

Director's Report

April 2024

Arlington Heights Memorial Library

Spotlight

AHML Celebrates Women's History Month

Nearly 80 people attended a Mix & Mingle event at the Makerplace celebrating the incredible women of Arlington Heights. The special event curated by the library's Heritage Months Committee was designed to

bring together women across the community. Attendees networked and mingled with local women including representatives from local female-led organizations (NWCASA, Good Neighbors Network, Family Forward, Connections to Care, TEDxArlington Heights and State Representative Mary Beth Canty's office).

Special guest speakers for the event included Donna Marie Post, founder and curator for TEDxArlington

Heights, who spoke about unifying our communities, State Representative Mary Beth Canty, who spoke of her efforts to pass legislation regarding education, and Scratchboard Kitchen's Executive

Chef Grace Goudie, who spoke about being a mentor to young girls who are looking to pursue a career in the food service industry.

Attendees enjoyed appetizers made by Chef Grace in the Makerplace Kitchen as well as desserts from Sweet T's Bakery.





Michael, Makerplace Advisor, helped attendees etch a custom pint glass giveaway using the laser engraver in the Fabrication Room.

Special thanks to the planning team which included team leader Nikki from Programs & Exhibits, William from Communications & Marketing, Catalina from Community & Circulation Services and Diane from Info Services.



In addition to the Mix & Mingle event, a series of programs and events in honor of Women's History Month were hosted in-person at the library and in the community as well as via Zoom. One of the events was an International Women's Day celebration with nearly thirty attendees. The Featured Books display was Women's History Month themed and had 125 checkouts. Info Services Advisors also curated online booklists which are available on the library's website.





Strengthen the library's service outside its walls

AHML Continues to Build Upon Partnerships



- The Youth Services department partnered with the Gail Borden, Mount Prospect and Skokie libraries on hosting Kentucky-based Mr. Science. Nearly 170 attendees learned about the science behind their favorite Pokémon characters in a fun and engaging way.
- The library collaborated with the Arlington Heights Youth Commission and the Arlington Heights Park District for the 12th annual Teen Job Fair. This year 250 high schoolers and over 100 parents/caregivers filled the Arlington Ridge Center's gym to connect with 18 different local businesses including the library.
- For the second event in the library's Elevating Voices partnership with District 214 and League of Women Voters,



Elaine Taylor-Klaus, a Master Certified Coach and internationally recognized thought leader in neurodiversity and parenting, presented via Zoom to help over 30 attendees learn to navigate neurodiversity in their lives.

- In collaboration with the Arlington Heights Garden Club, the library hosted popular local impersonator Leslie Goddard who reprised her role as Lady Bird Johnson. The evening was a lovely way to celebrate the end of Women's History Month and the beginning of many of the Garden Club's upcoming initiatives with over 170 attendees.
- March marked the beginning of a four-month series of events with the Arlington Heights Bicycle Club. The first event in the series, Two Wheels from Arlington Heights to the World, was a huge success with over 140 attendees ranging in age from 20s to seniors.

Parks and Rec Trivia Engages Customers Where They Are

Twenty-six people attended the Parks and Rec Trivia event at the Empty Corner, a creative event space in Arlington Heights.

Nikki, Programs & Exhibits Coordinator, worked with Rory Parilac



also known as Ms. Quiz to curate this trivia theme. One of the teams was comprised of two strangers who joined forces to win!





PADS Meal Prep Season Concludes

Neal, Program & Exhibits Specialist and Catalina, Community Engagement Liaison hosted the final PADS meal prep for the season. For this session, the library partnered with St. John United Church of Christ's Friday Night PADS shelter. Attendees made 50 lunches and dinners including arroz con pollo with a Columbian spin,

sandwiches and blondies for dessert. Attendees were happy to partake in this volunteer opportunity and there continues to be a wonderful sense of community in the Kitchen during these events.

“Just a Taste” Event Raises Awareness of the Senior Center

Nearly 90 people attended the Just a Taste event at the Arlington Heights Senior Center. The inaugural event in partnership with the other agencies helped raise awareness of the wide variety of programs and services offered at the Senior Center. Sponsored by the Arlington Heights Senior Center Foundation, the evening featured live music, mocktails, a scavenger hunt and appetizers from local restaurants. Visitors of the library's Reading Room learned about our senior services and enjoyed making DIY mylar bookmarks.



