrons of all ages were excited to learn these skills. Teens, for instance, were introduced to Tinkercad modeling software and quickly started modeling and building characters, race cars, and more.



Space is limited in this small library, so flexibility is key. The team sets up activities in the program room, the main library area, or wherever they can find a spot to support creative exploration with arts, crafts, and STEAM activities. The name “mobilemake” implies their flexibility in setting up the program anywhere.

RURAL LOCATION

Local population 31,138

LANGUAGES OF PATRONS

English, Spanish

SINGLE BRANCH LIBRARY

MAKERSPACE STAFFING

3 full-timers

(10–30% of time)

2 part-timers (10–30%)

Volunteers

POPULAR ACTIVITIES

The 3D design classes and 3D printing are very popular and bring new people to the library.

FAVORITE TOOLS

The 3D printers and Tinkercad design program are the most sought-after.

mobilemake



STAFF SUPERPOWER

Staff enthusiasm and teamwork complements and encourages each others' strengths.

“Try to integrate maker projects into the library’s main space. People are excited to see this new technology as it’s working, become interested in learning more, and even sign up for a class.”

CORONA, CALIFORNIA

CORONA PUBLIC LIBRARY



Providing a collaborative environment to develop the creative and technical skills our teen and adult patrons most desire



URBAN/SUBURBAN LOCATION

Local population 167,000

LANGUAGES OF PATRONS

English, Spanish, Mandarin, Arabic

SINGLE BRANCH LIBRARY

MAKERSPACE STAFFING

3 full-timers
(15–20% of time)
1 part-timer (35–100%)
4 volunteers (100%)

POPULAR ACTIVITIES

Digital design, coding, engineering challenges, art classes, and 3D modeling are in demand.

FAVORITE TOOLS

The Silhouette cutting machine is loved by teens and tweens, helping them to quickly progress from paper creations to vinyl designs.

Maker Exchange delivers a robust schedule of creative arts and technology programs to inspire and educate in library spaces, in the community, and virtually.



Maker Exchange offers daily activities from its dedicated space—in addition to community outreach and virtual programs—serving teens, adults, and families with a range of activities, including art, 3D printing, Silhouette cutting machine, and coding. There are workshops and lessons offered, as well as open hours.



The Maker Exchange team developed community partnerships that have strengthened their program and helped them make an impact. Patron feedback is regularly used to shape what programs they offer. With access to in-house marketing support, they've been able to develop branding that is cohesive and engaging.



STAFF SUPERPOWER

The multifaceted staff are open-minded, flexible, and have a strong background in education.

“Don’t grow attached to any one idea. A makerspace is like starting a business—if you focus on a vision, you lose sight of the goal, but if you focus on the goal, the vision will manifest itself.”

EXETER, CALIFORNIA

EXETER LIBRARY

Exploring science, technology, engineering, arts, and math through making, tinkering, creating, designing, playing, collaborating, innovating, and exploration



RURAL CENTRAL VALLEY LOCATION

Local population 10,533

LANGUAGES OF PATRONS

English, Spanish

17 BRANCHES

in the Tulare County Library System

MAKERSPACE STAFFING

2 full-timers

1 part-timer

6 volunteers
(3 hours/month)

Hosted in a multi-use room, this makerspace programming offers creative activities for patrons of all ages.



Exeter Library's makerspace features science and technology activities for children, from coding and robotics to engineering. Reflecting the community's agricultural roots, they often highlight related program topics, including a monthly Learn to Use a Spinning Wheel workshop and a presentation about agricultural drones.



This makerspace thrives on highlighting local talent. For example, their floral design workshop was facilitated by a high school student who had started a floral business from her home. All participants loved the program. Afterwards, the student felt empowered to offer floral design classes at a local coffee shop and expand her business.

POPULAR ACTIVITIES

Robotics programs for youth and paint night events for adults are well-received.

FAVORITE TOOLS

Electronic tools such as Sphero, iPads, Ozobot, Dash Robotics, and LittleBits are very popular.



STAFF SUPERPOWER

Resourcefulness brings local talents to the makerspace, allows adaptation to patron needs, and helps invite new people.

