

Cultivating and Sustaining the Relationship-Driven Library

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Let's Move in
Libraries

Why do this work????



ARSL

The Association for Rural & Small Libraries

Ashley Stewart talked about how her library the first in Southern Illinois to offer drag queen storytime – By working as a **critical community partner** in efforts to distribute diapers, food, the library establishes a **firewall** against power of attacks



WHOLE-PERSON LIBRARIANSHIP:
SOCIAL SERVICES IN PUBLIC LIBRARIES

Presented By: Ashley Stewart, MSW
Library Director | Caseyville Public Library District

How can relationships help?

- **Sustainability & climate action**
- **Trauma-informed services**
- **Workforce development**
- **Digital inclusion**
- **Kindergarten readiness**
- **Public health**
- **Library advocacy**
- **[Insert your issue here]**

Librarians often feel they have to ask

Do I have



space



budget

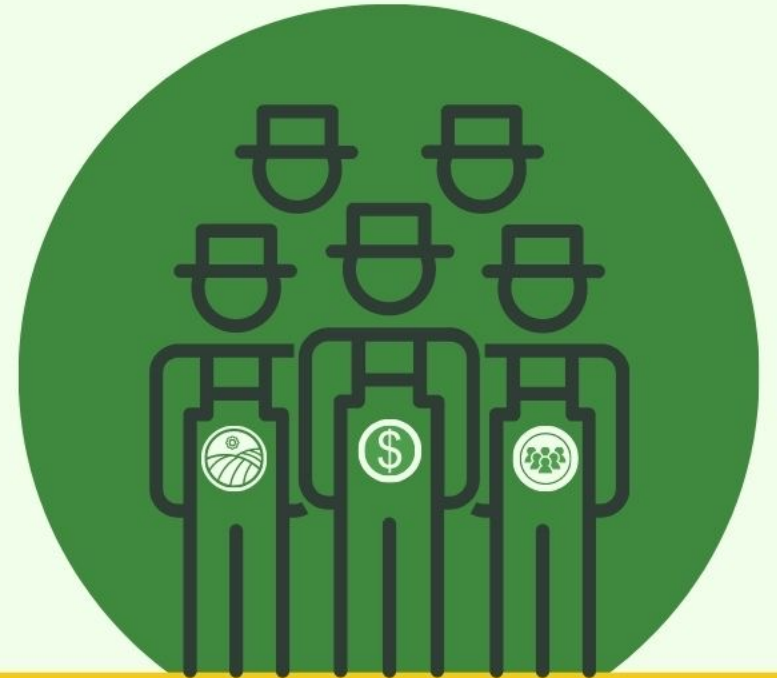


staff



Can I do this?

Librarians increasingly find success asking



Who can I work with?

What blocks this work from happening?

In a word: **Perceptions**

Unless you are already working with other health & social service organizations, they do ***NOT*** think of **YOU**



