



Cultivating the Relationship-driven library

Why participate?

- Network with colleagues doing great things through community partnerships
- Learn about steps you can take to inject new energy into your health programming
- Join community in this momentum building experience
- It's easy with many opportunities to participate !



Interactive Sessions:

- Weekly sessions throughout the month of April
- Features 2-4 librarians talking about their experiences working collaboratively with others to promote community health!
- All sessions recorded and open to the public!

How to participate:

Sign up using this link -

<http://go.uncg.edu/LibraryEvent>

Or scan QR Code to be directed to sign up webpage



<https://LetsMoveInLibraries.org/>



INSTITUTE of
Museum and Library
SERVICES

Project #RE-246336-OLS-20

Outline for today

1. What brings us here today?
2. Introducing our toolkit
3. How can you use the toolkit?
4. Introducing our conversations

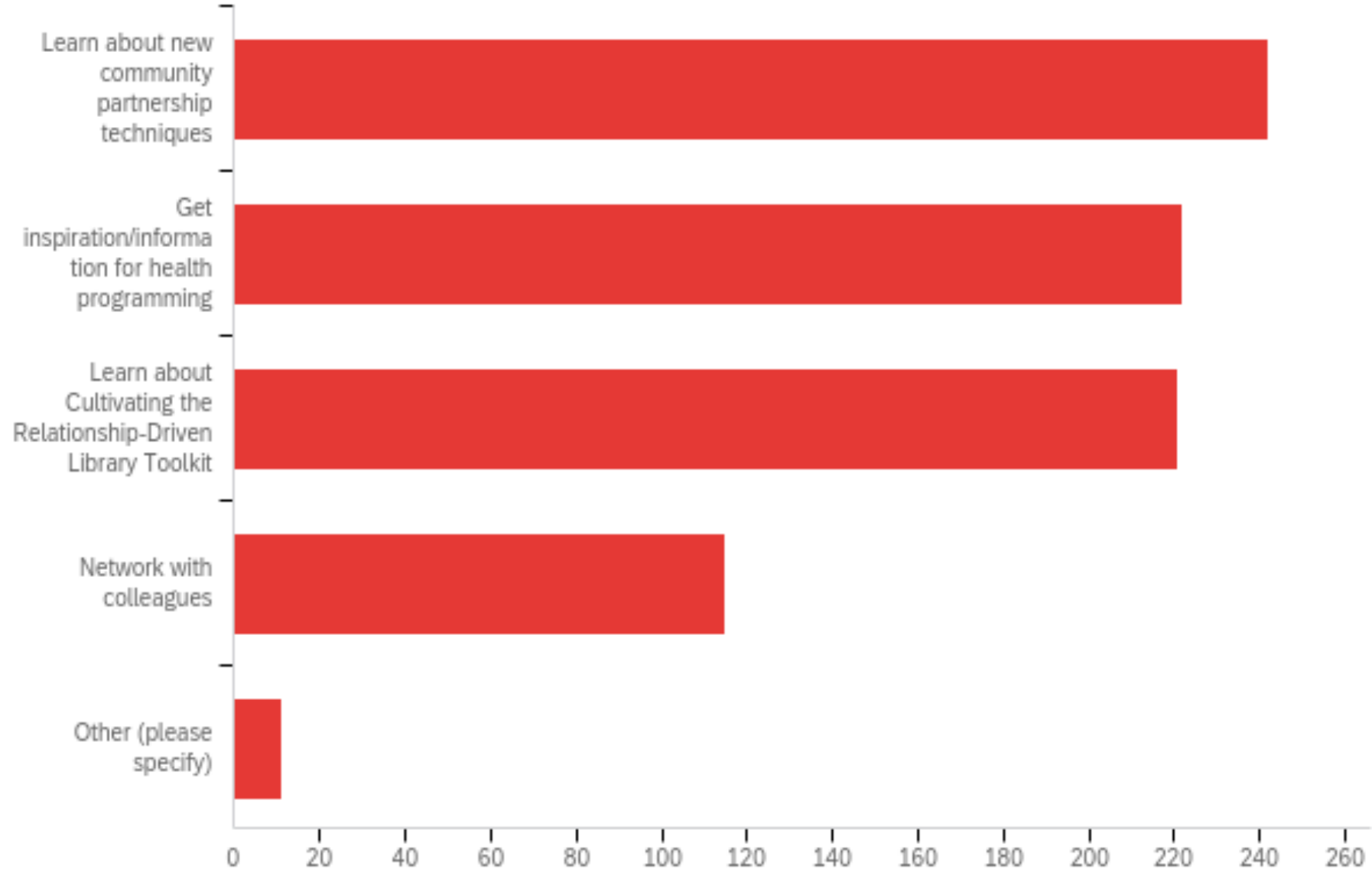
But first ...

