

# A Model for Innovative Community Engagement: Tech Shed at City of Canada Bay

Joy Suliman

The Learning Space Coordinator

# The Learning Space, Rhodes

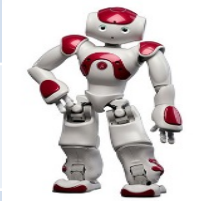





## VISION

A connected community which is actively engaged with digital technology, new ideas, and lifelong learning

## MISSION

To create a vibrant and welcoming space which supports learning, creativity, innovation, and community

# Learning Technology Platforms

Name	Program area/usage	Image
NAO robot	Robotics and coding Outreach, general programs School holidays Promotion and PR	
Little Bits – smart home and workshop kits	Electronics and making Robotics and coding Product prototyping and design thinking General programs School holidays	
3d printers	Electronics and making Product prototyping and design thinking Social innovation and entrepreneurship General programs Community engagement and outreach Community resource and accessible use	
AO printer Die cutter Regular colour printer	Electronics and making Product prototyping and design thinking Social innovation and entrepreneurship General programs School holidays Community engagement and outreach Community resource and accessible use	
Macbooks Ipads, Makey Makey, lego etc	Photo, video and music Electronics and making Robotics and coding Product prototyping and design thinking Social innovation and entrepreneurship General programs School holidays	
Studio Gear Photo, video, music, rehearsal	Photo, video and music Electronics and making Robotics and coding Product prototyping and design thinking Social innovation and entrepreneurship General programs School holidays	

# Types of activities

Impromptu and drop - in



Skills intros and short  
workshops



Formal workshops and

# LET'S MAKE



CITY OF  
CANADABAY  
LIBRARIES

The Learning  
Space presents...

## LET'S MAKE!

Join us for a series of hands-on activities and demonstrations for adults, teens and family groups. Drop-in between **3.30pm and 5.30pm**, no bookings required.

Intro to 3d printing	Five Dock Library Concord Library	Tuesday 7 June Monday 27 June
Paper Circuits	Five Dock Library Concord Library	Tuesday 21 June Monday 25 July
Building with Little Bits	Five Dock Library Concord Library	Tuesday 19 July Monday 8 August
Intro to Robots	Five Dock Library Concord Library	Tuesday 2 August Monday 22 August
More Robots	Five Dock Library Concord Library	Tuesday 30 August Monday 5 September

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Stay connected @canbaylibraries

- Drop-in workshops
- Promoted through library EDM and social media
- Great response from all age demographics
- Promoting Rhodes

# Our starting point

- Liveable Communities Grant from FACS NSW
- Funding for programs delivering health and wellbeing outcomes for older Australians
- Pilot for 12 months
- Must be on a path to becoming self sustaining
- Extensive research, consultation, and planning

# How we kicked it all off

- Found a local champion, and employed him as a facilitator
- Put the word out in every Council publication and communication channel
- Invited every likely looking candidate who walked through the doors
- Personally invited the local Men's Shed at Concord, and other local community groups

# Open Day

Open invitation – over 40 people in attendance

Introduced our equipment and facilities

Encouraged questions

Surveyed potential participants



# The first 6 months . . .

- Worked with an initial program structure
- Introduced workshops in 3D printing and 3D modelling, OTTO robot building, programming in python, and photography
- TLS staff were heavily involved
- Facilitation was very hands-on

# Transition to sustainability

- Invited participants to plan a way forward for their group
- Lots of conversations and negotiation with both participants and other stakeholders
- Agreement to join Harry's Shed
- Library continues to support with regular meeting space, gear, equipment, and refreshments

# Benefits for participants



# Benefits for stakeholders

- Harry's Shed has new members with new skills
- Harry's Shed members have access to 3D printing, electronics, coding and digital media production equipment and skills to further their other projects

# Benefits for Community

- Tech shed participates in outreach and community activities alongside our library service
- Participants are often active in other networks eg. Sydney Heritage Fleet

# Benefits for City of Canada Bay Libraries

The logo for the City of Canada Bay Libraries is a blue vertical banner with a white ribbon-like bottom edge. The text "CITY OF CANADA BAY LIBRARIES" is written in white, uppercase letters, oriented vertically from top to bottom.

CITY OF  
CANADA BAY  
LIBRARIES

We upskilled alongside this community of practice

Participants are regulars in our other programs as well

Connect us with other groups and networks, locally and across NSW

Built, upgraded and maintain a CR10mini 3D printer and delta 3d printer from kits

We built our makerspace classroom around them,  
week by week (still going)

Trialled and tested all our safety and induction  
workflows, procedures, and policies with this group  
in mind

Built a fleet of OTTO robots we use regularly in  
programs

Join us in community outreach and education  
programs

These days they cost us tea and biscuits!