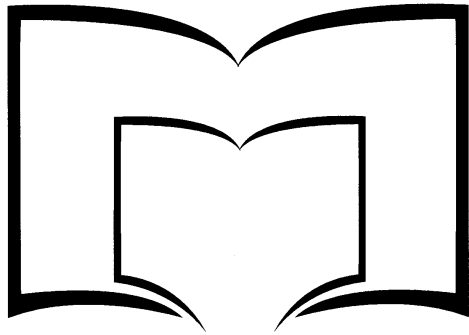


Makerspace Playbook Site Survey: Millvale Community Library
March 2015



**MILLVALE
COMMUNITY
LIBRARY**



CONTACT INFORMATION

Name: Brian Wolovich

Title: President

Personal social media: None. The library is my social media outlet via the Facebook and Twitter accounts below. This work is basically my personal life and I love it!

ORGANIZATION

Organization Name: Millvale Community Library

How would you describe your organization type (library, museum, school, community organization, etc.)? Library and community organization

Organization website: www.millvalelibrary.org

Organization social media links:

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/MillvaleLibrary>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/MillvaleLibrary>

Blog and/or site most related to programming, making:

One of our key goals for this summer's MCMs is to focus on ramping up online documentation efforts. Our online efforts are currently sporadic via Facebook and some information on our homepage. Neither of them yet reflects the best practices that we hope to instill this year.

Organization news/publicity links:

Maker Ed: <http://makered.org/open-portfolios-millvale-community-library/>

Case Study:

http://informalscience.org/images/research/Case_Study_Millvale_MC_2014_FINAL.pdf

Video:

<https://vimeo.com/99704315>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SMiNljjoT6o>

Print + Photo:

<http://www.sproutfund.org/2013/09/26/library-opening-a-first-in-millvales-145-year-old-history/>

<http://triblive.com/neighborhoods/yournorthhills/yournorthhillsmore/6499811-74/library-millvale-maker#axzz3WF0znVFh>

Solar Coverage:

<http://www.post-gazette.com/local/north/2015/03/13/Millvale-Library-generates-solar-power/stories/201503130068>

<http://triblive.com/neighborhoods/yournorthhills/yournorthhillsmore/8001080-74/library-energy-club#axzz3WF0znVFh>

Location (city, state): Millvale, Penn.

Is your organization rural, urban, or suburban? Urban environment in what is officially a first-ring suburb of the city of Pittsburgh.

Is your space and/or elements of your programming mobile? Elaborate, if necessary.

Our makerspace is flexible and mobile in that the same space is used for multiple programs, meetings, and gatherings due to a lack of size. As such, we have furniture that serves multiple functions, including a specialized table that opens up into a storage space for sewing materials with a working surface.

Target audience(s): Children of all ages. Our Mini-Makers program targets pre-school aged children. Our Maker Thursdays and We-Invent summer programs focus on children of all ages but primarily elementary and early middle school aged students. Our Junior Maker Corps is a Teen Board that helps plan activities, and we have also built partnership-driven apprenticeships for our teens in areas of welding and metalworking, woodworking/carpentry, and jewelry making.

Annual budget (indicate if public or not public): \$82,000 (\$15,000 of that from local government)

Percentage free and reduced lunch served (if known): Unknown, however the Millvale community has a high enough percentage to qualify for a regional summer feeding program for

kids. Our library has partnered with the Pittsburgh Food Bank and acts as a feeding site that provides free lunches for local kids on Tuesdays through Fridays throughout the summer.

Access: Is your organization open to public, age restricted (elaborate below), membership-based, free, and/or admission required? Are there specific groups that you serve?

Everything at the library is free to participants. Under the target audience section, focus on specific groups was provided. We welcome and serve everyone.

Tell us about your organization. What distinguishes you from others?

MCL was created as a DIT (Do It Together) project driven by community need, vision, and effort. From 2008–2013, over 1,000 volunteers from the community came together to create the MCL, the community of Millvale’s first public library, which opened in August of 2013. Utilizing a triple bottom-line resiliency approach to operations, we generate electricity via rooftop solar panels, have turned a gravel parking lot into a rain garden that captures rooftop storm water otherwise bound for the overtaxed sewer system, and community garden spaces for children and neighbors to learn and grow together. We finished off with three onsite rental apartments and an office space that work in concert to provide income for library program operations. This all takes place while we push our educational and activist efforts into the greater community with the result being a more engaged organization that efficiently uses resources in order to increase our ability to positively impact the community.

MAKING AND CORE VALUES

What is your mission statement? More than a library ~ an agent for positive change.

What does it mean to “make” in your space/ organization?

We embrace making opportunities as a creative process to empower our children to learn to express themselves, develop skills, design, and create that which has not existed before, all while utilizing materials that are available in their own lives and community. Many of our local men work in the construction or machinery-related fields, and making also helps families to connect and for children to gain understanding and pride around the ability to thoughtfully create with your hands.

How does the above relate (or not relate) to your core values?

Our core values are Education, Sustainability, Love of Community, and Character Commitment.

What forms of making (all creative endeavors) occur?