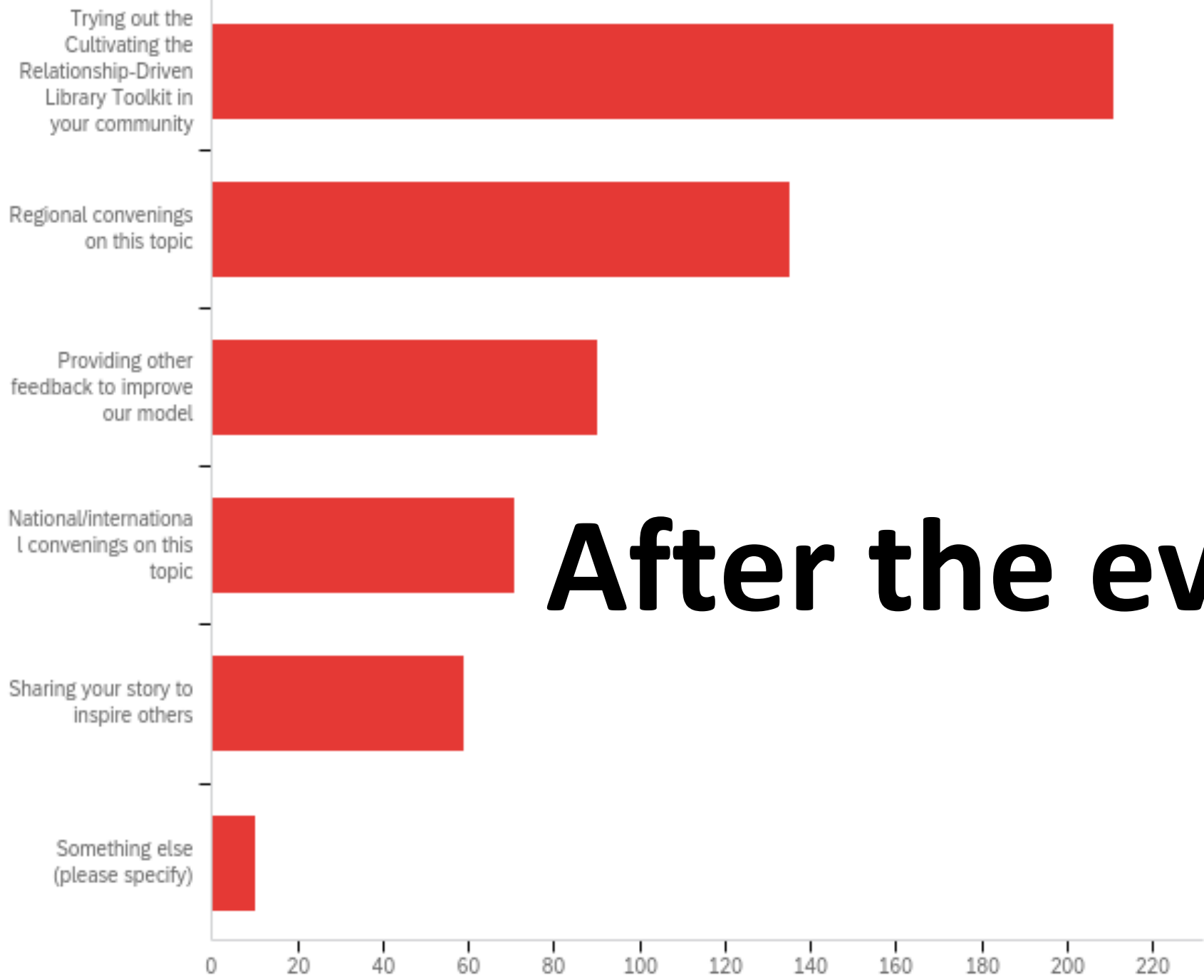
What brings you here today?

Who are you? Where are you?

