Civic Engagement and Connected Learning

Presenting: Rotem Landesman

connected Lib

COLLEGE OF INFORMATION STUDIES
UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND

INSTITUTE of Museum and Library SERVICES

Information School
UNIVERSITY of WASHINGTON

Today We'll:

1. **Define** Civic Engagement

2. Unite **Civic Engagement & Connected Learning**

3. Envision Civic Engagement in **Libraries**

4. Explore the The **Civic Engagement Module**

What's an initiative in your community that aims to improve people's quality of life?

Go to www.menti.com and enter the code:

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Got it?
Wonderful!

Now with that in mind…

Civic Engagement Led By Youth (video)

Try to identify one thing from the video that is similar to the initiative you listed on the mentimeter

Defining Civic Engagement

Civic Engagement: An Answer to Perceived Youth Apathy

Participatory Culture →

A whole new (& equitable) Participatory Politics arena

Civic engagement is "deliberate, consistent, and purposeful outreach that creates an environment in which people of all ages and from all backgrounds believe they have a voice and role in decisions and actions that affect their lives" (ULC Report, 2012).

Civic Engagement is:

Political & Non-Political

Builds on Community Service

Consistent

Quality of Life

Empowering Agency

Deliberate

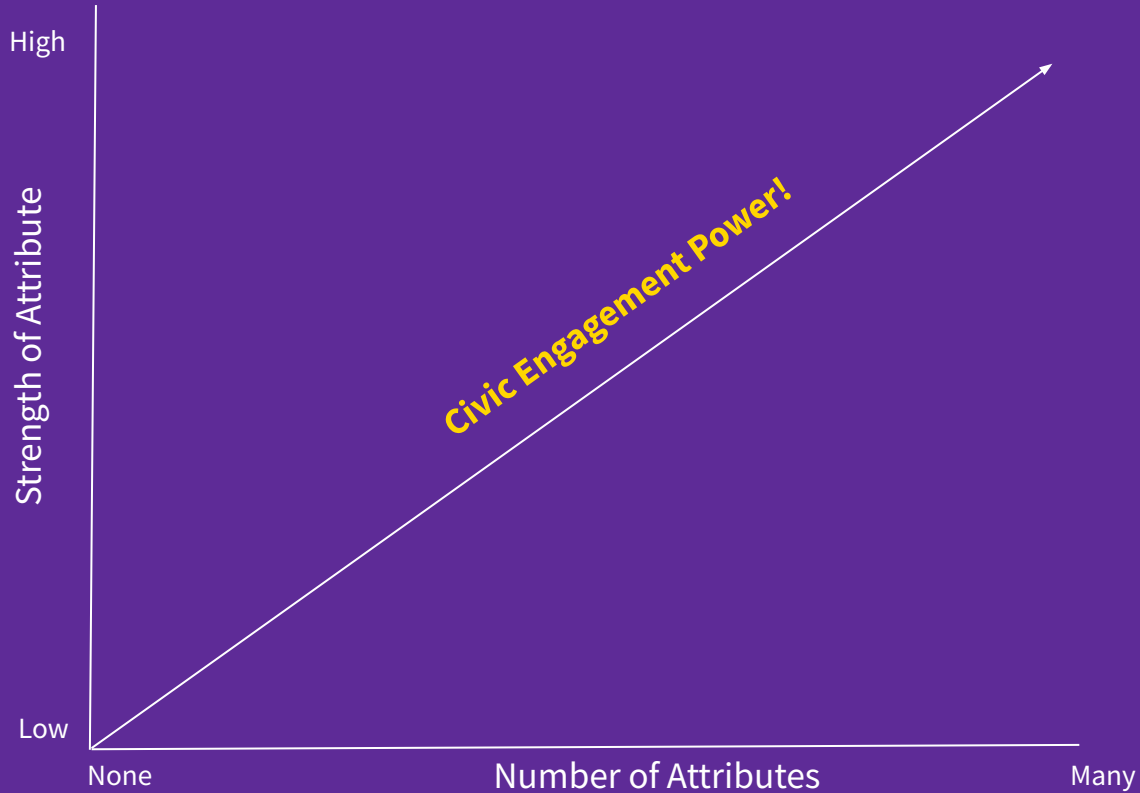Equitable

| Define | Unite | Envision | Explore |

What attributes of Civic Engagement does the initiative you thought of have?
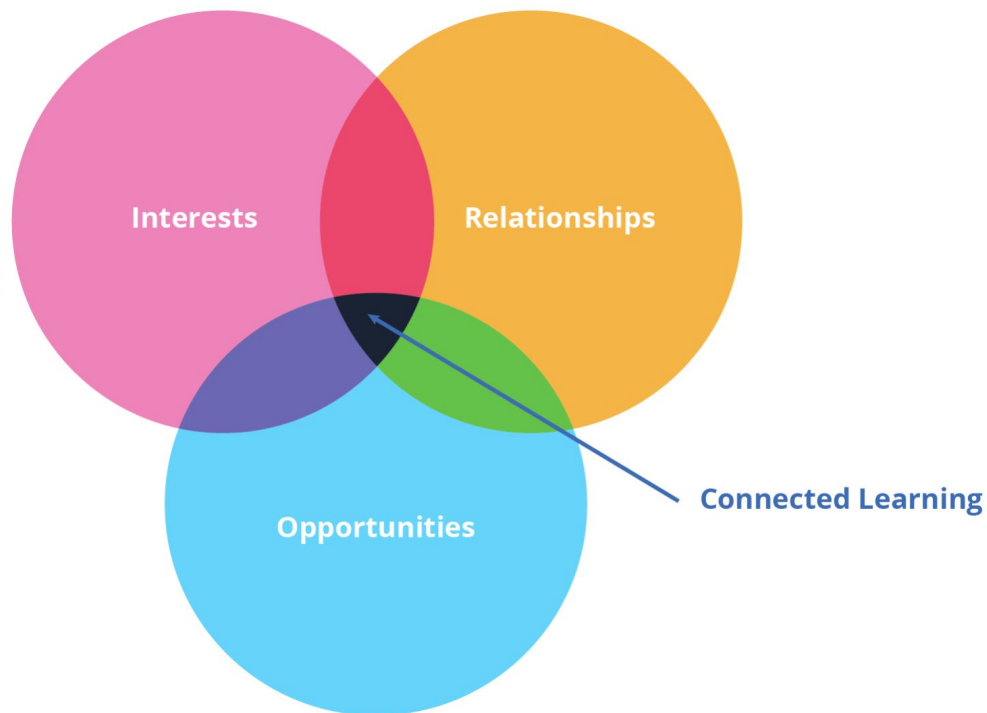
Go to www.menti.com

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Civic Engagement & Connected Learning

Civic Engagement and Connected Learning

Interests

Relationships

Opportunities
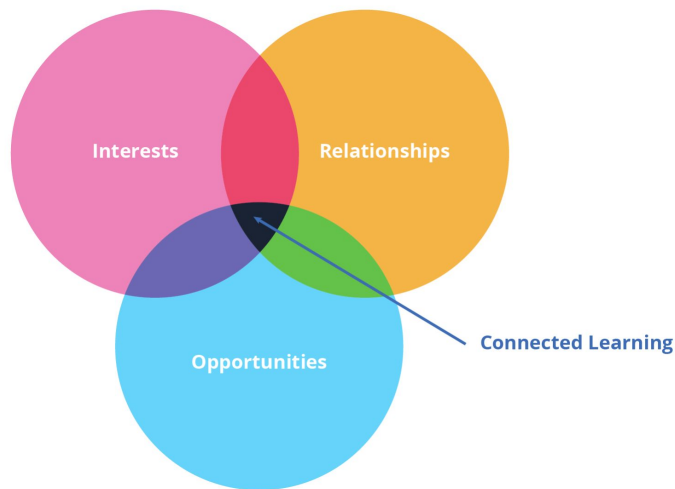
Connected Learning

| Define | Unite | Envision | Explore |

Civic Engagement and Connected Learning

- ❏ Centering Youth Agency
- ❏ Build on Community Service
- ❏ Encourages Individual Agency
- ❏ Deliberate Action
- ❏ Consistent
- ❏ Equitable
- ❏ Quality of life

| Define | Unite | Envision | Explore |

Connected Civics

"A form of learning that mobilizes young people's deeply felt interests and identities in the service of achieving the kind of civic voice and influence that is characteristic of participatory politics"

Figure 1: Connected Civics Diagram.

