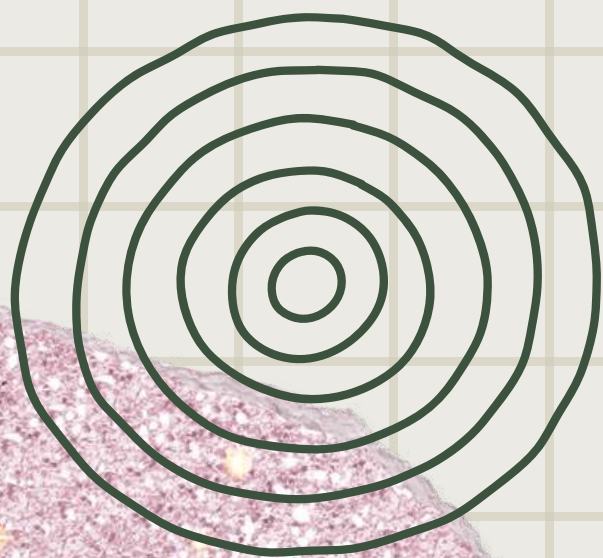


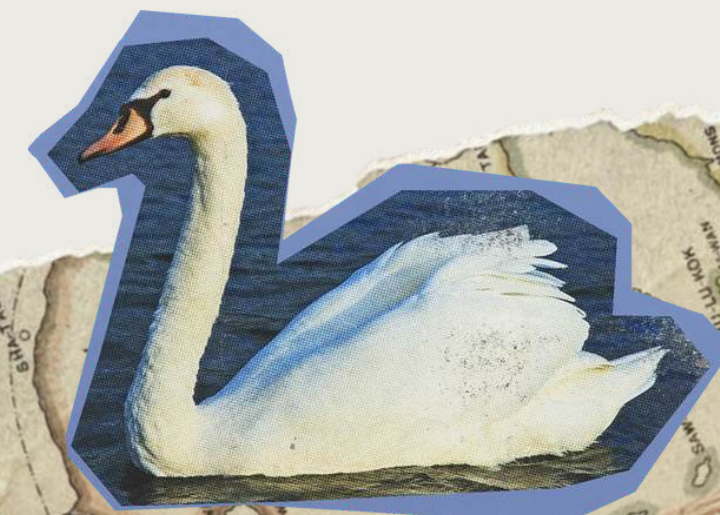


Become Your Own

EXPERt



Presented by
Kayla Jellies - Paw Paw District Library
Anna Merritt - Richland Community Library



About Your Presenters

Kayla



- ✓ Adult Services Librarian at Paw Paw District Library. Primary responsibilities include programming and collection development.
- ✓ PPDL is a class four library located southwest of Kalamazoo. We serve a population of 13,500.
- ✓ Earlier in my career, I served as a library director and a branch manager/marketing coordinator. My current role allows me to focus on my true passion - programming!



About Your Presenters

Anna



Richland
Community Library

- ✓ Assistant Director of the Richland Community Library, as well as the Adult Programmer & Interloan Specialist.
- ✓ RCL is a class three library located north of Kalamazoo. We serve a population of about 8,200.
- ✓ When I was hired at RCL in February 2018, we went from having 1-5 programs per year for adults, to roughly 70 programs a year, with myself planning and leading about 60% of those programs.



Why is adult programming so important?

"These programs just give me a little happiness!"