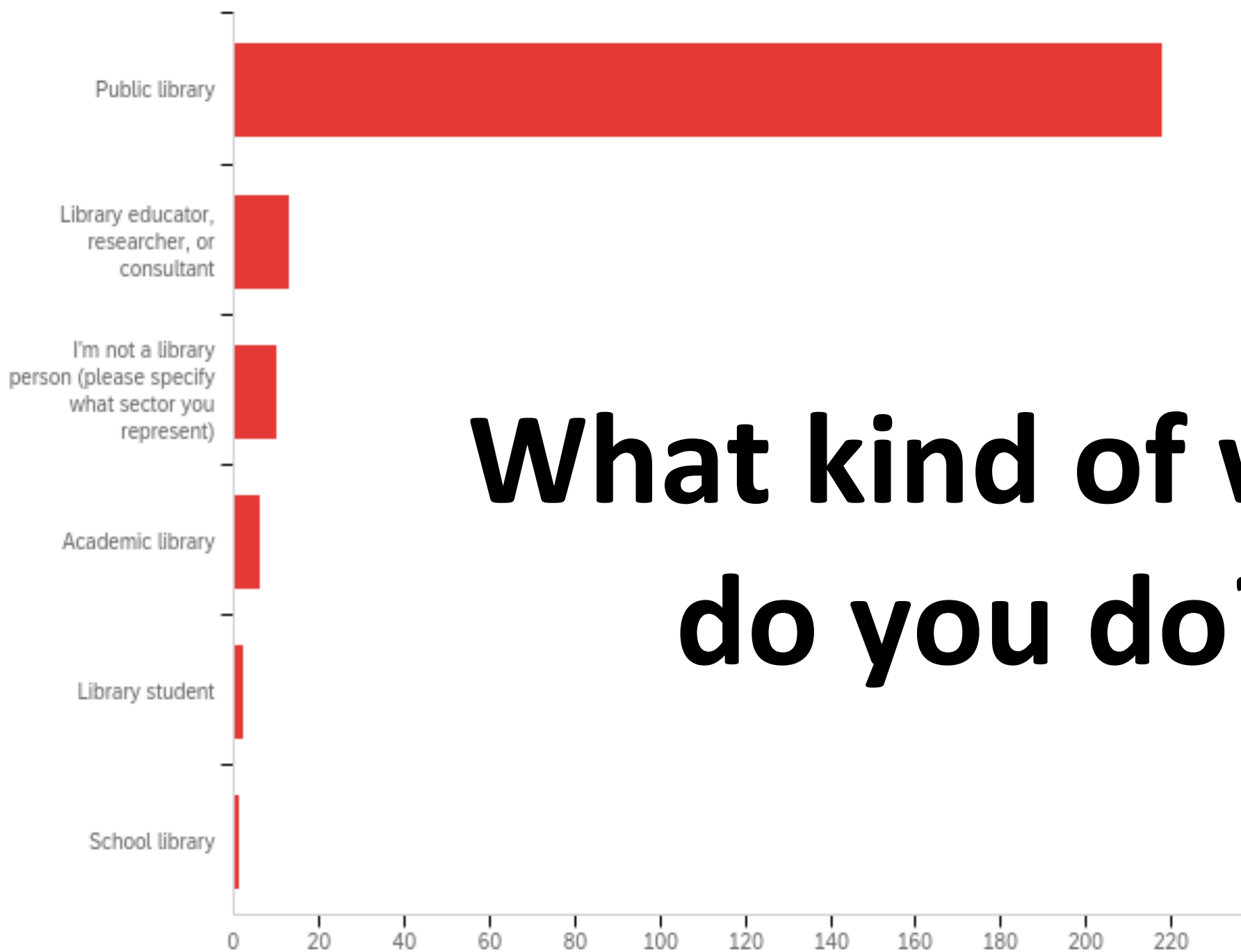
What do you hope to gain and/or contribute?

What brings you here today?



