

One Community, One Challenge: Pop-up STEAM Studios | AWARD # 1906473

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Project Description

*Bringing making opportunities to a high-poverty, rural county working toward inclusion of underserved, multigenerational citizens using a participatory design framework and digital stories to **uncover processes of making** over the product.*

Key Achievements

- Created a community identity model
- Learning practices of making can be uncovered and documented through digital stories.
- Librarians/Libraries are key community partners

What did we learn?

- Involve disciplinary experts early
- Use familiar social media platforms

Audience & Settings

Audience: Multigenerational community members in a high-poverty rural county

Disciplinary area: STEAM

Learning environment: Temporary Pop-up STEAM Studios

Access and Inclusion

We set up free makerspace events through community making challenges in public libraries, public parks, family resource centers who serve people who qualify for assistance, community art center.

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Two examples of digital stories that uncover processes of making


One Community One Challenge


Pop-up at "Our Daily Bread"


1  [The participant started putting some pipe cleaners and twist ties inside the jar]

2  [The participant wrapped the white fabric around the jar lid so that it can hold the solar light but later found that the fabric was too much and the lid could not screw to the jar]

3  Is it gonna lock like this. Oh no. This is a mess. It's not gonna fit. It's too much [white fabric around the lid]

4  I am trying not to use the hot glue gun. So, that's why I am using some other thing to hold it but it's a lot. I think I need to try something else. I think I am gonna remove this. [white fabric around the lid]

5  Why isn't it shining. [shown the switch by SA] Oh.. need to on the switch

6  Yay!! The light comes on. [laughing]

The hard part was to get the lid sustain with the solar light

The most exciting part about it was trying to be creative with it and make it look interesting.

If I had more time then I would use hot glue gun to make it more fancy so that when the light glows it's be colorful.

One Community One Challenge

Pop-up at Perkins Public Library

1  I would like my lantern to absorb as much as in the base with this wooden structure at the bottom and then allow the light to shine through the purple/golden mesh and hopefully the color will reflect through the pattern made on the jar. I really like to use the metal..oh yes we have that.

2  The fun part to me was just coming up with the idea.

3  What I find the most challenging is just knowing what end results going to look like, and knowing where it's gonna absorb and reflect and hopefully this base will absorb the color.

4  If I had to make it again, I would say less is better, I would use less fabric, so that the light is reflected better.

5  Ohh, I forgot to turn on the switch of the solar panel. Now it is shining!!

Why it is not shining?

I felt connected to the community because we all were trying to achieve the same goal.