



Facilitating Civic Engagement with Pop-Up Programming

An Infopeople Webinar
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Today's Agenda

- Starting premise and background of the Civic Lab
- Current operations of the Civic Lab
- Staffing logistics and roles
- Types of pop-ups
- Lessons learned
- Questions and reflection



Has the Black Lives Matter movement challenged you to think about racism in Skokie?

YES



NO



Libraries aren't neutral.





- The Public Library as Convener of Civic Engagement



How do we define “civic engagement?”

Civic engagement refers to the programs and opportunities that promote and facilitate:

- a deeper, more critical understanding of how civic institutions operate;
- a broader, more empathic knowledge of how issues, policies, and decisions affect lives; and
- an increased awareness of and confidence in one’s ability to take an active role in civic discourse and participate in community decision-making.



What do we hope to achieve?

As a result of participating in civic engagement opportunities at the library, patrons will be able to make up their minds on issues based on credible information and critical reflection.



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As a result of participating in civic engagement opportunities at the library, patrons will be able to make up their minds on issues based on credible information and critical reflection.

As one patron put it:

“You need to have good information in order to make up your own mind. If you have bad information, someone else is making up your mind for you.”



Applying a Civic Engagement Lens

We consider how civic engagement does or could impact every aspect of our programs and learning experiences, regardless of audience age, program format, or staffing.



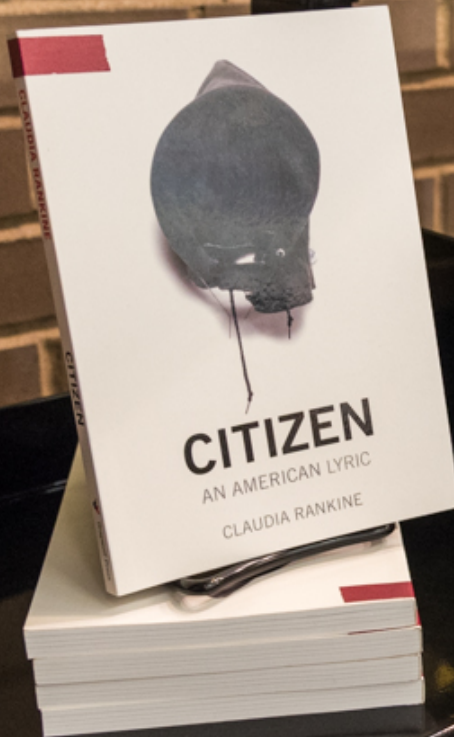
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	Youth Ages 0-5	Elementary-Age Youth	Junior High Youth	High School Youth	Adults
Knowledge-building Opportunities (e.g., learn something)	Specific-themed storytimes	Adventure Club, BOOMbox drop-in discussions/micro workshops,	BOOMbox drop-in discussions/micro workshops; Great Debate Club; Break the Election	Know Your Rights Clinics	Understanding the Village Building Permit Process; Money, Politics, and Democracy; Making Sense of the News; Chinese-ness: How Chinese American Mobilize Politically; Says Who? Evaluating Sources in the News; Media Literacy 101; Listen with Intent: Retelling the Civil Rights Movement
Skills-building Opportunities (e.g., acquire a skill)	Socio-emotional skills focus in storytimes	Voting activity at youth desk	Neutral Zone; JH Council; Great Debate Club; Community Tech Volunteers; SkokieWiki Volunteers	Neutral Zone; HS Council; Community Activist Volunteers; Community Tech Volunteers; SkokieWiki Volunteers	Oakton Citizenship Education Classes
Pop-up Events	Civic Lab-related pop-up storytimes	Civic Lab	Civic Lab; JHZ afterschool activities	Civic Lab	Civic Lab; Voter Registration
Passive Experiences				HSL Whiteboard Questions	Civic Lab Boutique; Exploring Human Origins exhibit
Service Opportunities		Citizen Science-related programs like Be the Scientist	Teen volunteer program; Friend Squad; Junior High Council	Teen volunteer program; Friend Squad; High School Council	Knit and crochet-a-thon; 1 on 1 volunteers
Community-building Opportunities (e.g., discussion)		Together at the Table	Together at the Table; Neutral Zone; Friend Squad	Together at the Table; Neutral Zone; Friend Squad	Together at the Table; What Every American Should Know; Great Decisions Discussion Groups; Pages Through History; Friday Night with TED; Let's Talk at Lunch
Access to Curated Materials	Themed displays; Reading lists	Themed displays; Reading lists	Reading Lists	Reading Lists	Reading lists

Background of the Civic Lab





- The Civic Lab:
- An Origin Story





• The Civic Lab Boutique

- Prompt Cube



CIVIC LAB

TO

The CIVIC LAB at Skokie Public Library aims to support dialogue and engagement on issues that affect our community. We offer thought-provoking activities that start with the belief that others' intentions are good and that we can learn and grow in open conversations with one another.



