

The New Face of Library Makerspaces

Are you a leader in maker learning within libraries who wants to shape the field?

Join us to help build a national Collective of library professionals who support one another to develop and deliver community-centered maker programs.

Project Goals

Our goals for this 2-year project are:

1. To form a diverse Collective of libraries and library professionals who support one another and share resources, and together build new knowledge in service of community-centric maker programs.
2. Identify tools, resources, and strategies from library makerspace adaptations during the COVID-19 pandemic and update the [Makers in the Library](#) Toolkit to reflect the new face of library makerspaces.
3. Share best practices and professional development opportunities so other libraries can begin the process of developing a community-centered makerspace with the added support of the Collective and reach new, diverse audiences.

The Collective will primarily serve libraries that may have been overlooked by the maker community, including small, rural, and those serving high needs communities. This project's overarching goal is to give voice to libraries that may not feel they have the resources to undertake the building of a maker program and to encourage, support, and elevate the work of library staff that may feel excluded from the larger Maker Movement.

Who are we?

We are a group of makers and library lovers passionate about the power that libraries can have with and for the people in their community. You can read more about some of our team [here](#) on the [Makers in the Library](#) website, which includes a [short video](#) describing the initiative that is the foundation for our current project. With additional partners, The Califa Group and Nation of Makers, and with funding from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS), [The New Face of Library Makerspaces](#) is applying learnings from the first project to form a national Collective. The goal is to both bolster the connection between libraries with maker programming that have successfully navigated the pandemic, and also mentor and encourage other libraries that have put their makerspaces on hold or are struggling to get their maker programming off the ground

Will you join us?

We are looking for 6-7 libraries to serve as Charter Members to help lay the foundation for the Collective, and take a leadership role in the project. The libraries chosen will have their profile raised in the field and be featured on both the [Makers in the Library](#) and [Nation of Makers](#) websites. They will also be at the forefront of leading the direction the field takes on library makerspaces and help decide the priorities for this Collective, the questions we address, and the ways we learn and grow together. Charter Members must commit to staying engaged with the Collective project through at least the lifetime of the grant (Aug. 31, 2023). Because the level of commitment is greater for Charter Members, there is a \$6,000 - 7,000 stipend awarded for participation over the two year period (Note: the exact amount will depend on the final number of Charter Members chosen). A Charter Member must identify at least 2 individuals (one primary and one secondary contact) at their institution who will work in collaboration with other Charter Members and commit to:

- Create systems and processes for how the Collective will be run such as: shaping the mission/vision, fostering communication channels, building systems to grow the membership, etc.
- Alert Collective leaders to important issues that arise in the field and help to lead activities (e.g., a survey of the field) to learn how libraries have modified services during the pandemic.

- Serve as a mentor for other libraries to help build their capacity to create community-centered maker programming.

Charter Members will also act as a spokesperson for the Collective by participating in activities such as:

- Recruiting and promoting the work of future leaders of the Collective.
- Building relationships that encourage others to join the Collective.
- Being an active member of either the Slack channel or FaceBook group or both.
- Sharing knowledge on a webinar, conference, workshop, blog, or other Collective platform at least 2-3 times per year.

To facilitate this, Charter Members will be expected to meet twice per month with other members of the group and commit to have at least 1 library administrator participate in a Charter Member meeting twice per year. To help ensure that the Collective is meeting its goals and objectives and effectively supporting its membership, Charter Members will also be expected to be full and active participants in the evaluation for this project with our external evaluator, [Rockman et al.](#) Evaluation activities may include reviewing evaluation instruments, participating in interviews, and completing surveys.

Criteria

To be selected as a Charter Member, your library must have offered some type of maker programming for approximately 3 years, both prior to and during the COVID-19 pandemic. We are looking for 6-7 libraries that represent a broad geographic distribution across the U.S., serve diverse populations, are committed to JEDI (Justice, Equity, Diversity, Inclusion) principles within their staff culture, and that vary in the type (see makerspace definition in FAQ section for more information) of maker programming they offer. We will use local and state data related to poverty, unemployment, and broadband availability to determine communities with greater need. We are open to libraries of all types including, but not limited to: school, public, academic, military, tribal, and tool-lending.

These 6-7 libraries will be leaders in the field and must demonstrate their ability to connect not only within their local communities but also with national professional groups and organizations. In making our selections for Charter Members we will also be looking at the library's degree of social media and online presence as well as participation in conferences and other events.

Want to know more?