People often ask librarians

Can you



distribute



market

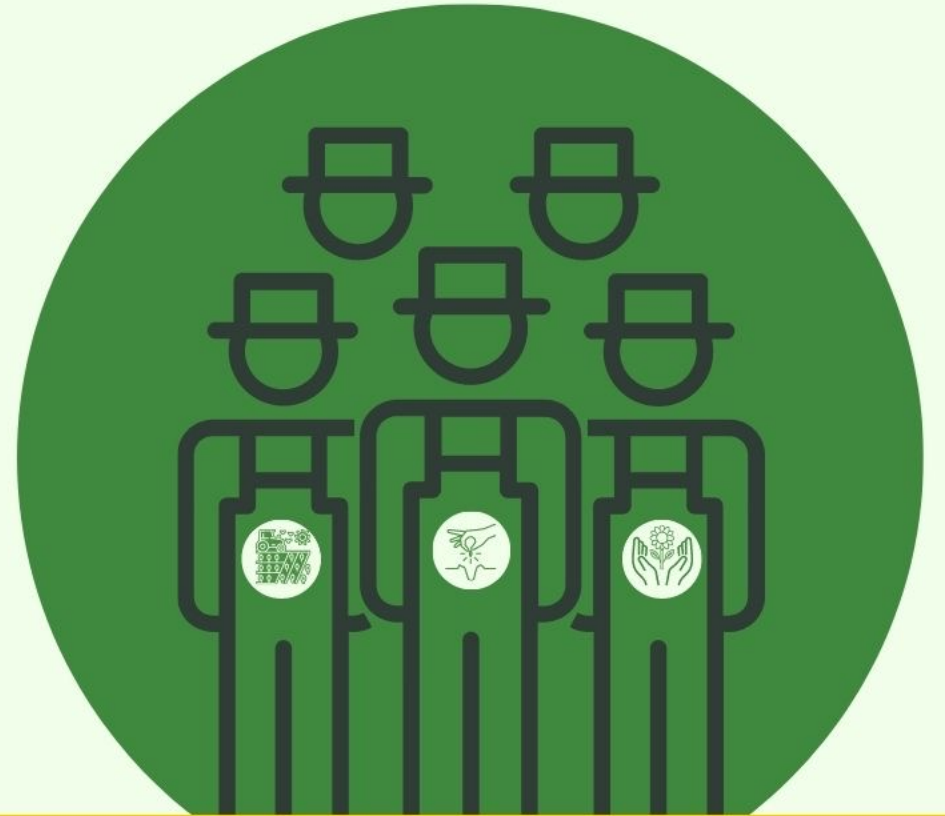


host



Can you do something for me?

People increasingly find success asking



How can we work together?

What *doesn't* it look like?

Colorado to give out free KN95 masks at libraries, but program's rollout leads to confusion

Denver Public Library among the locations warning patrons they have no masks to give out

The public library is the latest place to pick up a coronavirus test. Librarians are overwhelmed.

By Julie Zauzmer Weil

January 18, 2022 at 12:44 p.m. EST



Department of Library *and* Information Science

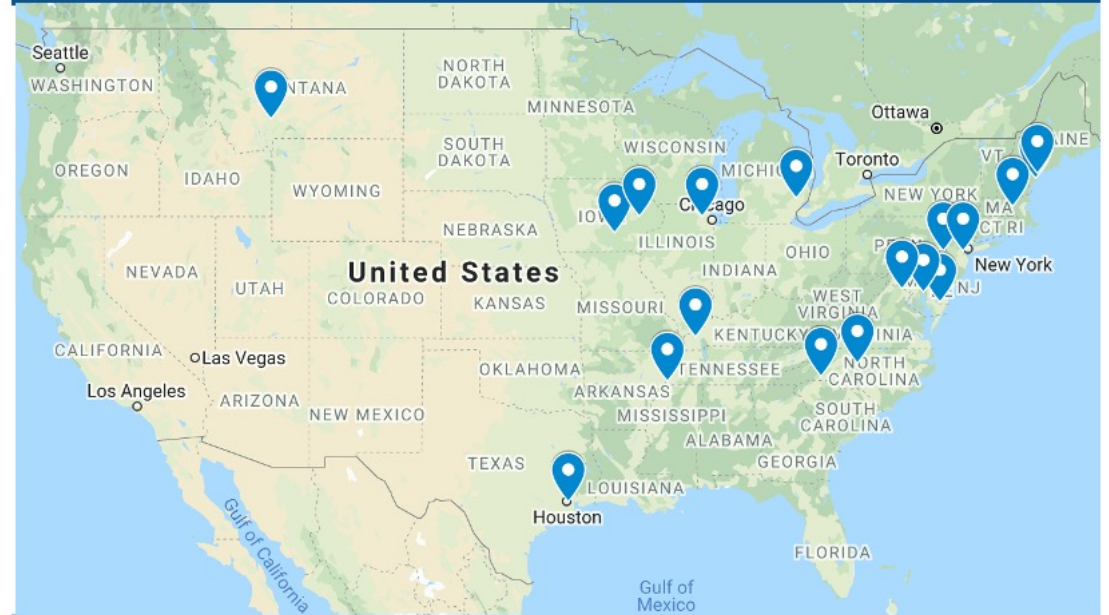
[LetsMoveInLibraries.org](https://www.letsmoveinlibraries.org)

My story



- Lenstra, N. (2018). Let's move! Fitness programming in public libraries. *Public Library Quarterly*, 37(1), 61-80.
- Lenstra, N., & D'Arpa, C. (2019). Food Justice in the Public Library. *The International Journal of Information, Diversity, & Inclusion*, 3(4), 45-67.
- Lenstra, N. (2017). Movement-based programs in US and Canadian public libraries: Evidence of impacts from an exploratory survey. *Evidence Based Library and Information Practice*, 12(4), 214-232.