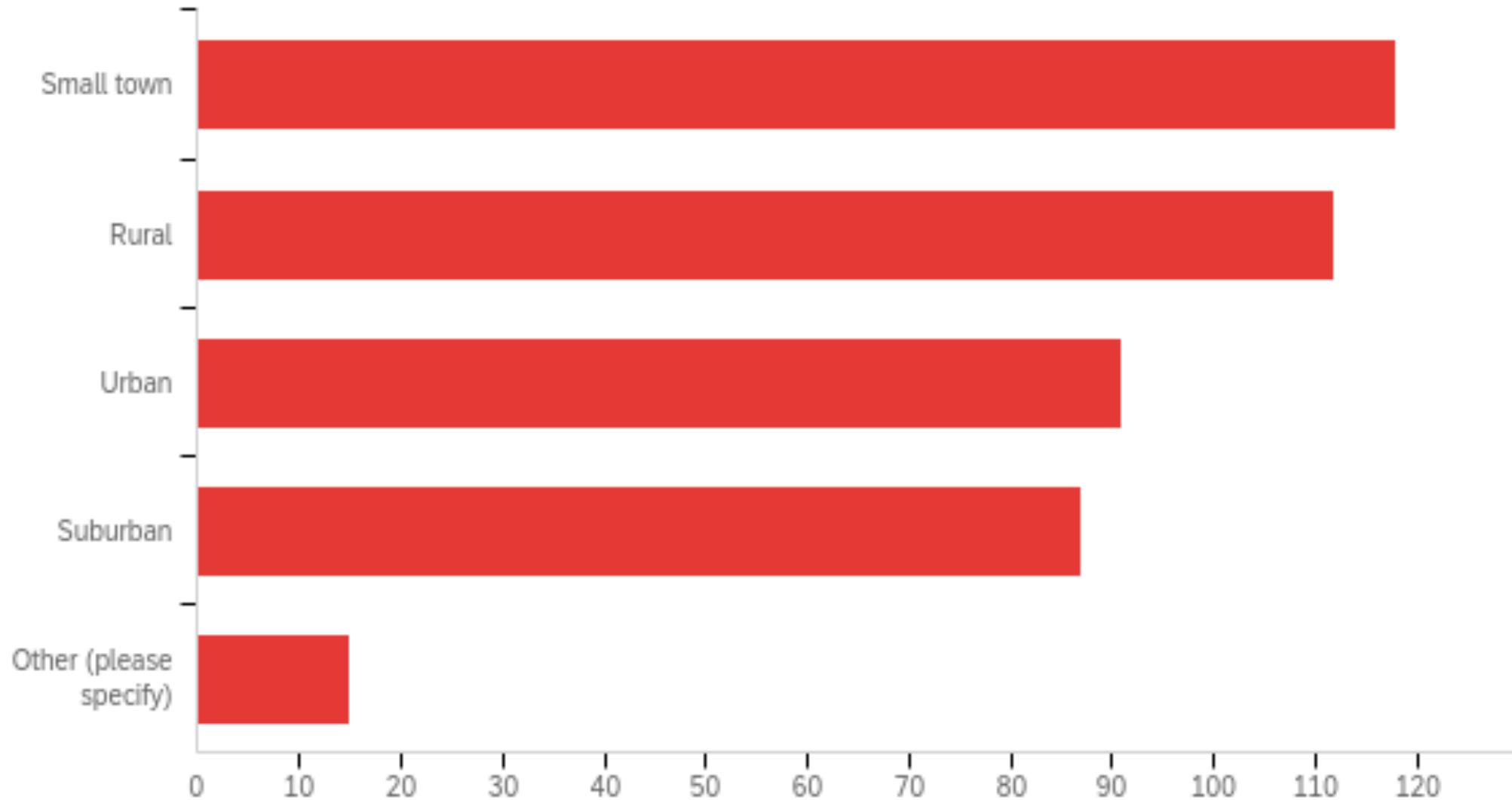


After the event



What kind of work do you do?

Who do you serve?



Jamboard: What seeds
(partnership ideas) have you planted in
your community?

Padlet: What are you taking away from
today's conversation?

What questions do you have?

#RelationshipLibrary – social media

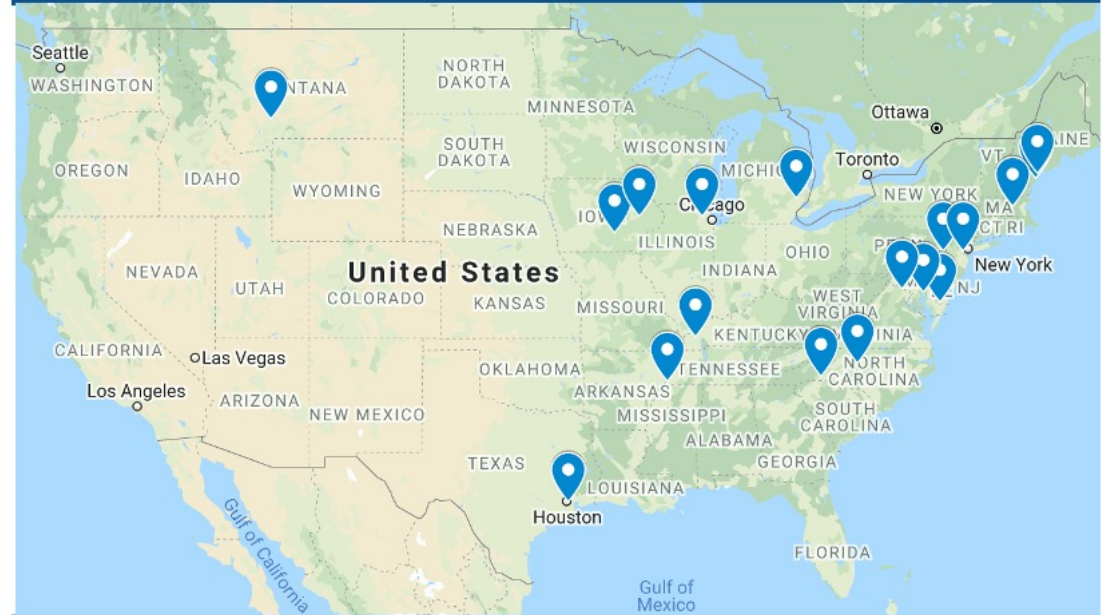
What brings me here today?





- 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



Option A: Back-to-Basics

“[A]lways remembering the **fundamental** literacy is reading. The most **essential** skill and the most **important** place to challenge the gaps and divides in our country is with **fundamental** literacy”

<https://www.imls.gov/sites/default/files/2022-07/fy23-ols-nlgl-nofo.pdf>



Option B: Community

“WHAT SHOULD THE LIBRARY DO?
There is nothing that a community cannot do in its library if it sees the need and allocates the necessary priority, provided the State and the Commonwealth give it the necessary support.” (p. 17)

<https://catalogue.nla.gov.au/Record/1591288>



“WHAT SHOULD THE LIBRARY DO?