Staff Member Honored as Local Business Person of the Year

Info Services Advisor Diane Malik is the recipient of the Arlington Heights Alignable 2024 Local Business Person of the Year. Alignable is a social network platform designed specifically for local small businesses to connect and share advice. The 2024 contest honors local business owners and allies who have gone above and beyond to help their peers and their communities. Diane also received this recognition in 2021.





Grow the use of our services and resources

Library Programs Continue to Engage the Arlington Heights Community

- The Friends-sponsored Sunday Musicales series continued in March with 161 music lovers attending a special Women's History Month performance with Klesis Chamber Ensemble. Jay, Programs & Exhibits Assistant, invited this group of exceptional musicians to celebrate female musicians and composers and their set included little-known compositions by 19th and 20th century French and American women, including Undine Smith Moore, an important Black American composer and educator.



Klesis Chamber Ensemble

- The re-branded Tuesday Matinee continues to be a success, seeing the highest daytime film audiences in years. In March, 65 people watched *Oppenheimer*, the Academy Awards Best Picture Winner, on the Hendrickson Room's big screen. Nikki, Programs & Exhibits Coordinator, added popcorn and refreshments, while others brought their own snacks (and seat cushions). Daytime films are seen as an important opportunity for social connection.



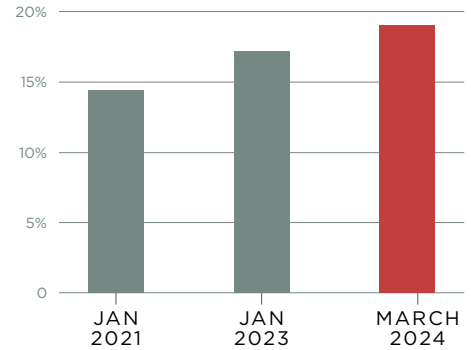
Native Landscape Design

- Over 130 people attended the Native Landscape Design program curated by Jay, Programs & Exhibits Assistant. A local nonprofit noticed the event in the library's newsletter and reached out with an offer to give away native seed packets after the presentation.
- For the month of March, the ESL & Literacy Services team hosted 60 programs with 782 people in attendance. Of these group programs, 52 were taught by staff and volunteers of the library.



Increase in Diversity of Library Collection

The diversity of the library's collection has grown from 14.4% in 2021 to 19.1% as of March 2024. Eve, Cataloging Librarian, adds the diverse subject headings to items recently added to the collection, with about 600 titles each month receiving the headings. This includes regular print items, large print, audiobooks, eBooks and eAudiobooks. Currently the collection has over 39,000 items that have diverse headings.



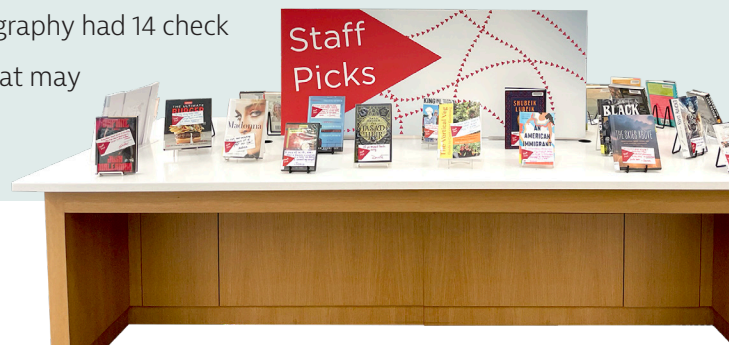
New Nonprofit Program Series Launched

Diane, Info Services Advisor, launched a new quarterly program called The Nonprofit Exchange with 11 people in attendance. The program aims to foster networking and knowledge sharing among nonprofit professionals. While networking was a key component, Diane also dedicated a portion of the session to training attendees on using Foundation Directory Online and other grant research tools.

Displays Help Increase Collection Circulation

The Info Services department oversees the Featured Books, Read Watch Listen, Staff Picks and Featured DVDs displays in the library. In March, 775 items were checked out from these displays. The Staff Picks display continues to be the most popular with 186 items checked out.

The new nonfiction displays in Kids' World, overseen by the Collection Services department, have proven to be a success! In just under a month, 193 items were checked out from the displays. Dinosaurs were the most popular topic with 98 items checked out. Under the Sea had 81 and Biography had 14 check outs. The displays are a great way to bring attention to titles that may be hidden in the stacks.