- Postcard



Has the Black Lives Matter movement challenged you to think about racism in Skokie?

YES



NO



- Voting Element

Current Civic Engagement Practices





• Civic Lab Pop-Ups





Rapid Response Pop-Ups





- Some Thoughts on Intended Audience

Staffing Logistics and Roles



Staffing Roles Calendar

	Run Meeting	Coordinate Pop-Ups	Lead Scheduled Pop-Ups	Pop-Up Topics	Rapid Response Pop-Ups		But what does it all mean?!?
Jan-18		Amy H.	Mimosa & Christine Mick & Jenny	Endangered Species How a Bill Becomes a Law	Amy K.		Run Meeting - You're in charge of creating the meeting agenda, sending it out before the meeting, and leading the meeting
Feb-18	Amy H. (2/26/18)	Amy H.	Lynnanne & Becky Amy H.	Social Media & Viral News Net Neutrality	Mimosa		
Mar-18		Amy K.	Kathy & Allyson Amy K. & Amy H. Chris & Mick	Can you separate an abuser from their art? What is Journalism? (And What Isn't?) Taxes!	Leah		Coordinate Pop-Ups - You're in charge of making sure all pop-up logistics are confirmed, including in Communico, handout ready for proofreading at least 1 week before the event, etc.
Apr-18	Mimosa (4/18/18)	Amy K.	Lynnanne Mimosa & Chris Mimosa, Laurel, Jenny, Leah	International Fact Checking Day 4/2 Attempted Nazi March Stand Against Racism	Christine		Lead Scheduled Pop-Ups - You're in charge of making a pop-up happen during that month, from choosing the topic, to soliciting additional staff to co-facilitate, to creating the handout, to staffing the pop-up, to writing a recap in Basecamp after the pop-up/s
May-18		Mimosa	Amy H. Amy K.	Narratives of gun violence Privacy in America	Laurel		
Jun-18	Christine (6/20/18)	Mimosa	Christine & Mimosa Mimosa & Amy K.	Who Writes History? What is Pride Month?	Jenny		Rapid Resonse Pop-Ups - You're in charge of blocking off time 2-4 times during the month during which you'll pop up in the library to talk about a topic in the news. You'll use the standard handout for information seeking (in development)
Jul-18		Christine	Jenny	Cultural History of Skokie	Amy H.		
Aug-18	Leah (8/20/18)	Christine	Amy K. Mimosa	Talking About Suicide What Does It Mean to Gentrify?	Chris A.		
Sep-18		Leah	Christine & Mary	Intellectual Freedom	Mimosa		
			Chris A. & Jenny	Eating Local			

How do you activate staff?

- Take into account personal experiences
- Make it easy to bring an idea from another program into a civic engagement setting
- Think about how library jobs relate—e.g., collection specialists, reference staff
- Intentionally create a cross-departmental team



Preparing Staff for Civic Engagement

- Provide clear goals about staff participation expectations
- Establish understanding of how to differentiate between breaking news vs. analysis vs. opinion
- Have discussions before programs about personal and news bias, and how to redirect these interactions



What it Takes to Pop-Up

- Facilitation
- Handout of curated resources
- Interactive component
- Visual display
- Patron calendar entry
- Documentation



- Facilitation Practices



Handouts

- Include a variety of formats (i.e. long and short articles, audiobooks, podcasts, visual-documentaries, YouTube videos, etc.)
- Discussion questions
- Definitions
- Include different viewpoints
- Accessible to a wide age range



What is the Department of Energy?

The mission of the Department of Energy is to ensure our security and prosperity by addressing its energy, environmental, and nuclear challenges through transformative science and technology solutions.¹

Conversation Questions

1. What is our responsibility as individuals to understand the specific roles and inner workings of large government institutions?
2. How is energy – use, storage, type – related to national security?
3. To what extent should a new administration change the priorities of a federal agency?

