

No Big Deal: Big Programs for Little Libraries

MLA Spring Institute 2023

Presented by Kayla Dies, Natalie Isham, and Stephanie Willoughby





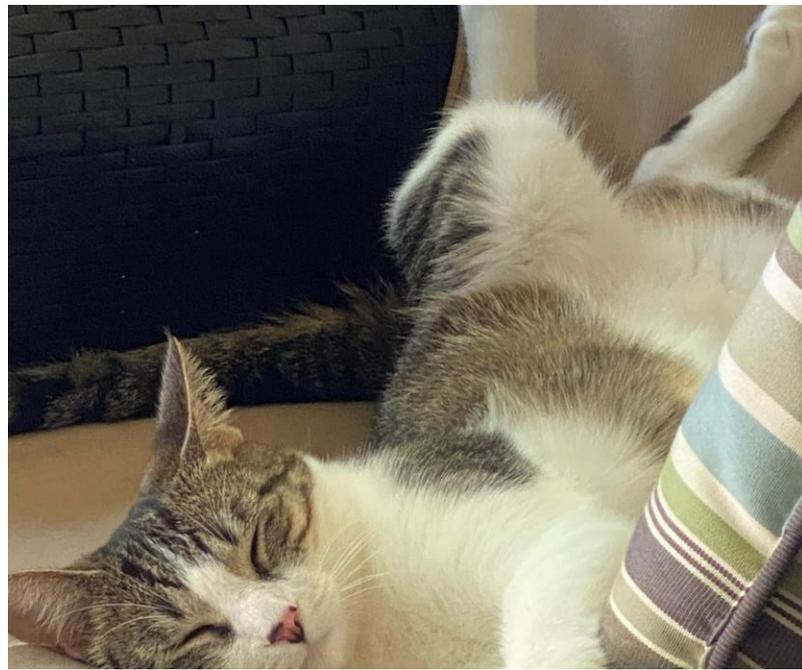
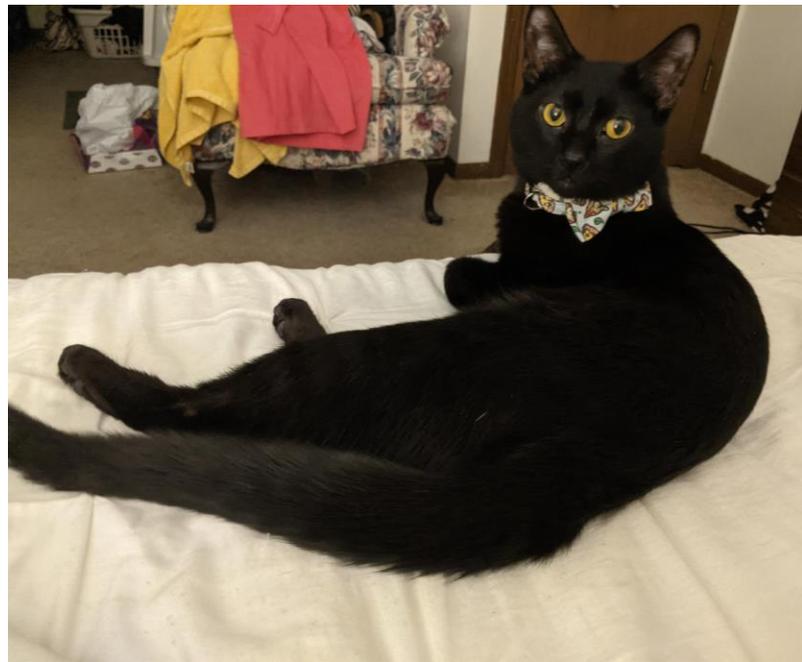
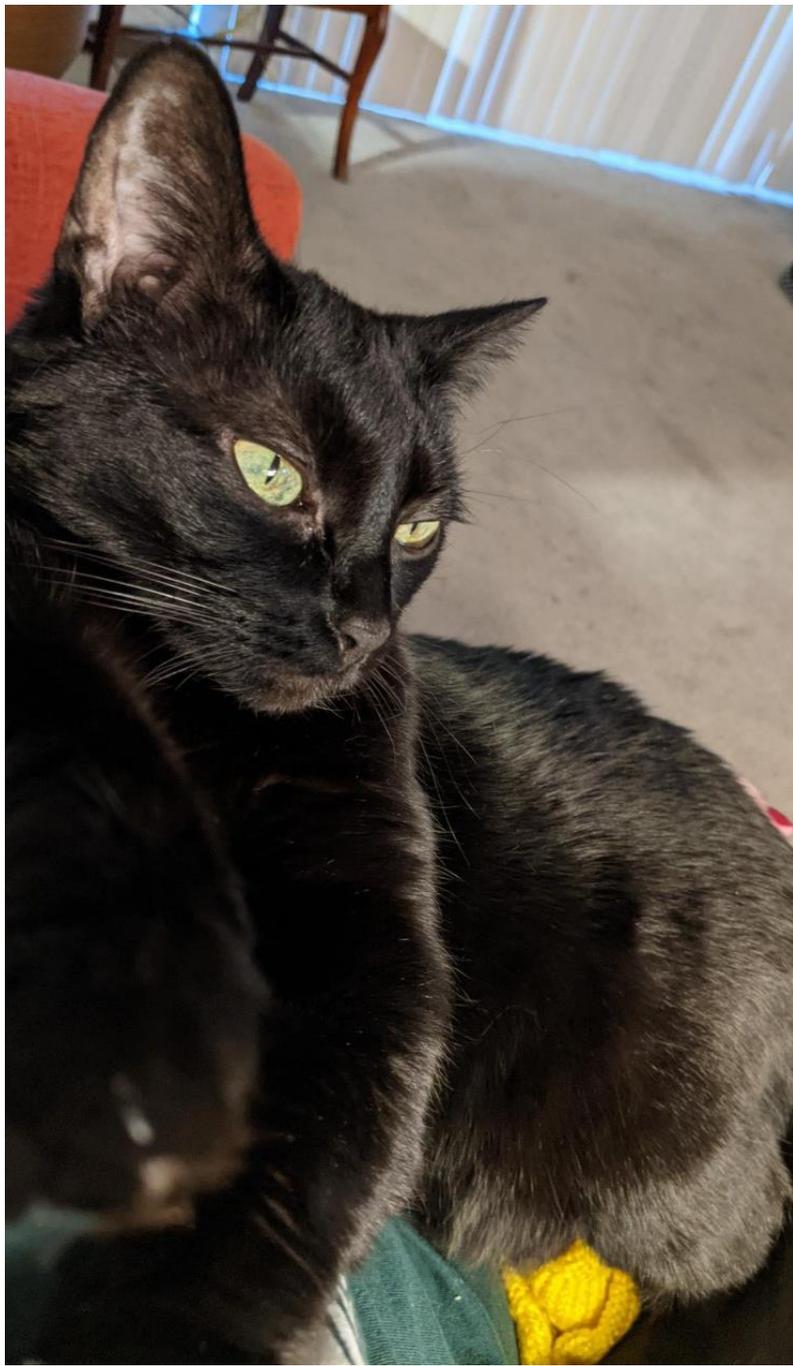
Scaling down programs for all budgets