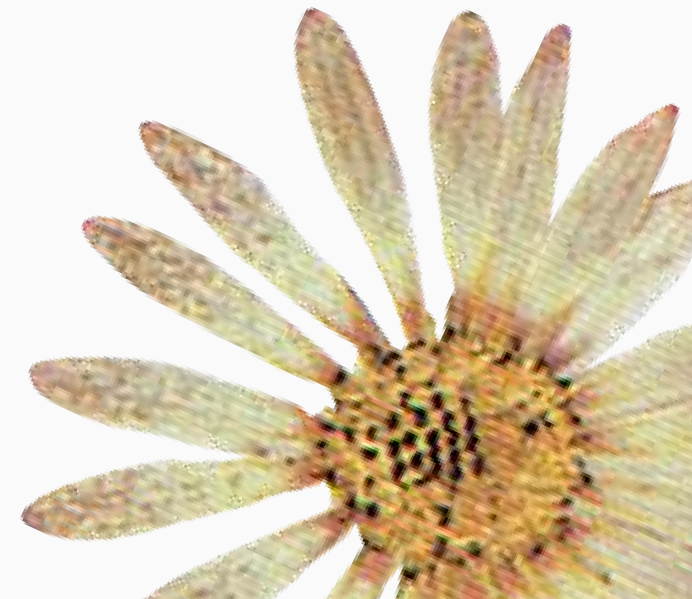
"The library is my social outlet."

BUILDS COMMUNITY

PROMOTES CREATIVITY & LIFELONG LEARNING

CREATES THIRD SPACES

"It is so refreshing to do something for myself - I really don't make time for me. I feel no guilt saying to my family, 'Bye, I'm headed to the library.'"



What Are Our Goals?

Recognizing that the library skills you already have can lend themselves to planning & facilitating your adult programs.

Understanding your own parameters and boundaries to avoid burnout.

Determining when it is appropriate to bring in an outside expert vs. leading your own program.

Concrete, low-cost program ideas that you can adapt (or flat-out steal).

You Got Skillz

You have knowledge! You're a librarian!

Drawing/Painting? Sewing? Home DIY?
Storytelling?

Take a topic you are interested in & learn
more about it.

Relative newcomer to the topic yourself?
Be upfront about your skill level. Sometimes,
participants prefer to be taught by someone
who is closer to their skill level (it is less
intimidating).



Examples of Skill-Based Programs



Puzzle-Based Programs



Craft Programs



Cooking Programs

Understand Your Boundaries

Sometimes we have more ideas than we have time, so it is important to know your boundaries to avoid over-extending yourself.

Creating your own programs, while rewarding, is also time consuming and presenting can be emotionally taxing. Take care of yourself.



Examples of How to Avoid Over-Extending Yourself

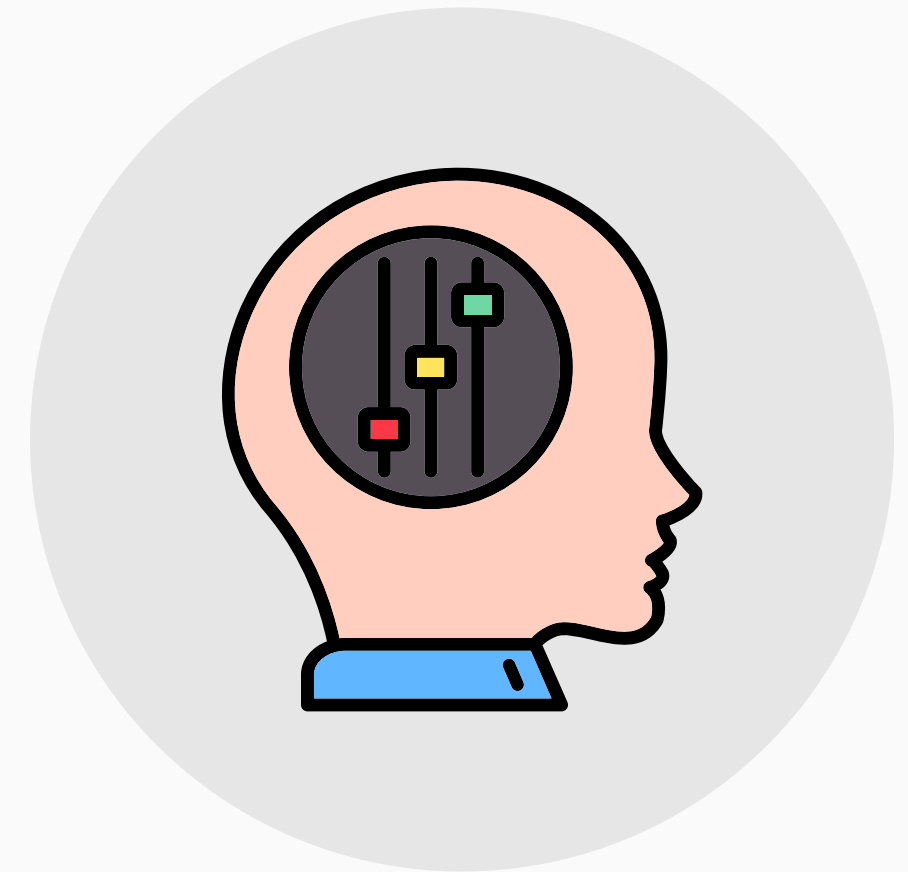
Plan early!