Enhance the library's role in the everyday lives of the Arlington Heights community

Makerplace Fosters Community Connections & Inspires Creativity Through Experiences

- The Fiber Crafts meetup continues to draw customers looking to share a common love for fiber together. This month, 9 customers attended the meetup including a mother and daughter who wanted to learn some crochet skills from more experienced crafters and an ESL Doodle & Chat program attendee who returned to show off her crochet dream catchers. This meetup creates a wonderful community space, where customers return to see familiar faces all while working on projects they love.
- March's afternoon and evening Inspired by Art programs explored a new medium. Thirty-five artists learned about the black-on-black San Ildefonso pottery made by Maria Martinez. Participants used air dry clay to make beautiful pots, plates and vases. The artists enjoyed trying a new art technique in a no-pressure, supportive environment.
- Twenty third and fourth graders began their spring break by visiting the Makerplace and learning about the available resources. They experienced a mini version of the Inspired by Art program, tried their hand at tech problem



solving using LittleBits and assembled a laser-cut wooden 3D puzzle after touring the Fabrication Room.





AHML Continues to Celebrate Cultural Diversity

The Programs & Exhibits department continues to host diverse culinary classes in the Makerplace Kitchen. Thirty-two customers attended Blue Zone Foods – Japan by local chef Ludmila Nelson. Attendees made a colorful and healthful tofu-seaweed salad. Customers also attended classes on Passover foods and one-pot Indian meals.



Danielle, Circulation Assistant, Catalina, Community Engagement Liaison and Jailene, Youth Services Specialist represented the library at Patton Elementary School's inaugural Multicultural Night. Our staff interacted with over 160 attendees and promoted the library's programs and ESL and literacy services with multilingual families.

Makerplace Supports Local Inventor

Local inventor Randall Corley has been using the Makerplace's 3D printing service to refine a design for a product he invented. After 26 iterations, using the 3D printers at the Makerplace and the 3D printing expertise of Makerplace staff over the past year, he is now ready to bring The Grip-a-Line (www.grip-a-line.com) to market. A copy of his product is on display in the "Customer-made items" section of our example shelves. Good luck, Randall!



Seniors Connect to Nostalgic Musical Performance



Nearly 70 people attended Chicago musician Steve Justman's performance of popular songs and stories from the 1950s and 60s at the Arlington Heights Senior Center. The standing-room-only crowd joined in with laughter and singing. Multiple attendees stayed after the performance to express their appreciation for the library's program.



Former Hub Regular Helps Launch Inaugural Convention Inspired by AHML's FanCon

Vera, a former Hub regular, shared that he was part of the founding team to launch UI-CON, the University of Illinois Champaign-Urbana's inaugural anime and comic convention. Citing the library's annual FanCon as an inspiration, Vera mentioned that his experiences in the Hub and at FanCon had a lasting impact on him. The UI-Con saw 3,000 attendees including library staff members who visited.



Staff Learn the Latest on Fraud Prevention

As highlighted in the library's strategic plan, fiscal responsibility is one of the library's core values. The Finance department coordinated the viewing of two fraud prevention webinars for supervisors and managers. Staff learned the latest on the fraud landscape so that they could help prevent fraud from impacting the library. The knowledge learned could also help in providing customers with the most current information on this subject.



Tweens & Teens Make Fresh Pasta in the Kitchen

Chef Grace led two fresh pasta making classes for tweens and teens in the Makerplace Kitchen. Participants commented on how proud they were of the pasta they made and how much they appreciated Chef Grace's kindness and expertise.

ESL & Makerplace Teams Present Doodle & Chat Program

Tracy, ESL & Literacy Services Coordinator, teamed up with Kate, Makerplace Specialist, to present Doodle & Chat, a program where 9 participants with varying levels of English proficiency worked in the Creative Arts space to create 2-dimensional and 3-dimensional doodles while chatting in English. It was a relaxed, but fun program which saw three new-to-the-Makerplace learners, as well as one new-to-the-library participant!



What Customers Are Saying

"I've never touched a sewing machine before in my life. You're such a good teacher."

-Sewing Essentials: Sew a Tote Bag Class Attendee

"Very much enjoying learning at AHML."