There is *nothing* that a community cannot do in its library *if it sees the need* and *allocates the necessary priority*, provided the State and the Commonwealth *give it the necessary support.*” (p. 17)

**This is our
approach:
*Need +
Priority +
Support***

Seeds =



**Confluence of need
and interest**

City receives \$50,000 grant for Healthy Eating Active Living Plan

Submitted by admin on Sun, 02/12/2023 - 5:11pm



By KENT THOMPSON

Healthy Eating and Active Living has been a mantra for doctors, nutritionists, exercise physiologists, health educators and others for more than 30 years.

Now, there are some plans in place to help communities – like Humboldt, to take tackling health issues like obesity, diabetes, cancer and other chronic diseases to the next level, an institutional approach that can aid schools, workplace sites and the community at large.

“Implementation committee members are Bockelmann, Christen Sewell, director of Public Health at Humboldt County Memorial Hospital (HCMH), Recreation Director Paxton Pedersen, ***Humboldt Public Library Director Julie Larsen***, Humboldt County Economic Development Association Executive Director Alissa O’Connor, HCMH Registered Dietitian Amanda Thul, Humboldt Community Schools Middle School Counselor Kristy Smith, Humboldt Community School Superintendent Jim Murray and Upper Des Moines Opportunity Regional Director Alisa Schielf.”

What does it look like?

<https://oaklandlibrary.org/bikes/>

OPL Loves Bikes.

We have bike repair resources for riders. We have locks and pumps for you to use at almost every location. We even organize rides. If you're a biker, you'll find plenty to love at OPL.

OPL to Play Key Piece in Oakland Bike Plan

Home



Oakland Public Library Associate Director Nina Lindsay discusses the role of OPL in OakDOT's 2019 Oakland Bike Plan, joined by OakDOT Director Ryan Russo (left).



Checking In: In This Together

"The Covid-19 pandemic has made life challenging for all of us. For folks who are homebound, elderly, or have limited mobility, the lack of communication and resources can be catastrophic.

The Chillicothe & Ross County Public Library has partnered with Ross County 211 and area service organizations to help in two ways:

1. By making friendly phone calls to check on qualifying folks who may be isolated and lonely
2. By coordinating the delivery of essential supplies, like food and toiletries, to qualifying individuals."

And in smaller towns

In Paducah, Kentucky, when a Tuesday night community bike ride moved from a bike shop to the library they got a huge reception.

People of all ages, fitness levels, and backgrounds showed up.

The library helped cycling feel accessible to those who did not see themselves as athletes.

More than doubled participation



Get Healthy at the Library!

This year, at healthy library events, we've:

Pedaled **990 miles** promoting physical literacy (Pedal in Paducah)

Pedaled **108 miles** promoting literacy (with Brary Bike)

Inspiring across America

“[When] the book bike comes, people are reminded that we have a bike trail system that allows the library to come see us using their bike.

Having a librarian ride their book bikes: They're wearing their bicycling gear - really helps remind the public that everybody can be healthy”

Head of Main Street Organization



I would argue, at least in some places, it's ALWAYS been this way...

Library Journal - Volume 72 - Page 33



<https://books.google.com/books?id=grXgAAAAMAAJ>

Melvil Dewey, Richard Rogers Bowker, L. Pylodet - 1947 - Snippet view - [More editions](#)

The county **nurse** recommended a small maternity center to which mothers could be brought and be assured of a doctor's care. The doctors responded with enthusiasm. ... **Not only did the bookmobile circulate books and pamphlets but it also circulated the nurse.** She went along to explain and hand ... they may buy some of their own. ^It was also in Georgia that county officials, the weekly JANUARY 1, 1947 33 **LIBRARIES ATTACK COMMUNITY PROBLEMS**—by Jean and Jess Ogden.

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)

on my
mind

BY Rachel Ivy Clarke



Work Made Visible

By [Rachel Ivy Clarke](#) | January 3, 2022

Invisible labor is a concept from feminist scholarship that aims to bring attention to underpaid, unrecognized, and undervalued work, often performed by women. Household work is an example, but the term also applies to some intellectual work, like that performed in libraries. When a job is done well—a program goes off without a hitch, for ...

[Continue reading Work Made Visible →](#)

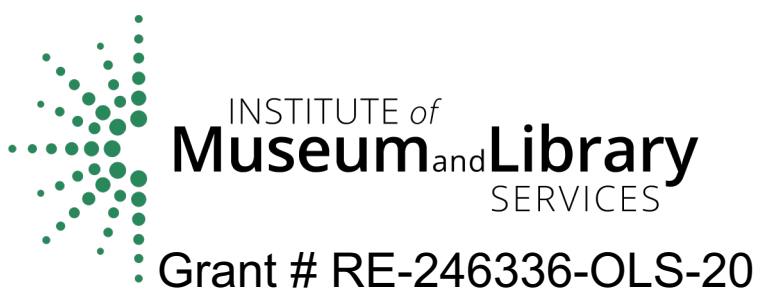
This is our reality

OCLC and American Library Association. (2018). From awareness to funding: Voter perceptions and support of public libraries in 2018. <https://www.oclc.org/research/awareness-to-funding-2018.html>

Librarian Ratings	2008 (%)	2018 (%)
Friendly and approachable	67	53
True advocate for lifelong learning	56	46
Knowledgeable about my community	54	42
Understands the community's needs and how to address them through the public library	48	42
Has excellent computer skills	50	42
Well known in the community	40	31

**How do we get to a
culture of collaboration
in our communities?**

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"

What stands in the way of libraries & librarians being part of cultures of health?

