Makerspace to open at Lewisville Library in Spring 2018

September 16, 2017

The Lewisville City Council's proposed city budget for fiscal year 2017/18 includes funding for the Lewisville Public Library that will enhance services and cultivate new learning opportunities for the Lewisville community. An exciting new undertaking for the Library is the creation of a Library Makerspace!
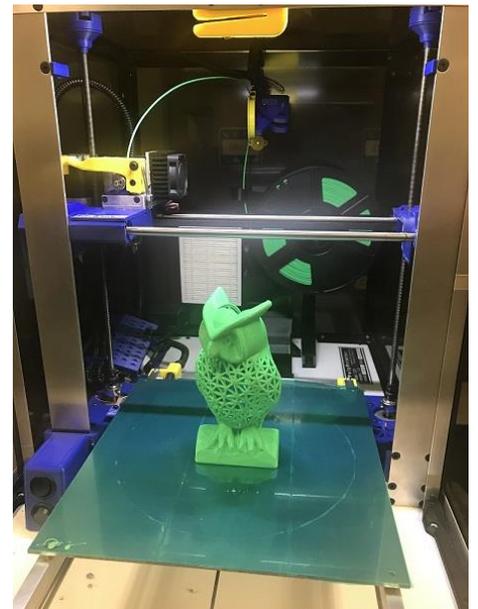
What is a Makerspace?

Defining the term "makerspace" can be a challenge, because a makerspace can take many forms. It can be high tech or low tech. Sometimes referred to as hackerspaces and fablabs, makerspaces are flexible, collaborative spaces where people can gather to create, invent, explore, and learn (source: makerspaces.com). Library makerspaces often feature 3D printers, laser cutters, design & coding software, electronics, craft and sewing equipment and supplies, hardware and tools, and more.

'A makerspace however doesn't need to include all of these machines or even any of them to be considered a makerspace. It's more of the maker mindset of creating something out of nothing and exploring your own interests that's at the core of a makerspace' (source: makerspaces.com).

The Lewisville Library Makerspace

The Library is a perfect environment for a makerspace since our mission is to connect people and foster learning opportunities. The exploration of a makerspace for the Lewisville Public Library and the Lewisville community began several years ago. Through a visioning process that included community feedback and research of area makerspaces, Library staff created a plan for a makerspace that will enable the Lewisville Library to facilitate interesting projects, collaborative work, and the sharing of ideas. It will offer learners of all ages opportunities to develop new skills and explore new technologies. It will engage new volunteers and subject experts, who can share their knowledge with other residents. We envision the Makerspace connecting with entrepreneurs, students, life-long learners, techies, hobbyists, and more.

The Makerspace will be the largest improvement to Lewisville Library services since the building expansion in 2006. The plan for the Makerspace includes a renovation of the northeast corner of the Library's first floor to create a dedicated, functional location for the Makerspace. The Library Makerspace will include two 3D printers (see photo), a laser cutter, table-top CNC machine,

two sewing machines, an embroidery machine and serger, as well as other tools and supplies, and classroom space and furniture designed for flexible, collaborative learning.

A Digital Media Lab is also part of the plan! To be located on the second floor, the Digital Media Lab will include media conversion equipment and software, and audio-visual software including Adobe Creative Suite, Garage Band, and more.

The Library is currently in the process of hiring a Makerspace Librarian who will be tasked with managing the makerspace, planning programs, providing training and instruction, and coordinating volunteers for the makerspace. The Makerspace will be open five days a week with some evening and weekend hours.

Follow the Library on social media for updates on the progress of the Makerspace & Digital Media Lab.