For adults:

- *Writer’s Group for adults every Thursday evening
- *Millvale Artists and Storytellers Hub (MASH) occurs on a monthly basis
- *Community garden beds and fruit trees for growing food

For kids and families during the school year:

*Maker Thursdays (12 p.m. to 6 p.m. every Thursday) provides a wide variety of making opportunities, projects, and fun. From 12 to 3 p.m., the Mini Makers program targets families and

their preschool-aged children. From 3 p.m. to 6 p.m., the elementary and middle-school-aged kids begin to arrive after school and the action heats up!

For kids and families during the summer:

We-Invent @ Millvale Library: Tuesday–Friday, library hours. Join Miss Nora and her friends every Tuesday through Friday for making fun! Explore fiber, gardening, electronics, carpentry, art, and much more! Free, all ages welcome.

Stories & Crafts @ Millvale Library: Tuesday, 1-2pm. Join us and our friends from Shaler North Hills Library as we tell stories, dance, sing, and do crafts! Although all ages are welcome, this program is perfect for primary and elementary-aged children. Fiber, gardening, electronics, carpentry, art, and much more! Free, all ages welcome.

For teens:

Leadership opportunities with the Teen Board and the Junior Maker Corps! Mini-apprenticeships with Society for Contemporary Craft, Open Floor Makerspace, and The Mobile Sculpture Workshop.

Are you influenced by any particular pedagogies (approaches to learning)?

*Project Zero—specifically the Agency by Design and The Good Work Projects. (We work in partnership with Project Zero Pittsburgh, which is being formed out of Quaker Valley School District where I (Brian) teach at.)

*Generally, approaches that promote scaffolded learning experiences and also the power of collaboration in and amongst Pittsburgh maker related organizations.

What are some good examples of especially powerful/ ambitious/ successful making experiences?

*Mini-apprenticeship program with Society for Contemporary Craft

<https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.10153002667769517.1073741831.195074989516&type=1>

*The Mobile Sculpture Workshop: <http://www.mobilesculpture.org/>

GOALS

What are the goals of the programming and experiences provided?

Empowerment, expression, and building both interest and skills for our youth. Building and growing our network of practitioners for our organization.

How do your environment, tools, and materials reflect these goals?

We generally focus on providing a variety of analog and garden-related making activities that reflect the values, interests, and experiences of our community and families. Projects are as youth-centered as possible, and they decide how they want to interact and create—with adult support as wanted/needed. Every effort is made, when it makes sense, to blend the analog with the digital worlds. We are committed to growing the digital skills and interests of our youth and are exploring those options. We regularly collaborate with regional partners when it makes sense.

How do you know when you've met your goals? What are your metrics of success?

Participation in two research studies about our program and documentation practices has helped tremendously with us understanding what is working and where we can grow. This reflective and comparative learning process has been an unexpected benefit of the Maker Ed Initiative partnership, and a very welcomed one at that!

What are your plans and hopes for the future of your space and programming?

Our three current focus areas are:

- (1) Establish best practices in documentation
- (2) Support growth of making experiences in other learning and engagement spaces in Millvale and throughout the entire Pittsburgh region through providing a STEAM camp at Shaler Area School District and by providing professional development opportunities for practitioners around utilizing Project Zero Thinking Routines with maker activities
- (3) Complete construction and setup of the Clubhouse, a permanent programming space for our youth and maker programs
- (4) Solidify funding to continue maker program development

TOOLS

What are your most frequently used and commonly available tools? Circuit blocks.

List any special tools that require supervision, training, and/or certification.

We are about to set up a 3D printer that will require supervision, training, and certification. Additionally, any of our power tools (drills, screw guns, hot glue guns, sewing machines) all require supervision and oversight for safety purposes. Otherwise, kids can have at it.

What are the favorite tools?

Circuit blocks, hot glue guns, drill, and iPad for making music and/or videos. We would love to expand our Little Bits offerings.

Are there any tools that go largely unused, or that are no longer provided? Reasons?

We tried to host a Digital Corps program getting our kids involved with programming and strictly online digital making. It did not go over as well as we had hoped for a variety of reasons with much of that related to youth interest, as well as us being a new organization and unable to properly implement the program.

MATERIALS

What are some of your most interesting/ unexpected materials?

Romibo the Robot! We have an early version of Romibo where kids are learning to program and interact with Romibo. (Partnership with Carnegie Mellon University's Quality of Life program: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=njQ6BCVf4YI>)

What are the most popular, frequently used, continually reused materials? Most consumed?

Cardboard, hot glue gun cartridges, popsicle sticks, paper, iPad, and circuit blocks.

Share any specific or general sources for materials.

Donations through online posting and flyers. Estate sales for our tool-lending library.

COLLABORATION

Describe any local, national, and global partnerships and collaborations.

Locally, we regularly collaborate with the Children's Museum of Pittsburgh, DECO Resources, Assemble, the Society for Contemporary Craft, and Project Zero Pittsburgh at Quaker Valley School District. This summer, we are adding specific Maker partnerships with the Allentown Learning and Engagement Center, and Shaler Area School District.