Project staff will be running two live informational sessions to tell you more about the project and answer any questions you may have. Please join us on either:

Oct 27 @ 9 am PST - Join via [Zoom link](#).

Nov 5 @ 9 am PST - Join via [Zoom link](#).

Information Sessions via Zoom

Please join us on either date:

Wednesday, October 27 @ 9 am PST

Friday, November 5 @ 9 am PST

Timeline

- Applications Due by Nov. 15, 2021
- Interviews with finalists will take place the weeks of Nov. 29 - Dec. 10, 2021
- Announcements will be made no later than Dec. 20, 2021

Helpful Links

Link to Website:

[Makersinthelibrary.org](https://makersinthelibrary.org)

Link to Application Form:

<https://forms.gle/tK5o5kfurujcHqZ3A>

Want to read more?

Blog article: [The New Face of Library Makerspaces Awarded IMLS Grant](#)

Blog article: [Meet the New Face of Library Makerspaces Advisory Group](#)

Contact us with Questions:

info@makersinthelibrary.org

Frequently Asked Questions

What do you mean by the term *makerspace*?

The term makerspace itself can be misleading. Library makerspaces vary greatly depending on their staff, facility space, and capacity. We embrace all types of makerspaces and maker programming. Across the 10 sites in the *Makers in the Library* project, a formal evaluation of the project found five types of makerspaces emerge (Burg, 2020):

- **Multi-use space:** A room or area of the library is quickly converted to serve as a temporary space for maker programming. Tools and materials are stored in closets or on mobile carts that can be rolled in when needed and then tucked away.
- **Dedicated space:** A room or area in the library is either specifically designed for or converted into (e.g., underutilized computer room) a permanent space for maker activities, tools, and materials.
- **Community events:** Maker programming is brought into the community through an existing event or location (e.g., farmer's market or community center) or by hosting an event dedicated to making (e.g., Mini Maker Faire). Events are often hosted in collaboration with local makers and/or community organizations.
- **Maker box program:** Tools and materials for maker activities (usually including activity guide and facilitation suggestions) are housed inside an easy-to-transport box or bin that circulates among branch libraries.
- **Virtual program:** Demonstrations, tutorials, or live interactives are used to engage with patrons online, whether asynchronously (on-demand through archived videos or subscription services) or synchronously (live demonstration or activity through social media or video conferencing).

What is a Collective?

We define a Collective as a decentralized group of professionals with similar interests who work together to achieve a common objective. We are looking for libraries and library staff to engage with us at various levels as we form the Collective, grow our membership, share resources and support one another in a variety of ways. The Charter Members are the first group we are selecting because they will be helping us to develop the structure for this Collective and define how we move forward together. A Collective might engage their members in a number of different ways through member-created blog posts, webinars on topics of shared interest, newsletters featuring stories and upcoming events, hosting in-person or virtual meet-ups, engaging in conversations on Slack, etc.

Why do we need 2 contacts per library?

While we fully expect 1 person to take the lead, be the primary contact, and participant in Charter Member meetings, we also know that “things happen.” From our experience, it is always best to have 2 people on board from an institution who are aware of what is going on and can support each other in offline discussions. The secondary contact can be another staff member at your institution or even a library administrator. They need to be willing and able to fill in for the primary contact when necessary and maintain continuity through any times of transition.

How can I get involved right away?

If you would like to engage with our group right away or feel that being a Charter Member isn't right for you and your library, we still welcome you to our community! We will be working with the Charter Members in forming the Collective in the upcoming months, but in the meantime, there are a few ways to stay engaged with us:

1. Sign up for [Makers in the Library newsletter](#)
2. Join the [Makers in the Library Facebook group](#)
3. Request to join the [Nation of Makers Library Working Group Slack channel](#)

Application Questions

***NOTE:** The questions below are provided as a helpful resource to review before you complete the online application. We have set up the form to allow you to log back in and make changes if needed, so an email address is required to start the application.*

When you are ready, complete the application online at <https://forms.gle/tK5o5kfurujcHqZ3A>

Contact Information

Primary Contact

- Name
- Title
- Email address
- Phone number
- How would the time spent participating in this Collective fit into your current role at the library?
- What other Community of Practice or Maker Groups do you engage with? What conferences have you presented at? What professional organizations are you a member of?

Secondary Contact

- Name
- Title
- Email address
- Phone number
- Optional: How would any time spent participating in this Collective fit into your current role at the library?
- Optional: What other Community of Practice or Maker Groups do you engage with? What conferences have you presented at? What professional organizations are you a member of?