Ito, M., Soep, E., Kligler-Vilenchik, N., Shresthova, S., Gamber-Thompson, L., & Zimmerman, A. (2015). Learning connected civics: Narratives, practices, infrastructures. *Curriculum Inquiry*, *45*(1), 10-29.
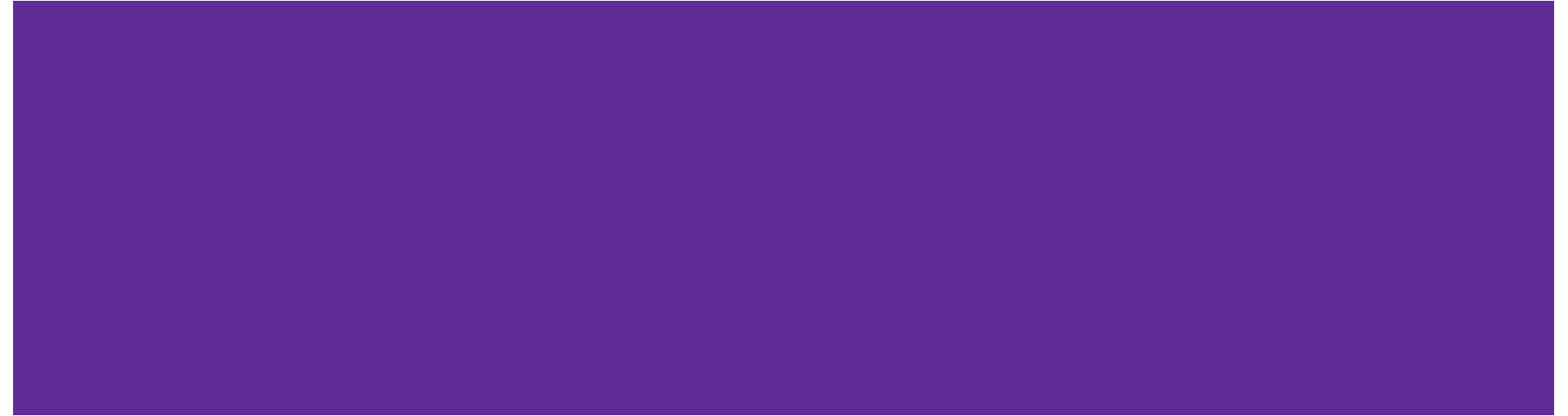
| Define | Unite | Envision | Explore |

Civic Engagement at the Library

Libraries Have Opportunities to Foster Youth Participation in Civic Engagement Initiatives

Centers of trust and connection
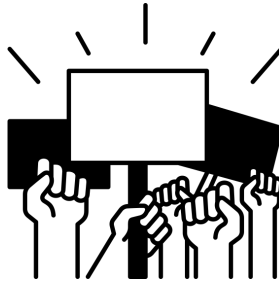
Engage youth in local social issues

Access point to high-speed, network-enabled activities

Define   Unite   Envision   Explore

Library Roles

Source: ULC

1. Civic Educator

2. Conversation Starter

3. Community Bridge

4. Visionary

5. Center for Democracy in Action

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Example: Dallas Public Library

✓ Civic Educator

✓ Conversation Starter

✓ Community Bridge

✓ Visionary

❏ Center for Democracy in Action

Rio Grande Library: Norma

- Teen interest survey

- Art Walks

- Becoming the Hub of the Community

WHAT PROGRAMS AND/OR EVENTS DO YOU PARTICIPATE IN? SELECT ALL THAT APPLY. N=41

- Mango Languages 3
- Audio & Visual Club 4
- Health programs 5
- AgriLife gardening 5
- Universal Class 6
- Story Time / Toddler Time 6
- Arts & craft classes 12