"Be patient and understanding of your community, but most of all, have fun!"

SAN BERNARDINO, CALIFORNIA

FELDHEYM CENTRAL LIBRARY

Striving to create a safe, welcoming community place for all ages to learn and be creative



URBAN LOCATION

Local population 215,604

LANGUAGES OF PATRONS

English, Spanish, Korean, Tagalog, Chinese

4 BRANCHES

in the San Bernardino Public Library System

MAKERSPACE STAFFING

1 full-timer (15% of time)
2 part-timers (65–70%)
1 part-timer (25%)
2 volunteers (100%)

POPULAR ACTIVITIES

Holiday gift-making workshops, like Valentine's Day or Mothers' Day, draw a large audience.

FAVORITE TOOLS

Both low and high tech are appreciated, from crochet to VR, paper crafts, and 3D printing.



Intergenerational programming is delivered in a dedicated space that brings people together for familiar arts and crafts, as well as new technologies.



Serving one of the most economically challenged urban areas in the state, Creation Station provides a dedicated space for people of all ages to experience craft, fabrication, and technology programs two to four times a week, including weekly family crafts, teen/adult coloring club, monthly VR nights, crochet club, and special event programming.



At one of the ornament-making workshops, there were three generations of families in attendance. The programming offered the opportunity for grandmothers, daughters, and grandchildren to create together, making memories and connections.



STAFF SUPERPOWER

Persistence from a passionate staff has helped this team make progress.

“Be sure to have a great elevator speech. Wherever you go, talk about what you’re doing in the makerspace. You never know who might be interested or have something to contribute!”

GILROY, CALIFORNIA

GILROY LIBRARY



Providing a space with access to tools and resources that allows youth and adults to collaborate, innovate, and learn



The library delivers flexible programming for teens and adults in a multi-use space and also hosts the annual Gilroy Mini Maker Faire community event.



In 2019, the maker librarians, who had hosted “maker camps” and other hands-on programs in the past, organized a Gilroy Mini Maker Faire in the library and outdoor surrounding area. They were pleasantly surprised when 3,000 attendees came out. The 2020 Faire was slated to be even bigger but was canceled due to the COVID-19 pandemic.



When a local engineer was looking for opportunities in computer science for her daughter, she came across the nationwide organization Girls Who Code. She partnered with the library maker program and volunteered to lead the 15-week program twice.

RURAL/SUBURBAN LOCATION

Local population 58,756

LANGUAGES OF PATRONS

English, Spanish

7 BRANCHES

in Santa Clara County Library System

MAKERSPACE STAFFING

2 full-timers

(10% of time)

2 volunteers for regular programs

45 volunteers for Mini Maker Faire

POPULAR ACTIVITIES

Paper crafts, vinyl and heat press creations, block printing, sewing, and coding are big draws.

FAVORITE TOOLS

The Silhouette Cameo cutting machine is loved because it's so versatile.



STAFF SUPERPOWER

Outreach and partnership-building efforts have resulted in inspiring and collaborative community support for making.

“Make sure you’re constantly talking to your supervisor and/or administration so that everyone is on the same page as to what you’re trying to do and accomplish!”

VALLEJO, CALIFORNIA

JOHN F. KENNEDY LIBRARY

Providing a free space where adults and teens can access technology through structured and drop-in programs, learn, grow, and create with others



URBAN LOCATION

Local population 121,913

LANGUAGES OF PATRONS

English, Spanish, Tagalog

9 BRANCHES

in Solano County Library System

MAKERSPACE STAFFING

3 full-timers
(10–30% of time)

1 part-timer
(5% of time)