Nationally, Maker Education Initiative, Project Zero's Agency by Design, and [Educator Innovator](#). Also, looking forward to connecting with a group of practitioners focusing on Making in Libraries at the American Library Association conference in San Francisco this year.

SPACES AND ENVIRONMENT

In what physical places does making happen in your organization? A single dedicated space, multiple dedicated spaces, general use areas, a workshop (metal, wood, sewing, etc), outdoors, a theater, a music studio, an art studio? Everywhere? Somewhere else?

Inside the library in the community room (shared space for programs, meetings, etc.), in the children's library space (shared space with computers, sewing machine/table combo, books, etc.), or outside on our back deck or in the garden. This summer we will open the Clubhouse, which will provide more permanent youth programming space for making and other activities.

How are the spaces, tools, and materials organized?

Tools are designed for flexible movement and use. All tools, materials, and some furniture are designed to also provide flexible use for easy set up/tear down/moving off site or outside during special community events.

How large is the space(s) where making happens?

*Current indoor flex space: 300 square feet (indoor)

*Junior Gardeners Program: 1,000 square feet (outdoor in the garden including 100 square feet of gardening space)

*Future Clubhouse dedicated youth programming space to open in May: 600 square feet

Please describe how your site and maker space(s) are staffed, including numbers of full and part-time staff and volunteers.

- (1) Maker Thursdays (12 p.m.–6 p.m.) is operated by one staff member to design, set up, and facilitate making activities.
- (2) Other days our librarian may set up activities that are not facilitated and for which supervision is not required.

(3) Summer programming is 4 days/week (28 hours per week) thanks to the Maker Corps Member support.

First impressions of space(s):

Ideally, when participants first enter look around, they see a loving work in progress. They hear people involved in a variety of activities. They feel welcome and inspired. They experience community. They leave with a smile or a story to share.

Describe your approaches and priorities in creating environments for making/learning.

- (1) Welcoming and comforting
- (2) Flexibility (given the multi-use nature of our space)
- (3) Warm and invigorating color schemes
- (4) Layout fosters group dynamics and interactions.

PROGRAMMING

Describe the kinds of programming offered.

We provide accessible community resources for patrons to become more engaged, happier, and healthier. Our broad programmatic focus is on youth programming (#1), sustainability programming (around the [Millvale Ecodistrict initiative](#) and social services collaborative efforts (GED programs, financial literacy programs, ongoing job seeking assistance, etc.).

Programs: <http://www.millvalelibrary.org/programs-and-events>

Calendar: <http://www.millvalelibrary.org/our-calendar>

Creative/making programming (as mentioned above):

For adults:

- *Writer's Group for adults every Thursday evening
- *Millvale Artists and Storytellers Hub (MASH) occurs on a monthly basis
- *Community garden beds and fruit trees for growing food

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For teens:

Leadership opportunities with the Teen Board and the Junior Maker Corps! Mini-apprenticeships with Society for Contemporary Craft, Open Floor Makerspace, and The Mobile Sculpture Workshop.

How did your space and programming get started?

As mentioned above, the space was started as a result of physical volunteer efforts from 2008 through 2013. When the MCL was about to open, we connected with Lisa Brahms from the Pittsburgh Children's Museum. They were implementing a project called the Mobile Make Shop, to take their well-known makerspace (Makeshop) on the road and seed other programs. They were looking for a library partner, and we were looking for programming opportunities. It was a match made in Pittsburgh.

How do you decide on/design/ make possible the space and components of the program?

The space needed to provide three items: over 2,000 square feet for our library, a garden/green space or potential for that, and the ability to generate solar power and onsite rental through apartments and/or offices. Plus, we had very little money, so we were able to purchase the space for \$59,000 and got to work.

The programmatic components were developed under the watchful and thoughtful guidance of Pittsburgh Children's Museum in the 2013–2014 school year. Since then we have partnered with Maker Education Initiative and our other listed partners to continue honing, building, and learning about how to best grow our efforts.

How has your environment and programming evolved? What has worked well and why? What has changed? What could still be improved?

We grew from being overseen by the Children's Museum to operating our own program in our own way. We also found that the summer time push made available through the Maker Corps Member program is invaluable and wonderfully received by Millvale community members. We have moved beyond just making and started to focus on facilitation techniques. We are listening to and observing people's interests to drive our decisions. We are moving towards learning and implementing best practices in documentation, blogging, sharing information.

EQUITY AND ACCESSIBILITY

Are there segments of the population that you hope to serve better?

Yes. Teens. And continuing to remove barriers for/create incentives for kids to participate in the challenging homes and environments of the greater Millvale community.

What strategies do you employ to help increase the accessibility of your space/program to all learners?

Location in walkable, bikeable, busable Millvale. Providing free lunch during the summer and snacks during the school year to help kids overcome hunger issues, build community by breaking bread together, and get them aware of everything that our library has to offer.

What has worked well? What has been the greatest challenge?

Biggest challenge: time! Never enough of it!

Well, collaborations and partnerships have grown tremendously and have helped to put making firmly at the center of our mission and work here at the library.