In a word: **Perceptions**

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



The branch manager told me “almost the whole first year [I participated in the health coalition], when we met I was asked to explain why the library was there. ‘What are you doing here? Like you're not a member of the community care team?’ Those were not the words. It was that sort of questioning. To which I said, ‘Oh, uh, we are.’”

People often ask librarians

Can you



distribute



host

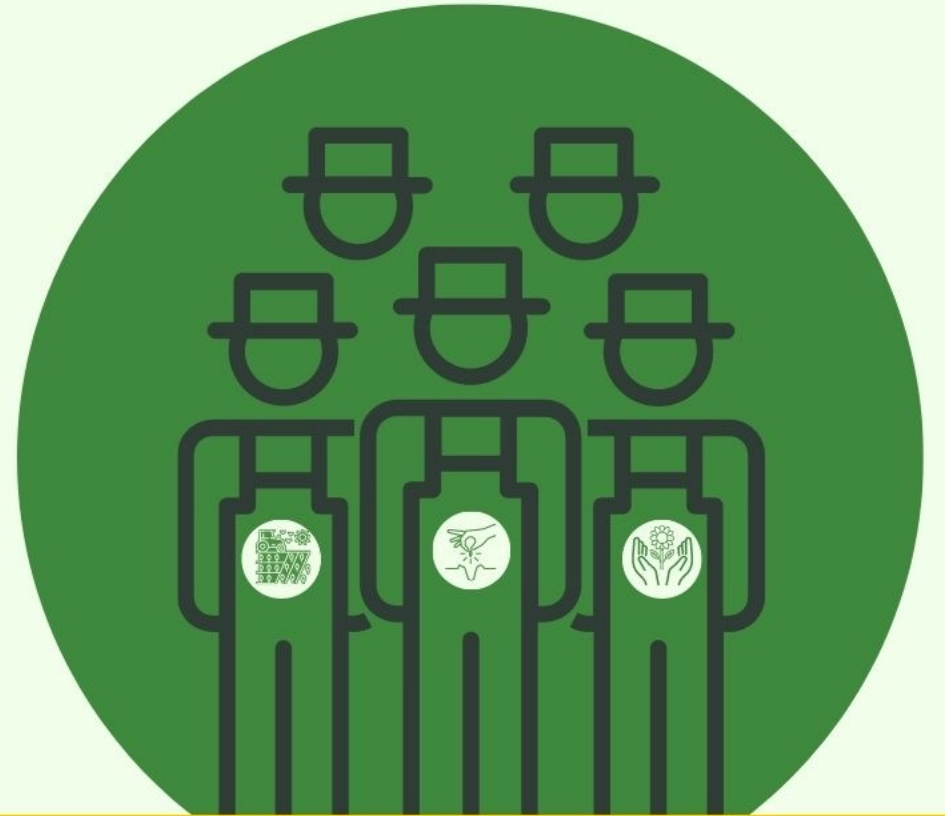


market



Can you do something for me?

People increasingly find success asking



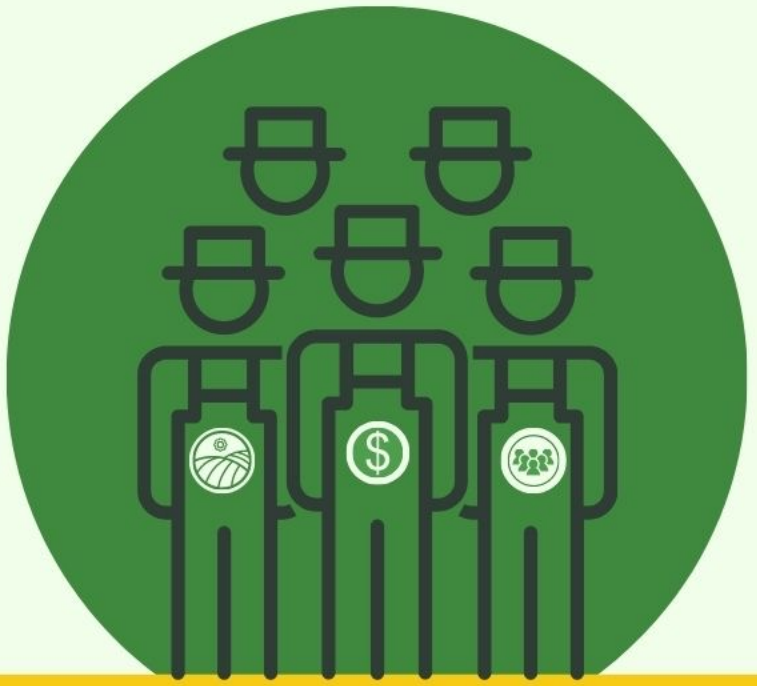
How can we work together?