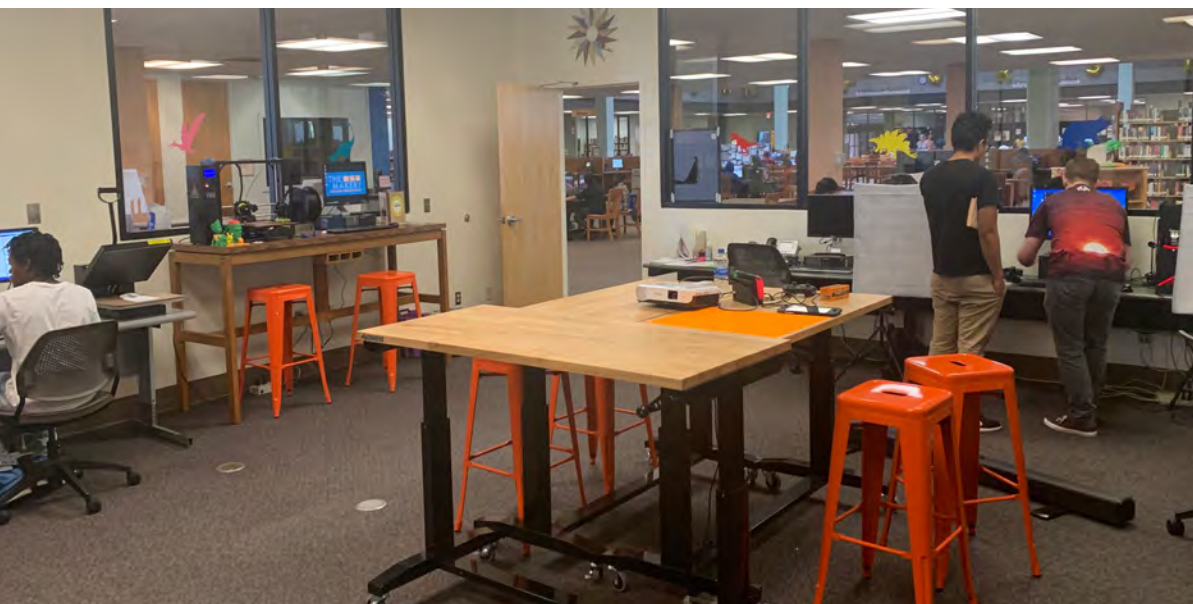
2 volunteers

POPULAR ACTIVITIES

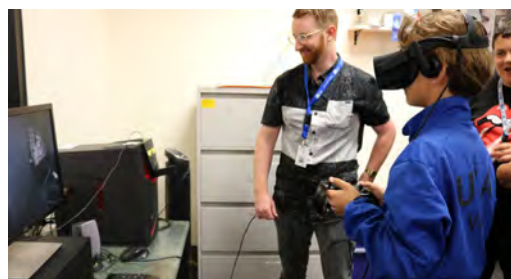
Nintendo Switch gaming, sewing, 3D design, 3D printing, and sound recording are in demand.

FAVORITE TOOLS

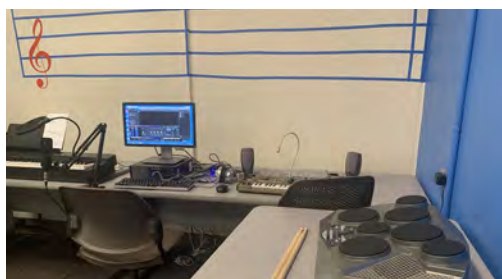
The 3D printers, Oculus Rift VR, Silhouette vinyl cutter, and sewing machines are favorites.



The Makery is an underused computer lab that has been converted into a dedicated technology space for teens and adults.



Popular technologies are showcased by positioning them right up front near the large windows of The Makery. Anyone walking by can see the 3D printer in action, and it's hard to miss the VR gamers, who attract attention and draw in curious patrons to the space.



Tools are set up along the perimeter of the room, and adjustable-height tables are positioned in the center of the rooms for collaboration. Vallejo's diverse community boasts an emerging art scene, so the Makery's sound recording equipment and music editing software are big draws for local musicians.



STAFF SUPERPOWER

The staff have both the vision to see the potential for an underutilized space and the strong teamwork to develop the space and program.

“Let the community be your guide! Equipment alone doesn’t make a space successful. If your community is arts-focused, then pursue that focus.”

HANFORD, CALIFORNIA

KINGS COUNTY LIBRARY



Providing an environment to build and foster a creative community



Maker Monday events encourage the community to engage in creative experiences and learn something new in a welcoming and playful environment.