ULTIMATE List of Programming Ideas			
Idea	Audience	Time of Year	Notes
Decorate an Ugly Sweater	All Ages	Holidays	Provide the materials. They bring the sweater.
End of the Season Craft & Create			Take all leftover supplies from the craft season & let them create whatever they want.
Library Quilt			https://programminglibrarian.org/project-community-friendship-quilt-project
Electric Painting			https://programminglibrarian.org/project-art-lab-electric-painting
Earth Day Terrariums			https://programminglibrarian.org/project-earth-day-terrariums
Mushroom Fair Houses		April 22, 2025	https://www.creativebug.com/classroom/crafting-together-mushroom-fair-for-earth-day
Japanese Bookbinding			https://programminglibrarian.org/project-art-lab-japanese-bookbinding
Craft Your Way through the Holidays			https://programminglibrarian.org/project-art-lab-japanese-bookbinding
Needle Felt	Adults		Crafts & DIYs between Thanksgiving & Christmas
Make Your Own Notebook - Book Binding			Mary knows how
Resin Jewelry			https://www.creativebug.com/classroom/three-ways-to-stitch-a-pamphlet-b
Author & Artist Fair			https://www.creativebug.com/classroom/make-resin-jewelry
Pitch Your Book Idea			Tina Schwartz - Literary Agent out of CA - Presented on how to pitch your book & took one-on-one sessions with the public.
Hobbies & Craft Source			MeL eResource
Family Holiday Portraits	Families	September	
Spooky-fy a Painting		October	
Holiday Charcuterie Board			Add ghosts, ghouls & monsters in paint.
Senior Valentines			Holiday Charcuterie Board.jpg
Found Object Art Contest			Make Valentines and drop them off at school centers.
Craft Supply Swap			Found Object Art

Ask for help!



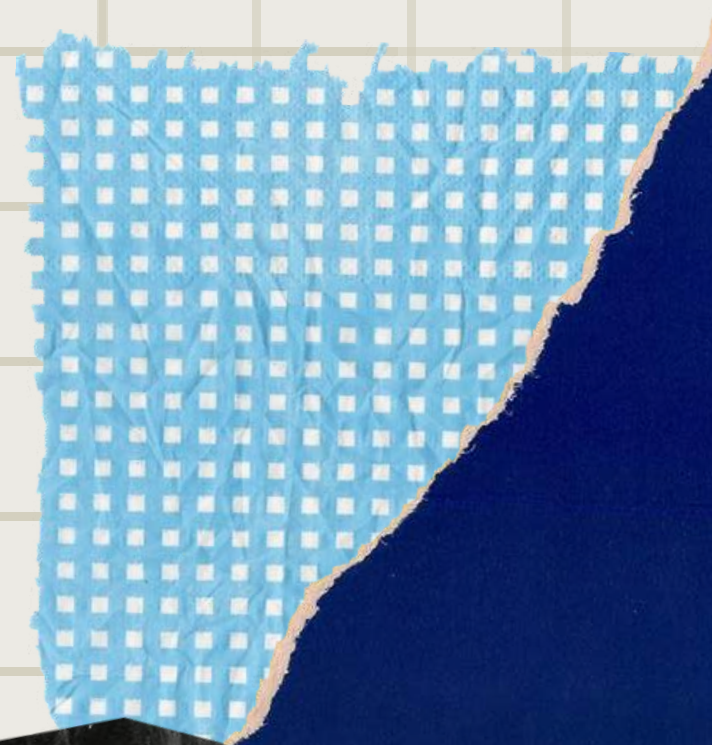
Set limits!