Sophia Cepeda
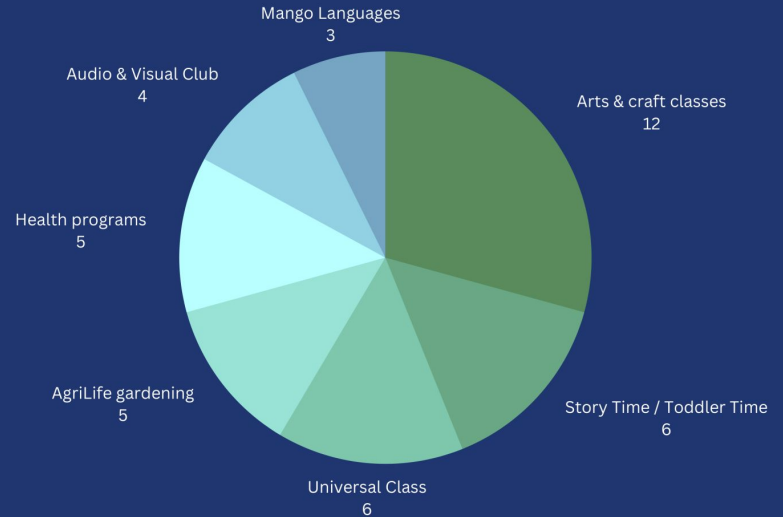
Keepin' It Rio

ARTWALK

January 12th, 2017 • 5:00 pm

Photography Contest: Pets
For more information, call (956) 487-4389

Kelsey Bass Museum & Event Center
101 S Washington Street • Rio Grande City
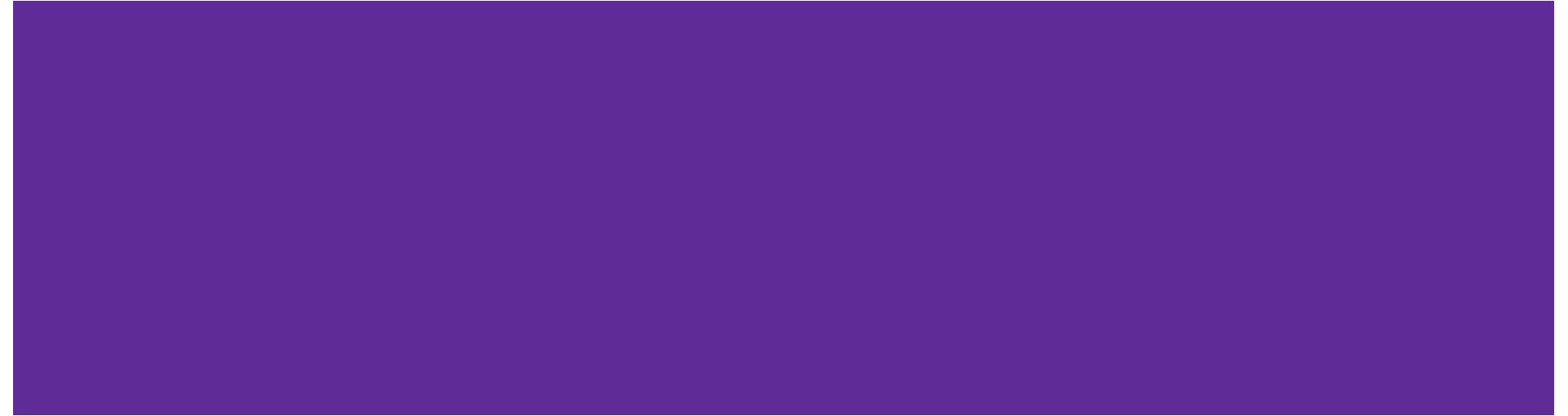
RIO GRANDE CITY PUBLIC LIBRARY | Main Street RIO GRANDE CITY | RIO GRANDE CITY EDC

Civic Engagement Module

Civic Engagement Module

Provide tools for library staff to Identify the **assets** and **opportunities** within their communities to create impactful civic engagement services based on teen **interests, relationships, and opportunities**

The Roles of the Library

What roles can libraries take to foster youth civic engagement? The Urban Library Council described 5 meaningful ways for libraries to become centers (both physically and metaphorically) of civic engagement:

Become a Civic Educator

Raise awareness of civics, civic engagement, and civic responsibility.

Become a Conversation Starter

Identify challenging community issues, creating forums for sharing opinions, and developing action strategies.

Become a Community Bridge

Bring diverse people, including local government officials, and organizations with different perspectives together to build stronger communities.

Become a Visionary

Lead efforts to develop a broad and inclusive community vision.

Quick Exercise

These are some of the roles a library can play in a civic engagement program:

1. Become a Civic Educator: raising awareness of civics, civic engagement, and civic responsibility
2. Become a Conversation Starter: identifying challenging community issues, creating forums for sharing opinions, and developing action strategies
3. Become a Community Bridge: bringing diverse people, including local government officials, and organizations with different perspectives together to build stronger communities
4. Become Visionary: leading efforts to develop a broad and inclusive community vision
5. Become a Center for Democracy in Action: walking, talking, thinking, and acting as the place where democracy, civic engagement, and public discourse happen

Now think about your library (or the library in your community). Generally speaking, which roles do you think your library is well positioned to play? What is it about your library or community that makes you highlight these roles?