-Arlington Heights Garden Club Partnership Event Attendee

"I learn something from every class, making me a better cook each time."

-Chef Grace's Cacio de Pepe Class Attendee

"[The culinary classes] are very organized and not too large. The staff are very helpful. Would love to attend many more."

-First-time Culinary Class Attendee

"Please thank the library for remembering us...and letting you bring so many fun things!"

-LIFE Group Member who attended Tinker Days at Forest View High School

"Excellent musicianship." "Good to learn about women composers I've never heard of." "Beautiful music that was unfamiliar to me before."

-Sunday Musicales Attendees

"This was my third PADS prep and I plan to sign up when it resumes in October. Neal and Catalina do a fabulous job and I always leave feeling good about helping."

-PADS Meal Prep Attendee

Arlington Heights Memorial Library

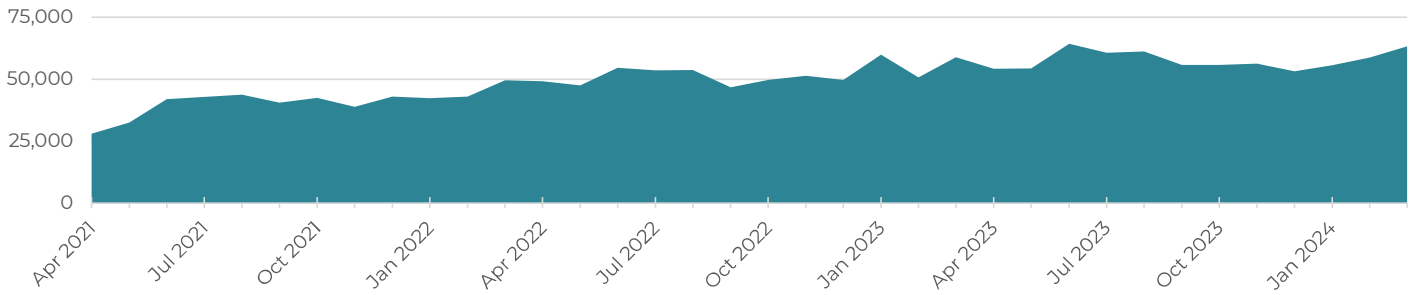
March 2024 Dashboard

Library Visits

84.4% of library customers in March visited the Main Library. Year to date, library visits are up 6.1%.

	March		2024 YTD	2023 YTD	Change
Main Library	52,257	84.4%	147,050	141,201	4.1%
Drive-Up	4,937	8.0%	15,307	15,942	-4.0%
Makerplace	1,826	2.9%	4,621	3,123	48.0%
Outreach	1,585	2.6%	3,410	N/A	-
Bookmobile	1,298	2.1%	3,533	3,712	-4.8%
Senior Center	1,288	2.1%	3,678	3,231	13.8%
Total	61,903	100%	173,921	163,978	6.1%

Total Visits



Room Use	March	2024 YTD	2023 YTD	Change	Trend
Hendrickson Room	11	27	38	-28.9%	<p>April 2023-March 2024</p>
Conference Rooms	1,358	3,902	3,618	7.8%	
Total	1,369	3,929	3,656	7.5%	

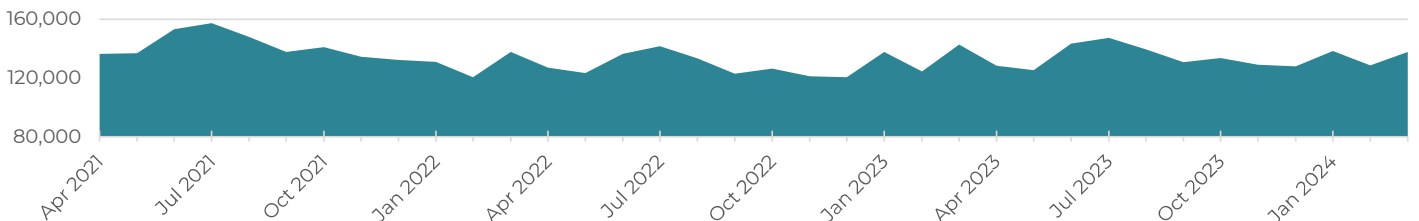
Library Cards ¹	March	2024 YTD	2023 YTD	Change	Trend
Resident	316	1,031	1,129	-8.7%	<p>April 2023-March 2024</p>
Reciprocal	121	345	432	-20.1%	
Total	439	1,379	1,564	-11.8%	

Circulation

17.2% of checkouts in March were Downloadable items. Year to date, total checkouts are down -0.05%.