HEAL (Healthy Eating and Active Living) at the Library via Co-Developed Programming



Geographic distribution of case study communities

Project website:

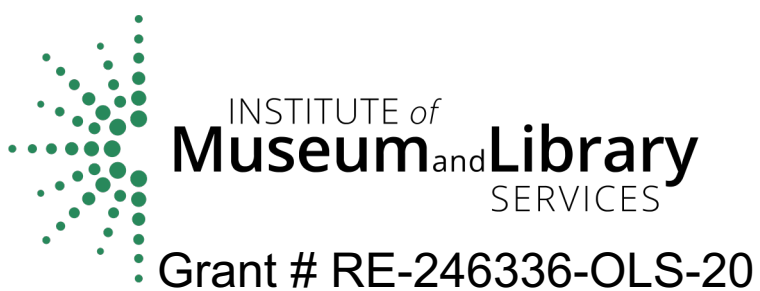
<https://letsmovelibraries.org/about-us/heal/>



This project was made possible in part by the Institute of Museum and Library Services, RE-246336-OLS-20

How do we cultivate and sustain the relationship-driven library?

Research



	# Interviews
Library front-lines	44
Library leadership	25
Total	69

Sector	#
Non-profit	16
Hospital	6
Cooperative Extension	4
Individual Volunteer	4
Business	4
K-12 School	3
Parks and Recreation	5
SNAP-Ed	4
City Government	2
Health Department	5
Senior Agency	2
United Way	2
Boys and Girls Club	1
Community coalition	1
YMCA	1
Total	60

Semi-Structured interviews with individuals from organizations that have worked with public librarians on community-based **Healthy Eating and Active Living** initiatives



What we found

The goal of a relationship-driven library is to have community members that naturally look to librarians as partners!

Stage 1:



Library = Book Repository
"storytime, book clubs,
and book borrowing"

Stage 2:



Library = Trusted Resource
"Always there, people turn to them,
stable, trusted: A space to use for
health promotion"

Stage 3:



Librarian = Partner
"We work together with
librarians to figure out what to
do in our communities"

Cultivating the Relationship-driven library

Planting Seeds

- Seeds = confluence of needs and interests
- Start to find seeds inside your library
- Look to multi-sector organizations
- Use your connections to build new connections



Nurturing the Seedlings

- The process of moving from idea to reality
- Building and sustaining trust among partners
- Protecting your project to help it grow



Harvesting the bounty

- Document and celebrate what you have done
- Share your story to inspire and engage
- Advocate for your library through your relationships



Resting the garden and prep for next year

- Looking backwards - how did things go?
- Looking forward - where do we want things to go?
- Creating space for mindfulness, sharing, and planning

How Milagros Tanega did it At Harris County Public Library

1. Talk up the idea
2. Met with those interested in idea
3. Worked with them to develop idea
4. Made a plan and divide the work
5. Started small: Herb garden
6. Kept building: Vegetable garden
7. Kept growing: Fruit forest, storywalk, lending garden supplies, collaboration with adjacent middle school – it just keeps going!





MARION Public Library



Encore Café Grand Reopening

Friday, March 3rd, 2023

Marion Public Library



Come celebrate with us!

Ribbon Cutting @ 11:15

Lunch @ 11:30 - 12:30

Call to reserve a lunch:
(319) 398-2585

Encore Café at the Marion Public Library is finally here! After the original library building was damaged beyond repair in the 2020 derecho, Heritage Area Agency on Aging is excited to announce the Grand Re-opening of the Marion Public Library Encore Café on March 3rd, 2023.

Please join us for great company and a restaurant dining experience!

Meals are offered on a voluntary contribution basis for those 60 and older, and their spouse or caregiver (or just \$9 for those under 60).

Please contact Julie with questions at 319-929-6726.
www.heritageaaa.org

Community leaders and volunteers serve a delicious meal at the opening of Encore Café at the Marion Public Library.