When to Cry Uncle!

So, you're not a
polymath... it's okay.

Certain topics and
subjects are best
handled by the
experts.



Examples of When to Bring in an Expert



Finance-Based
Programs



History-Based
Programs

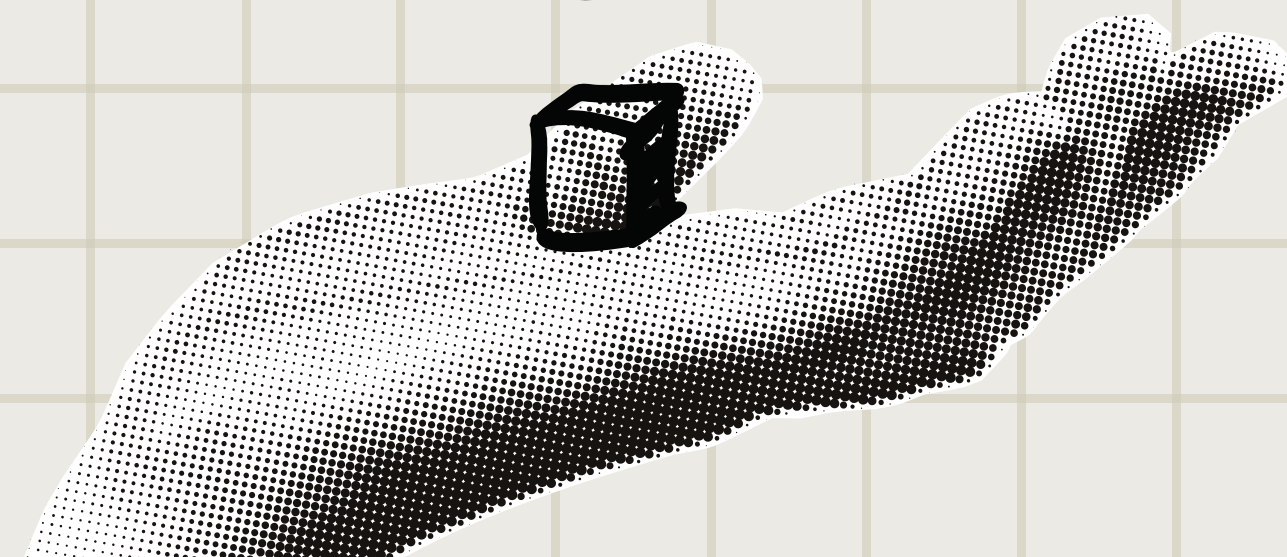


Culture-Based
Programs

I Have an Idea! Now What?!?

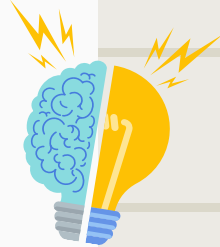
The journey from idea to tangible program can be daunting.

Let's break it down into more manageable steps that can be adapted to any kind of adult program that you plan to create and present yourself.



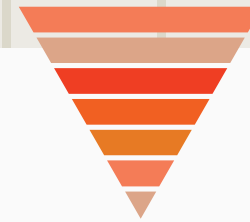
Example Program Planning Process:

① Brainstorm



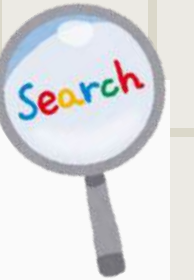
- Surveys
- Patron feedback
- Programming idea list
- Programming Librarian website/Facebook page

② Narrow



- One small element of topic
 - Teachable
 - Kickstarter/introduction
 - Knowledge-based vs. creation-based

③ Research



- Reputable resources
 - University extensions, blogs, Facebook groups, articles
- Compile info
 - Definitions, steps, materials, FAQ, etc.