	March		2024 YTD	2023 YTD	Change
Print	78,242	56.8%	227,647	231,703	-1.8%
Audiovisual	25,883	18.8%	76,818	79,124	-2.9%
Downloadable	23,697	17.2%	70,011	65,736	6.5%
Other	9,475	6.9%	28,992	27,152	6.8%
ILL	395	0.3%	1,222	1,169	4.5%
Total	137,692	100%	404,690	404,884	-0.05%

Total Checkouts



¹ New cards only. Does not include renewals.

Arlington Heights Memorial Library

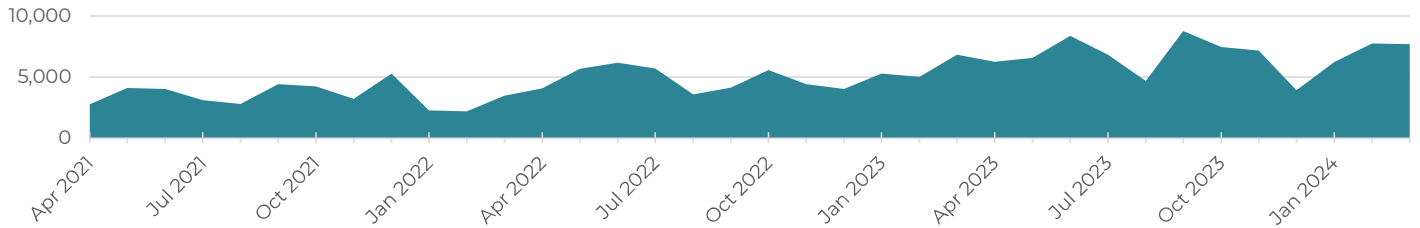
March 2024 Dashboard

Programs

3,892 customers attended Children programs in March, which represents 50.7% of all program attendees. Year to date, program attendance is up 26.1% across all audiences and program sessions are up 9.2%.

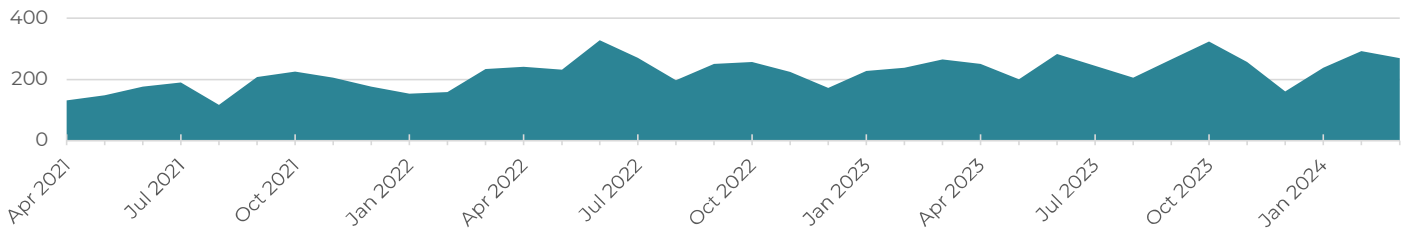
Attendance	March		2024 YTD	2023 YTD	Change
Children	3,892	50.7%	12,363	9,627	28.4%
Adult	3,267	42.5%	8,241	6,576	25.3%
Teen	521	6.8%	1,048	969	8.2%
	7,680	100%	21,652	17,172	26.1%

Attendance



Sessions	March		2024 YTD	2023 YTD	Change
Adult	182	67.7%	527	470	12.1%
Children	73	27.1%	235	223	5.4%
Teen	14	5.2%	37	39	-5.1%
	269	100%	799	732	9.2%