Librarians often feel they have to ask



Can I do this?

Librarians increasingly find success asking



Who can I work with?

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. Make 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!



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

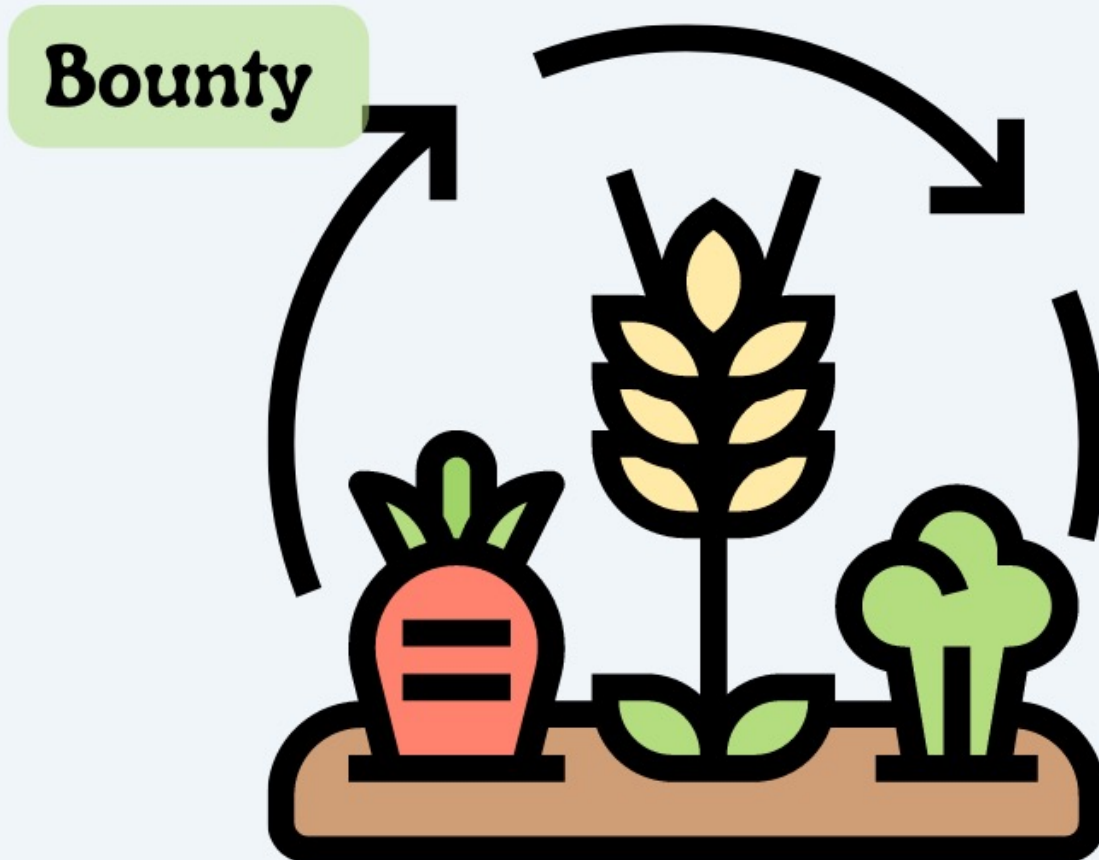
Seedling so precious and vulnerable

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





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



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America's 17,000+ public libraries employ nearly 145,000 individuals.
ALL OF THEM ARE POTENTIAL PARTNERS

Join us on this journey!

Jamboard: What seeds have you planted in your community?

Padlet: What are you taking away from today's conversation?

What questions do you have?

Test out the toolkit?

We will follow up with those of you who said you'd be interested in trying out the toolkit in your community

Starting Fall 2023

Test out the toolkit, now?

For now, our ask is you take a look and **send us feedback** –

<http://letsmoveinlibraries.org/toolkit>

Living document!! Needs your input



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Introducing our conversations

INSTITUTIONALIZING COLLABORATION

Urban Perspectives



Description: What structures set libraries up for success? This session explores how urban libraries in Maryland, North Carolina, and Illinois have navigated long-term partnerships, including around annual health fairs, nature exploration, and food security. Given all the potential partners urban libraries could work with, how do we prioritize our time to achieve the biggest impacts? Dive in for an illuminating conversation!