④ Gather



- Gather supplies
- Reach out for assistance, if needed
- Assemble documents
 - Handouts, PowerPoint

⑤ Test



- Make sample
- Proofread documents
- Second set of eyes

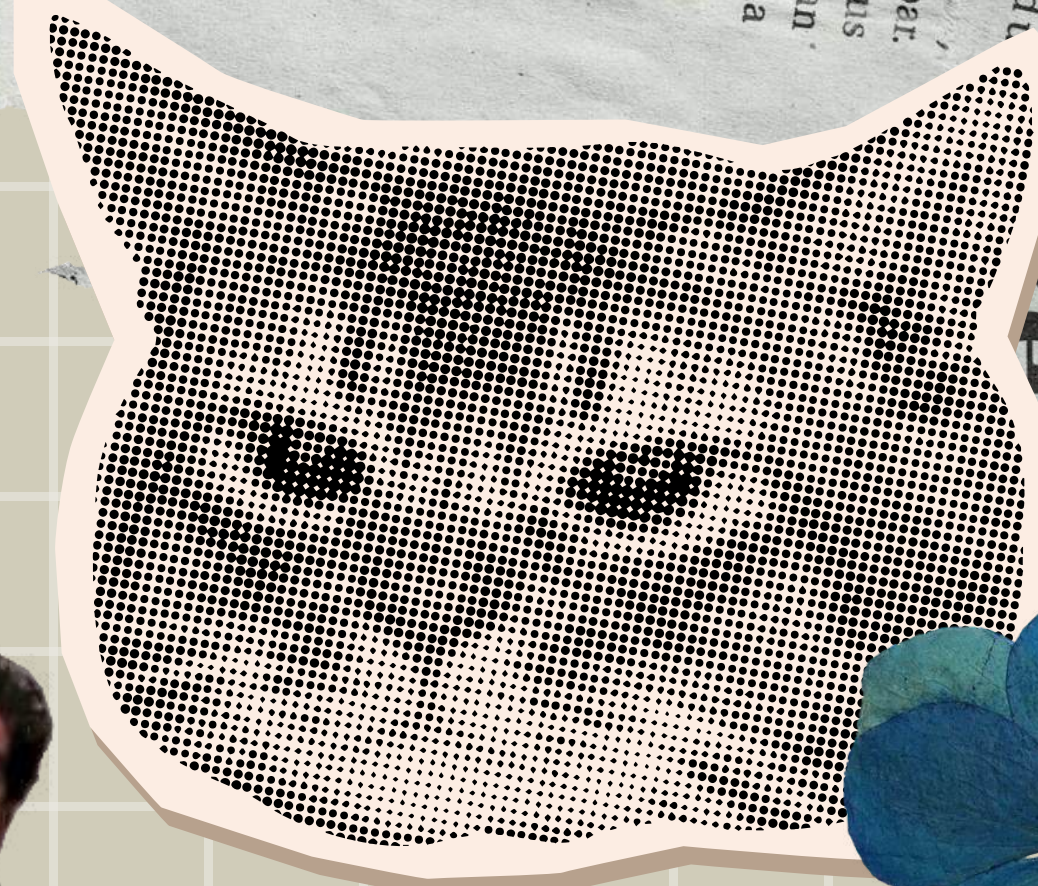
⑥ Tweak



- Make necessary changes
- Last minute details

Tips!

-



More Program Ideas!

Feel free to steal these.



Natural Skincare D.I.Y.