Thank You!

Feel free to say hi!

roteml@uw.edu

Resources to Learn More

- ConnectedLib Toolkit
- [Digital Civics Toolkit](#)
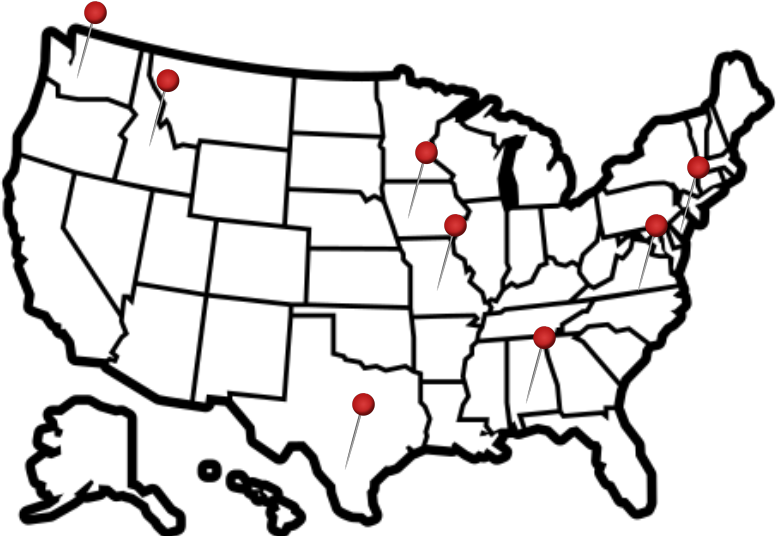
Questions For You

Given the divisions in our country, how do we think about civic engagement?

What opportunities can you see in your community to engage youth in civic engagement?

What can we do to support youth in civic engagement in these divided times?

Participatory Design With Library Staff

Monthly **online community of practice (CoP) meetings**

Why   How   What

Downtown cleanup organized by Warrensburg Main Street

Youth Writing Contest: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=moAbw14MrfE

Spirit Trail public art project for new walking path

Pride - education + proceeds benefitting Trevor Project

Safety promotion - JoCo Emergency Management Agency offered free community emergency response team training to teach citizens to manage crisis in their community, including fire safety, search and

Homeless/Poverty - Fuller Center for Housing hosts repair assistance info sessions for neighbors to learn to help low income homeowners

Old Drum Day - provides low cost microchipping and awareness of animal issues + carnival/vendors with proceeds going toward shelter

(we will use this section during the live session)

What makes this "civic engagement" ?

emergency services is an example of building skills in community members

Community improvement projects and resources

pride fest-great example for civic engagement!

Where do you see connected learning in this example?

Hands on learning for emergencies

shared purpose - community members organized for emergencies

learning skills through volunteering

writing contest demonstrates sponsorship/validation of youth interests

Drug Take Back Program

Local Food Pantry

Story Time at the Local Farmer's Market

RSVP & Life Serve Blood

Income Based Assistance

Youth & Adult Programs / Income Assistance

Kids With Cancer Lemonade Stand Fundraiser provided a Donation of $528

Animal Rescue

Downtown Renovation

Kossuth County Emergency Management

Empowerment

PROJECT HOPE WEEK
JUNE 21 - JULY 2

Kossuth-Palo Alta County Economic Development Corp.

Information for Every Emergency

Police Canine

Economic Development

School Service Projects

Party in the Park / Building Community

Daycamps

(we will use this section during the live session)
What makes this "civic engagement" ?

lots of examples of making the community quality of life better!

promoting literacy and education in the community

Where do you see connected learning in this example?

looks like several examples of cross-generational collaborations/activities

offering service projects to teens

lots of interest-driven events

kids running a lemonade stand - hands-on learning job skills/business

murals - exhibiting creativity to the community

Library Staff Engagement with the Module

The module is divided into four sections:

1. **Define** civic engagement and its core attributes
2. Identify the library's **roles and assets** for building powerful civic engagement services
3. Provide tools that draw on **connected learning principles** to support civic engagement
4. Outline **tools, techniques and topics** for sparking civic interest and civic engagement in libraries

Not Quite Community Service

Goal: Promoting a healthier community lifestyle

Healthy Living Workshop

✓   Filling a Need

Community Centered Gardens (& Adjunct Programing)

✓   Eliminating a Need