Library Director/Administrator Contact (If different from above)

- Name
- Title
- Email address
- Phone number

General Library Information

Since this application is open to libraries of all types (e.g., school, public, academic, military, tribal, tool-lending), the following list of questions may not all be relevant. Please answer the questions to the best of your ability and tell us more in the open-ended response sections.

- Library name
- Library address
- Provide link to the library's website
- Please list links to the library's social media channels

Library type

- public branch
- public, tribal
- public system,
- academic, college/university,
- academic, tribal
- school, individual
- school tribal
- school district
- military
- tool-lending
- Other

How would you describe your library's service area?

- Rural
- Urban
- Suburban
- Other

Approximately how many patrons/users/students do you serve annually?

Describe the population your library serves. (Add any demographic information if available.)

Your Library's Maker Programming

- Describe your library's maker programming and how it may have shifted during the pandemic. Feel free to add links to examples, media mentions, or other documents if you have them.
- Please describe or link to any evaluation data (focus groups, surveys, graphs, charts, etc.) that show the impact of your maker programming in your community.
- How is your library makerspace engaged with external organizations (other libraries, community organizations, etc.)?
- Describe the ways your library is committed to inclusionary practices in hiring staffing, designing programs, facilitating experiences, etc.

Why your library would make an ideal Charter Member for the Collective

- How could a Collective focused on maker programming address your library's needs, or the needs of other libraries?
- How do you see yourself/your library contributing to the Collective? What are some areas of personal/professional expertise that you could provide (could be of value) to the Collective?
- What excites you about becoming a Charter Member of the Collective?
- What concerns do you have about becoming a Charter Member of the Collective?
- Please provide a video clip (no more than 2 minutes) to describe why your library would be an excellent Charter Member to help establish, cultivate and grow this Makers in the Library Collective over the next two years. A cell phone video is fine for this purpose (i.e., no editing necessary!)
- Please attach a letter of support from your Library Director/Administrator.
- Let us know how you heard about this opportunity

Link to Application Form: <https://forms.gle/tK5o5kfurujcHqZ3A>.

This Project is Made Possible by:



The Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS)

The Institute of Museum and Library Services is the primary source of federal support for the nation's libraries and museums. IMLS seeks to advance, support, and empower America's museums, libraries, and related organizations through grantmaking, research, and policy development. They envision a nation where museums and libraries work together to transform the lives of individuals and communities. To learn more, visit www.imls.gov.



The Califa Group

The Califa Group is a nonprofit library membership consortium of more than 230 libraries and is the largest library network in California. With years of experience and a network of professional contacts, Califa has demonstrated capacity and experience in grant program design, delivery, and management. To learn more, visit CALIFA.org.

Project Partners:



Regallium Consulting, LLC

Regallium Consulting, LLC provides consulting services to develop equitable and creative STEM opportunities for all. Rooted in a strong scientific background combined with years of experience in various informal educational settings, Regallium Consulting's specialties include: project management, bridging research and practice, and creative curriculum development, space design and facilitation practices. To learn more, contact Lisa Regalla: lisa@regalliumconsulting.com.



P. Van Halsema Consulting

Pamela Van Halsema, MLIS is an Independent consultant providing grant project management and program support for nonprofits, schools and libraries, specializing in strategic communications, creative programming, community engagement and community organizing for education, disaster recovery, social emotional health and resilience building, social justice and environmental causes.



NATION
OF
MAKERS

Nation of Makers

Nation of Makers is a national nonprofit supporting America's maker organizations through community building, resource sharing, and advocacy, within the maker movement and beyond. The vision of Nation of Makers is to build a society where everyone has access to the tools, technologies, experiences and knowledge to make anything, and to create a thriving, connected, and inclusive community of practice where collaboration fosters a culture of abundance. For more information visit the Nation of Makers website.

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Over the last 25 years, Rockman et al has conducted hundreds of studies for school districts, museums, nonprofit organizations, state and federal government agencies, universities, and a variety of commercial clients. As independent researchers, we often serve as external evaluators for grant-funded projects and foundations, and have worked on initiatives funded by the National Science Foundation, the National Endowment for the Arts, the US Department of Education, and the Smithsonian Institution. We've conducted formative and summative studies focused on informal learning—in museums, after-school clubs, and other informal settings—and in formal learning settings that span early childhood through secondary and post-secondary schooling and adult education. For more information see www.rockman.com.