- Recipes for skincare using natural ingredients, such as salt, essential oils and sugar.
- How Long It Took: 60 minute class / 3 hours to research, prep & test
- How Much It Cost: \$150 for 20 people = \$7.50 per person

Vision Board Workshop

- Create a vision board to represent dreams and goals.
- How Long It Took: 90 minute class / 3 hours to research, make PowerPoint, and create example
- How Much It Cost: \$31.25 for 25 people = \$1.25 per person

Winter Seed Sowing

- Jumpstart your garden early and take home seedlings.
- How Long It Took: 90 minute class / 4 hours to research, gather materials, test, and make PowerPoint
- How Much It Cost: \$75 for 25 people = \$3 per person

Greener Cleaners

- Make all-purpose cleaner, carpet refresher, & room spray.
- How Long It Took: 60 minute class / 3 hours to research, prep, and test
- What it cost: \$250 for 25 people = \$10 per person



Health & Wellness

Macrame Ghosts

- Use a basic macrame knot to make a fun decoration.
- **How Long It Took:** 90 minute class / 2 hours to gather materials and make sample
- **How Much It Cost:** \$85 for 20 people = \$4.25 per person
- **Alternatives:** Hanging yarn art, cinnamon stick macrame

Snowflake Candle Holders

- Use tissue paper to decorate a glass candle holder.
- **How Long It Took:** 90 minute class / 3 hours to gather materials and make sample
- **How Much It Cost:** \$85 for 20 people = \$4.25 per person
- **Alternative:** Use pressed flowers, tissue paper, napkins

Personalized Flower Pots

- Decorate a flower pot with puns and playful sayings.
- **How Long It Took:** 90 minute class / 2 hours to gather materials and make sample
- **How Much It Cost:** \$50 for 25 people = \$2 per person

Citrus Stamped Tea Towels

- Use fruit as stamps to decorate unique tea towels.
- **How Long It Took:** 90 minute class / 3 hours to gather materials and make sample
- **How Much It Cost:** \$75 for 25 people = \$3 per person



Adult Art Club

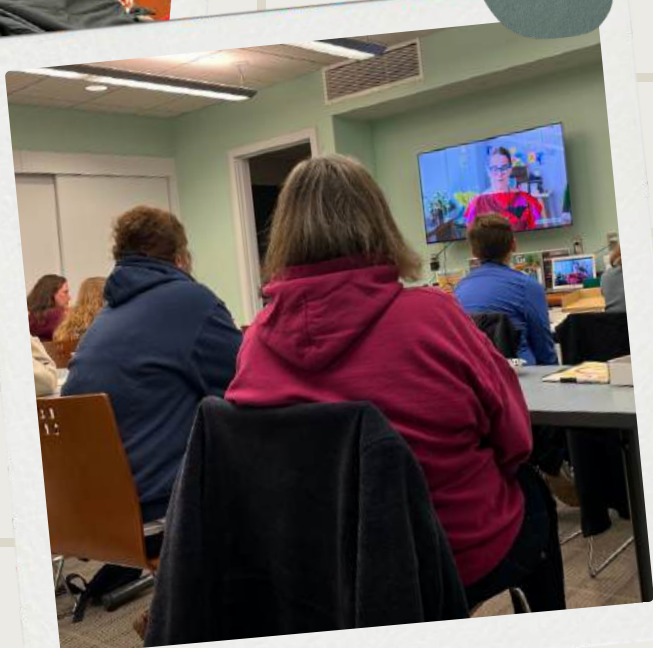
- Monthly club for adults to make art. Each month is a new project. Concepts & supplies are provided, but participants can create whatever they want!
- **How Long It Took:** 60 minutes each month (Spring & Fall) / 1-3 hours prep
- **How Much It Cost:** \$0-50 each project (15-20 attendees) = \$0-3 per person
- **Past Projects**
 - Watercolor Bookmarks
 - **Marble Painting**
 - Tissue Paper Bleeding
 - Pastel Transfer
 - Mono Prints
 - Orizmegami

Holiday Blankets And Cookie Exchange

- Bring some cookies to exchange and make a fleece-tie blanket
- **How Long It Took:** 60 minutes / Less than 1 hour (not including baking cookies)
- **How Much It Cost:** \$80 (15 blankets) + \$20 for cider & baggies = \$6.50 per person