Core Resources

- Organizational Chart, <https://www.energy.gov/leadership/organization-chart>
- DOE History, <https://bit.ly/2R2rSm6>
- U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), <https://bit.ly/2C8YV32>

Listen

***Direct Current* by the Energy.gov Digital Team**

<https://bit.ly/2B8Jjv0>

Take a deep dive into the Energy Department with their podcast. In its third season, this podcast answers questions about different energy sources and shares insight about the people in the department.





Read

***The Fifth Risk* by Michael Lewis**

<https://bit.ly/2zNdrw3>

Michael Lewis's latest novel describes what is happening now in our government institutions, where key positions in departments (including the DOE) are not being filled. He attempts to determine what happens when the nation does not know what is not being done by our government.

Explore

What Exactly Does the Energy Department Do?

by Reena Flores

<https://cbsn.ws/2Eo3YiL>

This article explains recent and historical workings of the DOE while predicting how the agency will move forward under new leadership.

The Department of Energy Is Failing to Do Its Job

by David B. Goldstein

<https://on.nrdc.org/2ufMvzt>

This blog explains how the DOE was established by Public Law 95-91, which mandates that it operate under congressional goals and priorities, and how the current administration is failing to follow this law.



Interactive Components

- Voting
- Discussion prompts
- Matching games



What history is
in the making?

FIASCO
of president

THE DAMAGE
DONE by "HUMAN
TRAFFICKERS"

Supreme Court
Shift in ideology

Growing inequality
theory of
Evolution

Changing of the landscape

Environmental refugees due to
Climate change

Presidential Tweets

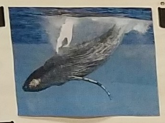
What events in history
do you think everyone
should know?

- Holocaust
- Women's Suffrage
- NAACP defending women of color in rape cases (Rosa Parks was an activist for many years before the bus boycott)
- American Revolution and the evolution of ~~the~~ early republic.
- Civil Rights Movement
- Labor
- World not just US
- MOON LANDING



SPACE

Why are species endangered?



Why are species endangered?



Visual Displays

- Helps delineate the space
- Great way to promote many facets of the library's physical collection



Visual Displays



Program Promotion

- Patrons can view on our website when and where Civic Labs are happening
- Access to handouts
- Links to previous Civic Lab topics and materials



CIVIC LAB

Civic Lab offers information, activities, and discussion on issues facing our community. The Civic Lab pops up at the library around different events and topics. Check out upcoming Civic Lab appearances below. If you're interested in learning more about a previous topic, click on past events below.

UPCOMING EVENTS

[Civic Lab: Built for Whom?](#)

Tuesday, October 22, 2019, 11:00 am

HANDOUTS

Curious to learn more about any of the topics that we've explored in the Civic Lab? Each event includes a handout with resources to read, listen to, and watch in order to explore the topic and its implications. Click on any of the past events below to access the handouts.

We also create handouts with more general information:

[Go-To News Sources](#)

PAST EVENTS

[Civic Lab Prison Connections: The Power of Second Chances, Hope, and Human Contact](#)

Saturday, September 21, 2019, 12:30 pm

[Civic Lab Prison Connections: The Power of Second Chances, Hope, and Human Contact](#)



[HOME](#) » [EVENTS](#) » [EVENT](#)

EVENT

Civic Lab: Built for Whom?

Tuesday, October 22, 2019

11:00 am - 12:30 pm

Central Lobby

What do default thermostat settings, crash test dummies, and pricing for personal goods have in common? They've all been designed with men in mind.

Explore resources and join discussion on gender discrimination and the ways it has been baked into society.



Tags

[Adults](#)[Teens](#)[Kids](#)[Workshop](#)[Print flyer](#)

Documentation

- Post pop-up summary
- Succinct way to share patron feedback and experiences
- Great opportunity to reflect



+ New...

Docs & Files

Unsorted

Built for Whom

Date: Oct 22, 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
Amy H. & Amy K.