Gardens

One or more people working in an uncontrolled environment

No guarantees of success – always depends on externalities

There is a time and a place for different seeds to flourish

Cyclical – time for rest, reflection, and harvesting

Recipes

One person working in a controlled environment

If you have **EVERYTHING**, comes out the same each time

You can follow the same recipe any time or any place

You can make a recipe any time if you have the supplies

Step 1



Seeds =



Confluence of need
and interest

Step 2: Nourishing seedlings

Seedling

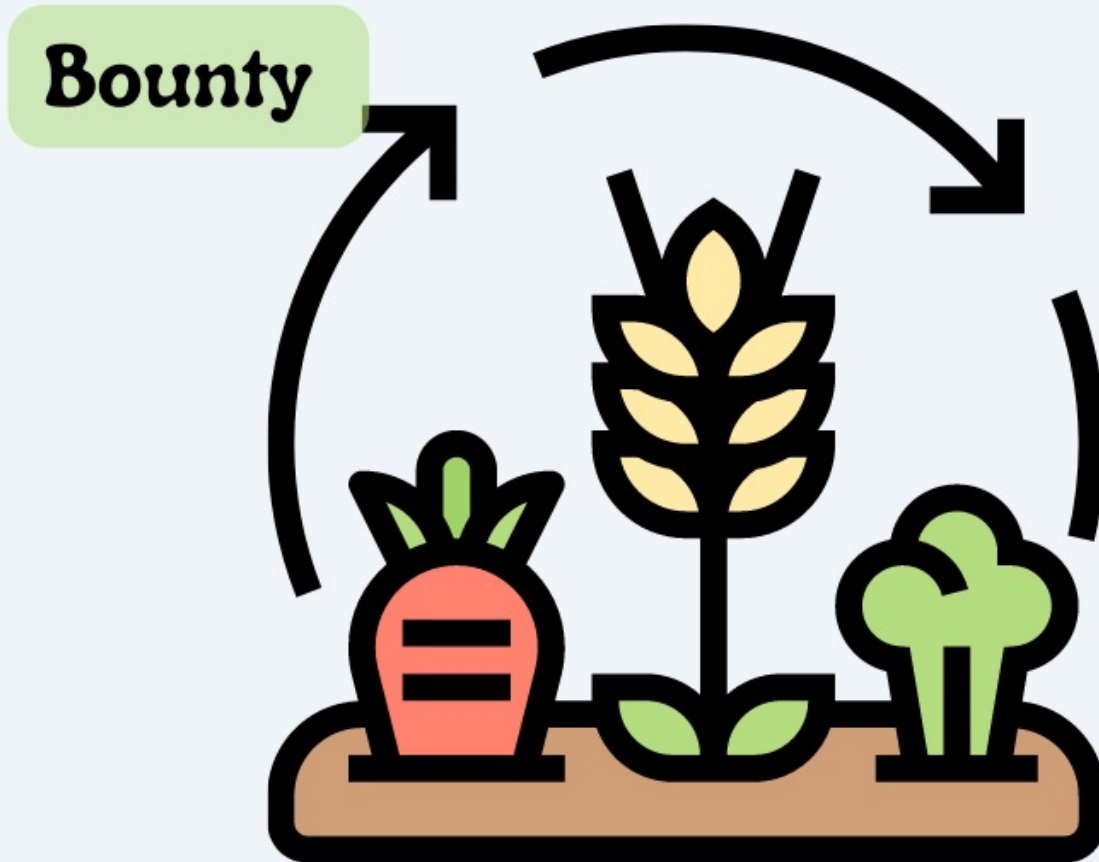
Seedling so precious and vulnerable

Now we have to give our seedling the best chance of becoming a plant

Shift from idea to reality a difficult process

Right set of conditions have to come together for seedling to successfully sprout

Step 3: Harvesting the bounty



You and your partners have put so much work into taking an idea and turning it into a reality

It's critical that you and your partners take the time to celebrate what came from your labors, and also make sure your bounty nourishes those that need sustenance

Step 4: Look back & forward



Join us on this journey!

Toolkit now live

<https://letsmoveinlibraries.org/toolkit>

All welcome to try and share.

Award ceremony November 3

Register at
[https://letsmove
libraries.org/](https://letsmovelibraries.org/)



An award celebrating
community collaborators
Sponsored by the non-profit Let's Move in Libraries

Thoughts? Questions?

Thank you!

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