CreativeBug Classes

- Use the tutorials in CreativeBug to lead the art class
- **How Long It Took:** 60-90 minute classes / 1-2 hours to prep
- **How Much It Cost:** \$50-150 for supplies depending on the class (12-15 attendees) = \$3-10 per person



Crafts

Jigsaw Puzzle Competition

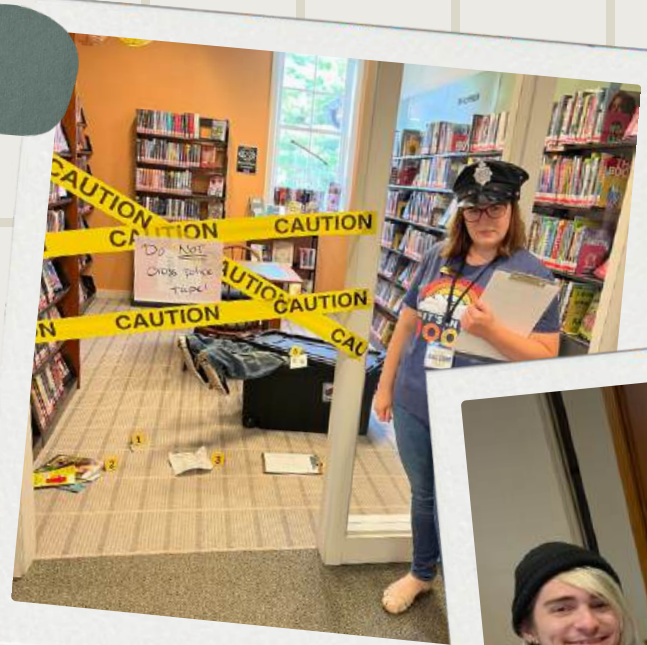
- Compete in teams to complete a 500-piece puzzle.
- How Long It Took: 90 minute event / 1 hour of prep
- How Much It Cost: Free - Event was sponsored by Ravensburger

Murder Mysteries

- Solve puzzles & look for clues to find the Murderer
- How Long It Took: 90-120 minutes / 6+ hours of prep
- How Much It Cost: \$50-200 for supplies, decorations & locks / up to 50 people
- **Alternatives:** Take-home murder mystery games, Broadway Murder Mysteries & Escape Rooms

Team Trivia

- Pub-style trivia from teams of 2-6 players / 8-10 teams
- How Long It Took: 60-90 minutes each month (Spring & Fall) / 2-4 hours prep for the season
- How Much It Cost: \$20-50 for snacks (additional cost if you purchase trivia questions) = Less than \$1 per person



Games

BBQ Sauce & Dry Rub

- Create a BBQ sauce and dry rub to take home.
- How Long It Took: 90 minute class / 4 hours to research, prep, and make samples
- How Much It Cost: \$100 for 25 people = \$4 per person

Tea Blending

- Made four different tea blends.
- How Long It Took: 90 minute class / 5 hours to research, prep, create PowerPoint, and make samples
- How Much It Cost: \$150 for 25 people = \$6 per person

Beginner Sourdough

- Learn to make and care for your own sourdough starter.
- How Long It Took: 90 minute class / 3 hours to research, prep, create PowerPoint, and make sample
- How Much It Cost: \$50 for 25 people = \$2 per person

Hot Sauce Fermenting

- Taste and create your own homemade fermented hot sauce.
- How Long It Took: 90 minute class / 5 hours to research, prep, create PowerPoint, and make sample
- How Much It Cost: \$175 for 25 people = \$7 per person



Cooking

You Can Be Your Own Expert!