Date & Time: Thursday, April 6, 2023 at 3 PM EST

Meet the Panelists:

▼ Rebecca (Becky) Hass

▼ Stacy Rausch

▼ Ana Devine

▼ Maxine Days



Maxine Days, MLIS, has worked with the City of High Point at the High Point Public Library for over twenty-five years serving in a variety of roles, such as After School Program Coordinator, Research Librarian I, and Event Coordinator. In addition to her primary reference duties, she teaches the Basic Skills computer class and collaborates with local artists to showcase their creative artistry. She also plans and organizes annual events like the Black Expo, Community Cultural Festival, Author Showcase, Breast Cancer Awareness, the Heart Healthy Campaign, and the Health Fair. Maxine believes that forming partnerships is key to promoting community growth and that it enhances the well-being of others.

SPARKING CHANGE

Directors / Branch Manager Perspectives



Description: Library leaders set the stage for successful community partnerships. Join directors and branch managers from Pennsylvania, Texas, and Massachusetts to learn how they set up successful community partnerships focused on bike lending, community gardens, cooking & exercise classes, and more. What are the attributes of library leaders who get themselves and their libraries at the table to support community health? Join us to discuss!

Date & Time: Thursday, April 13, 2023 at 1 pm EST

Meet the Panelists:

▼ Josh Berk

▼ Marie Letarte

▼ Milagros Tanega



Milagros Tanega is from Harris County Public Library for nineteen years and served as Branch Manager for Evelyn Meador Library for eight years. She is a Rotarian, ALA Branding Committee, Chamber of Commerce member, Toastmasters. Milagros works in a Gold Certified LEED building surrounded by natural trails and parks in Seabrook, Texas. She initiated along with other local partners to build of a community herb garden, seed exchange library, and edible tree forest with several fruit trees on the surrounding City property. Awarded a grant from the Native Plant Society to create a Butterfly Garden with the intention of bringing back

INSTITUTIONALIZING COLLABORATION

Small and Rural Perspectives



Description: How can rural and small town librarians leverage small town networks to advance community health? Join us for this conversation featuring librarians from North Carolina and Kentucky. We'll talk about how these libraries formed especially strong bonds with Cooperative Extension agents and local United Way organizations to transform community health, and you'll learn how you too can use your relationships to advance community health.

Date & Time: Thursday, April 20, 2023 at 1 PM ET

Meet the Panelists:

▼ Lea Wentworth



Lea Wentworth is the Adult Services Manager at McCracken County Public Library in Paducah, Kentucky. She has done library programming for youth and adults both in the library and out in the community for 14 years. Her focus areas include community partnerships, underserved populations, inclusion and well-being. In her spare time she's an organic vegetable farmer.

▼ April Young

START WHERE YOU ARE

Early Career Perspectives



Description: Our conversation series concludes with the empowering message that anyone can be a community change agent! Library workers from Virginia, Delaware, and Texas will share with you how they hit the ground running in their libraries. Learn how you too can be a community leader and partner, no matter how long you've worked in libraries, or what your job title is.

Date & Session Time: Thursday, April 27 1 PM Eastern Time

Meet the Panelists:

▼ **Celeste Bleu**



Celeste Bleu is Assistant Manager, Adult Services, in the Programs, Partnerships, and Outreach Division, Harris County Public Library. She has worked in libraries since high school, and has worked at Harris County Public Library since 2012, shifting from branch-level work to systems-level work in 2021. Celeste serves on the Region 3 Advisory Board for the National Network of the Library of Medicine (NNLM) and is an active member and leader in the Texas Library Association.

▼ **Kelly Senser**

▼ **Stacy Lane**

WHERE DO WE GROW FROM HERE?

Concluding remarks and a call to action



Description: How can we continue to build a national community of public librarians committed to working collaboratively with their communities to transform cultures of health? We'll wrap up the event by discussing this question with a national expert on community collaboration. We'll also discuss where do we go from here: How can we continue to come together and support each other as we all seek to start and sustain impactful community relationships? Join in!

Date & Time: Thursday, April 27 at 3 PM ET

Meet the Panelists:

▼ Bess de Farber



Bess de Farber serves a grantseeking and collaboration development consultant at ASK Associates, Inc. She has had four careers: as a musician and arts administrator; as a program officer managing grant awards for arts and cultural, social services, and human and race relations; as a nonprofit management consultant; and as an academic research development professional. She has provided grantseeking collaboration training to thousands of library staff, nonprofit and academic professionals, artists, and university students in the past 32 years, and has led efforts to secure millions for nonprofits and academic libraries. Bess is the author *Collaborative Grant-Seeking: A practical guide for librarians*, and *Creating Fundable Grant Proposals: Profiles of innovative partnerships*, and coauthor of *Collaborating with Strangers: Facilitating workshops in libraries*,

Noah Lenstra

Next: One hour break

**We'll be back at 3 pm Eastern /
12 pm Pacific – with
Institutionalizing Collaboration,
Urban Perspectives**

Thank you!

Noah Lenstra

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Information Science at University of
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@LetsMoveLibrary

