

Co-designing for Trust



Teen Volunteers



Mentoring Teen Internships

Near peer mentoring is powerful mentoring

Teens build confidence through these library projects, and be able to transfer this confidence to other contexts in life.

Libraries was the place where teens could find mentors with similar interests

Mentoring includes being able to HOMAGO

Mentoring also builds capacity for the library. Teens mentor each other and do programs and services on their own, which allows the staff to do other things.

Connecting Through Conversations

Physical environment can determine the dialog that we may have

It is impossible not to bring personal stuff to work - impacts us and impacts everyone daily.

Authenticity leads to building stronger relationships

Get out of your comfort zone, but be mindful of what is comfortable

Civic Engagement

Participants provided great range of examples of improving quality of life in community!

Defining and breaking down civic engagement -- quality of life, political and non-political, equitable, deliberate, builds on community service, empowering agency

Civic engagement + connected learning...strong alignment and opportunities to connect youth agency with community betterment

Library roles - civic educator, conversation starter, community bridge, visionary, center for democracy in action

Norma's art walk example in the rio grande library, texas

Equity Roundtable

How do you deal with the issue of poverty in a community in an equitable way, when some people can't pay fines?

When a community is made of severely starkly different populations - there may be a cultural barrier to make the community equitable

The difference between equality and equity: equity - everyone gets what they need. Equality - everyone gets the same thing

Instead of teens inserting themselves into volunteer opportunities, they can maybe create opportunities for themselves and their peers about something they care a

Moving equity forward: community partnerships, youth voices, brave conversations

Holding equity back: funding, rurality, entrenched negative opinions, feeling of hopelessness

The library can act as a bridge to push equity into the community

Brave conversations may interact the people entrenched in their opinions; but some people won't listen

Elements of rural that can be strength to equity: the conversations. How strong 4H is. There's less people to interact with, so there's an opportunity to form stronger relationship

Rural libraries have multiple hats, relationships and networks - and have a great level of resourcefulness

Partners that you trust and work well together is crucial

An idea: "make and mingle" program, where people can meet each other from the community (and cross a lot of barriers - language, distance, etc.)

Youth board is a great resource to voice their concerns for their peers as well as be a connector inside the library

Creating ourselves in the Metaverse

Outcomes and Assessments

Tailor tools to specific outcomes

Consider what outcomes that you want to achieve - go beyond numbers

Use a variety of assessment tools - use more than one

Reuse and recycle tools for your programs as appropriate

Use the data to share the value of the program - with your stakeholders/administrators - gets buy in

The pandemic boosted interest in the Metaverse

One of the technologies that is most easily adaptable for small and rural libraries is Roblox

Roblox is a great first step into the Metaverse (or try Minecraft which is another awesome substitute!)

The only limitation is your imagination with these new technologies

The Metaverse doesn't have to be only for the youth within the community!

Seek out fellow librarians to help guide you around these new technologies

Connected Learning in Practice

coming together to share - even if it has to be virtually!

CL training built confidence in youth service staff

giving teens a space to develop conversations on their own terms

build relationships and emphasize opportunities for teens, not just "get them in the library"

connected learning helps library staff see beyond themselves