Adult Programs are
Important –

- Builds Community
- Promotes Creativity & Lifelong Learning
- Creates Third Spaces

You Got Skillz –

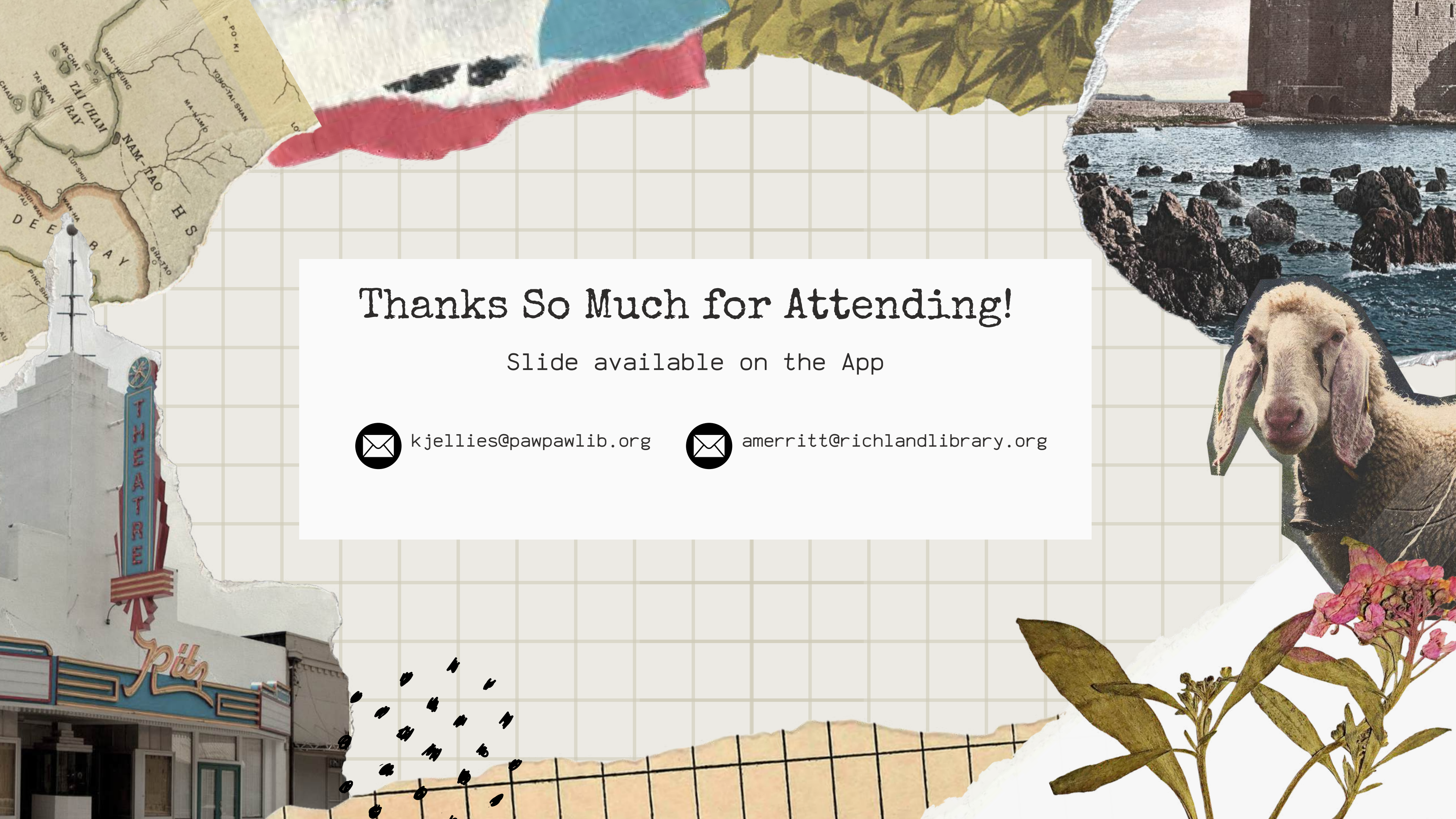
Host Your Own Events

Understand Your
Boundaries –

Don't Overextend
Yourself

Know When an Expert is
Needed –

Certain Topics Are
Best Left to Others



Thanks So Much for Attending!

Slide available on the App



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