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
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.

“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.”
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.

“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.”

Staff Superpower
Staff enthusiasm and teamwork complements and encourages each others’ strengths.
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.

“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.”
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.

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

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

“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!”

**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.
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.

“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!”

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

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.
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.

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

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.

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.

“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.”

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

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 exploration are big draws.

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

“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.”

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

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.