Description:
What do default thermostat settings, crash test dummies, and pricing for personal goods have in common? They're

Prisoner Rehabilitation

Amy H. & Christie

Date: August 30, 2019

Location: East lobby

Potential resources:



Census 2020

Resources:

- <http://www.ala.org/advocacy/govinfo/census>

Civic Lab: Infrastructure

Dates:
Friday, July 27, 11am-12pm
Friday, August 3, 1pm-2pm

Staffing: Leah & Miguel

Location:
Friday, July 27, 11am

Public libraries as platforms for civic engagement
My post



Public Libraries as Platforms for Civic Engagement

Rapid Response Pop-Ups

June 2018 - Jenny

Topic: What do you know about immigration?
8/22/18, 10:00-11:00am, East Side
Participation: 5
Recap: This pop-up was in

April - Christine

4/19/18, 11-12, East Side
Topic: What Every American Should Know (and what you should know)
Participation: 12
Recap: This pop-up was in

...and 1 more



Staffing Roles Calendar

Notes:
This document has the calendar of which members of the Civic Lab

Conference Sessions & Talks

Upcoming:

Past:

- ILA 2017 - Mimosa & Amy K.

Main Docs

Civic Lab Appearan...
PLANNED APPEARANCES - Planning calendar now in the back google doc. See the note "Civic Lab Event Standards & Processes" for a

Civic Lab Curatorial Team
• Amy Holcomb
• Laurel Johnson
• Mimosa Shah
• Leah White
• Christine

Activity Ideas for

Civic Lab Colors for

...and 3 more

Resource Lists

Building a Resource List
Building a Resource List.JPG
Here's the annotated list in talking to

"Go-To Information Sources" Handout
Research
• Info@discent
enform@discent.org
• @discent
• @discent

Resources - "Dear

Resources - Fake News

...and 1 more

Meeting Notes

Meeting Notes 9/20/17

General Discussion:
1. Timing of pop-ups - planning and after-dinner events seem to get the best

Meeting Notes

Meeting Notes 9/2/17

1. Updates on bringing in co-facilitators-who's talking to whom
• Alyson (Amy K.)
• Jimmy &

Meeting Notes 1/9/17

...and 4 more

Boutique - 2016

Resources - Civic Lab Boutique
TOPIC HEADERS
Black Lives Matter
Climate Change
Immigration
Income Inequality
LGBTQ

New Glided Age graphic.jpg



Past Appearances

Civic Lab: Labor Laws and Wages

Civic Lab: The History and Legacy



Responses

To PostIt Question:

"Climate Change"

"Duh?? Climate Change? People? Cutting down too many trees?"

"Because human beings behave as if the planet is ours alone & have not cared for the environment & the earth's creatures."

"Overpopulation"

"Overhunting"

"Deforestation"

"Habitat Being Destroyed"

"Humans not caring for the environment, not protecting it"

"Humans"

- A retired teacher took a printed copy of the Outside Magazine article and read it, then returned to speak with us about the complex reasons for endangered species. We talked about the challenges of balancing human needs with the encroachment upon species' habitats.
- A young boy and his caregiver stopped by the display and told us, without missing a beat, about the main reason for the dying out of the Asian elephant: "Well, overhunting of course."
- We had less turnout and engagement overall than we anticipated due to the slowness of January programming.



Types of Pop-Ups



Four Main Areas

- Timely topics to put the news into context
- Civic literacy
- Issues in the news
- News literacy



Timely Topics

- What is FEMA?
- Talking About Taxes
- Actually, She Did That



Do you know
these women?



Laverne Cox
1984-



Regine Jonas
1902-1944



Selma Burke
1900-1995



Hedy Lamarr
1914-2000

CIVIC LAB

WHAT IS THE
CIVIC LAB?

The Civic Lab is a
pop-up library. It
offers in-

Civic Literacy

- How a Bill Becomes a Law
- What is the EPA?
- How Does the Supreme Court Work?



Issues in the News

- Genetic Editing (CRISPR)
- Narratives of Gun Violence



News Literacy

- What is Journalism? (And What Isn't?)
- Social Media & Viral News



Strategies for Finding Relevant Civic Engagement Topics

- Check in with patrons at the desk.
- Connect with your colleagues about what feedback they're getting.
- Consider what's happening in your town, county, school district, or state.



Lessons Learned



Best Practices

- Patrons need to see a clear facilitator before they are willing to engage in discussion
- It's best to have at minimum 2 staff members present for each pop-up
- Wear your Civic Lab t-shirt!



Best Practices

- Approach matters – welcome patrons into the pop-up by
 - Offering to share information about the topic
 - Asking a question
- For staff, focusing on one topic at a time is preferable and more manageable
 - Deep dive research
 - More comfortable fielding questions



Questions?



Thank you!

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Amy Holcomb | aholcomb@skokielibrary.info

<https://skokielibrary.info/resources/civic-lab/>