The Hanford Library hosts a Maker Monday event that offers a mix of hands-on activities, ranging from arts and crafts to high tech experiences, with tools like the 3D printer, a VR game system, Makey Makeys, and a vinyl cutter. The event draws all ages, especially families with young children.



The Kings County team designed maker carts for each of their seven branches, so that patrons at every location could enjoy the arts, crafts, and technology experiences of the maker program. Staff from across the county were invited to learn about the new tools at the Kings County Library before receiving their own maker carts.

RURAL LOCATION

Local population 56,910

LANGUAGES OF PATRONS

English, Spanish

7 BRANCHES

in Kings County Library System

MAKERSPACE STAFFING

4 full-timers
1 part-timer
to staff each Maker Monday event

POPULAR ACTIVITIES

The 3D pens have become one of the most popular activities for kids on Maker Mondays.

FAVORITE TOOLS

The VR sets and 3D pens are top choices.



STAFF SUPERPOWER

Staff is flexible and willing to learn and adapt from each experience.

“Take time to get to know your community and target audience. Be flexible with maker activities and be willing to adapt based on feedback.”

LAKEPORT, CALIFORNIA

LAKEPORT LIBRARY



Providing welcoming spaces and opportunities for patrons of all ages to share, learn, and create



Clubs for teens and adults are hosted on a rotating monthly basis, plus there's a dedicated outdoor space for young children.



Every weekend, adults gather in Lakeport's multi-use makerspace to learn, socialize, practice skills, and share what they've been making at home. The monthly rotation includes Creative Club, Fabric Club, Yarn Wizards, and Makerspace Open Lab. Teen maker activities are featured on a regular basis, too.



STAFF SUPERPOWER

Make something out of nothing through camaraderie, sharing, embracing community, and openness to learning something new.



The Kids' Patio offers a spot for exploration with water play, garden activities, and programs that relate to the science of air, water, earth, and light. A local artist painted a beautiful mural, and volunteers built the furnishings and painted the fence in rainbow colors.

RURAL LOCATION

Local population
4,986 (town) and
64,386 (county)

LANGUAGES OF PATRONS

English, Spanish

4 BRANCHES

in the Lake County
Library System

MAKERSPACE STAFFING

2 full-timers
(4 hours/month)
3 volunteers
(3 hours/month)

POPULAR ACTIVITIES

Paper crafts, fiber arts,
making with repurposed
materials, water play,
and garden explora-
tion are big draws.

FAVORITE TOOLS

The sewing machines,
Chromebooks, Cricut
vinyl cutter, water table,
planting bench, and solar
toys are in demand.

"Patience and persistence are essential! It took time for people to understand what we were building here, but then people helped and revealed such generosity, imagination, and enthusiasm."

ANAHEIM, CALIFORNIA



PONDEROSA JOINT-USE BRANCH

Building intergenerational engagement through STEAM



The Creativity Lab is an intergenerational community makerspace offering monthly themes for creative STEAM activities.



This small branch is a school library during the day and a public library after school and on weekends. The Creativity Lab provides a safe environment where families learn together. Their bilingual programs have included sewing, coding, 3D printing, and STEAM fairs, many offered in partnership with local organizations.



Bimonthly themes, like fiber arts, are very popular and offer self-directed opportunities for intergenerational making. One mother shared how happy she was that the library was offering sewing. She had learned to sew from her mother, and now this program is helping her share knowledge and bond with her daughters.

URBAN LOCATION

Local population 28,000 (town) near Los Angeles metropolitan area

LANGUAGES OF PATRONS

English, Spanish

8 BRANCHES

in Anaheim Public Library System

MAKERSPACE STAFFING

2 full-timers
(30% of time)

3 part-timers
(30% of time)

2–4 volunteers
(80% of time)

POPULAR ACTIVITIES

Sewing and textile programs are the most popular because adults feel comfortable participating.

FAVORITE TOOLS

Sewing machines, needlework materials, and the button maker are most popular.



STAFF SUPERPOWER

The team mindset is focused on the kids in the community; they cultivate partnerships that help provide quality programs.

“Involve your community in developing your makerspace. What library staff and administration think the community needs might not be what they actually want or need.”