- Why you're here
- Paring out the excess of a program to tailor it for your community

Who we are

- Kayla Dies, Teen Librarian for Paw Paw District Library in Paw Paw, MI.
- Natalie Isham, Lead Teen Librarian for Kalamazoo Public Library in Kalamazoo, MI since 2019.
- Stephanie Willoughby, former Youth Services for Vicksburg District Library, current Kalamazoo Valley Museum Program Coordinator.





Brief Overview

- To go kits
- Everyday programs
- Community-Partnership Projects



To Go Kits

- Definition
- Why? Covid!
- Where are they now



- VDL -

- Story Time – caregivers could pick up 4 weeks of crafts associated with each weeks' story time. Plus a bag with scarf, shaker, crayons and glue stick for first time families.
- Teen Take Home - (better "attended" than in person programs!) Mini-Zen garden and Sharpie Mug

To Go Kits



- KPL KPL@Home and Teen Takeout
- PPDL Teen Take-Home/Break the Stress, Take & Make, Pre-k Curiosity Kits
 - Break the Stress Boxes : Monthly theme with book lists and activities
 - Boxes returned and reused to save cost
 - Teen Take-Home : Bi-Monthly once we fully reopened library with no in person programs
 - Used DVD cases to package items since we had a bunch
 - Adult Take & Make and Pre-K Curiosity Kits are still monthly
- VDL
 - First COVID summer I had take home bags for story time, craft kits for elementary and craft kits for teens.

Everyday Programming

- If you know you know
- KPL
- PPDL
 - Paint & Sip – Using YouTube instead of in person instructor
- VDL
 - Book bundles during different season. Box would have 2-3 books of a specific genre and fun snacks/treats/stickers that would match theme. I would copy the barcode of the book and put it on a card on the outside of the box. Boxes were tied shut so books couldn't be peeked at OR taken out and traded. Books had to be returned, but the treats were their's to keep.





Space Programming

Space Programming

- Open Studio-KPL
- Whatever Wednesdays-PPDL
 - Less structured and more options
 - A place for all
 - LEGOs
 - Nintendo Switch
 - Art activities
 - Board Games/Outdoor Games
- Flexibility to redirect-VDL



Large Community Projects

- Party in the Park
 - Ready to Read
- PPDL pairing with schools for Summer Reading
 - Great Start Collaborative
 - Amphitheater performances
 - Guaranteed audience and high visibility





GeekFest

- Collaborative Library program that is an all-ages celebration of geek culture in all its forms
- Big and Small libraries across county expanded interest
- Money v. Work Hours

Conclusion

Thanks for listening

Lead with “yes”

Network!

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