Sessions



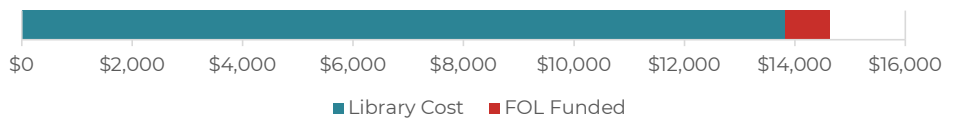
Total Program Cost

\$14,627.73

FOL Funded

\$800.00

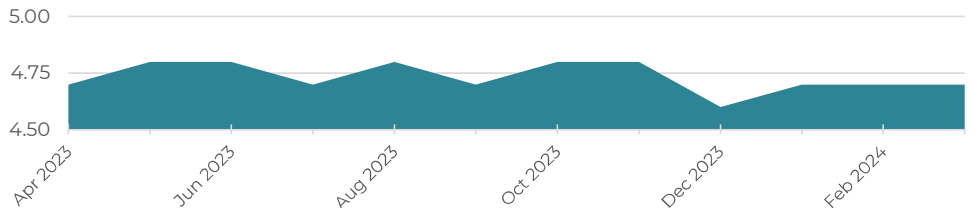
5.5%



Program Satisfaction

4.7 / 5

out of 90 programs



Supplementary Programs and Activities²

	March	Trend	2024 YTD	2023 YTD	Change
Attendance	1,788		4,289	12,732	-66.3%
Sessions	19		58	68	-14.7%

April 2023-March 2024

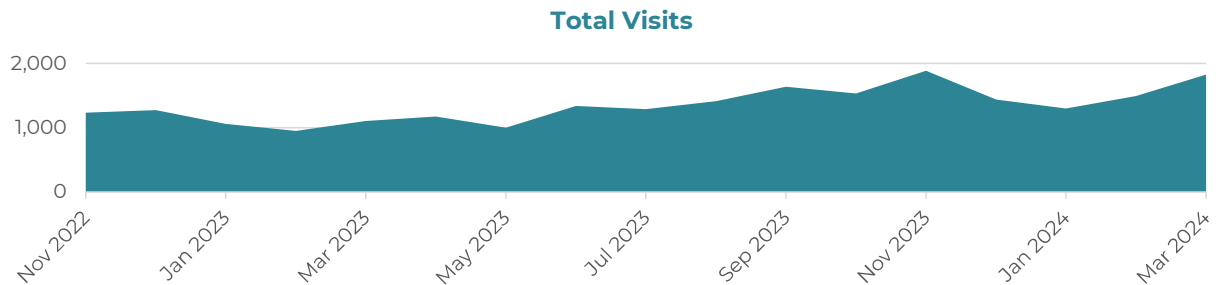
²Supplementary programs and activities are planned events where customers participate on their own, instead of at a designated time with a group. Registration is not required.

Arlington Heights Memorial Library Makerplace

March 2024 Dashboard

	March	% New Users	2024 YTD	2023 YTD	Change
Makerplace Visits	1,826	6.6%	4,621	3,123	48.0%

	March		2024 YTD	2023 YTD	Change
New Users³					
Makerplace	70	58.3%	182	177	2.8%
Kitchen	25	20.8%	68	48	41.7%
Makerplace & Kitchen	25	20.8%	51	41	24.4%
Total	120	100%	301	266	13.2%



	March		2024 YTD	2023 YTD	Change
Equipment Usage⁴					
Fabrication	193	50.3%	530	382	38.7%
Small Tools	77	20.1%	169	139	21.6%
Sewing	61	15.9%	177	134	32.1%
Technology	51	13.3%	107	78	37.2%
Art	2	0.5%	12	13	-7.7%
Total	384	100%	995	746	33.4%

	March		2024 YTD	2023 YTD	Change
Program Attendance⁵					
Culinary	185	46.1%	391	266	47.0%
Maker	128	31.9%	401	247	62.3%
Tour	15	3.7%	48	53	-9.4%
Other	73	18.2%	208	3	6833.3%
Total	401	100%	1,048	569	84.2%

	March		2024 YTD	2023 YTD	Change
3D Print Jobs	199		581	391	49%

	March		2024 YTD	2023 YTD	Change
eLearning⁶	152		465	1,006	-54%

³ Measured by number of waivers signed for maker/fabrication, kitchen, or both

⁴ **Fabrication**: all fabrication room equipment except 3D printers; **Small Tools**: soldering irons, hand tools; **Technology**: design computers

⁵ **Culinary**: kitchen programming; **Maker**: hands on making programs (3D printing, laser cutting, sewing); **Tour**: attendance of facility tours prescheduled or drop-in

⁶ Niche Academy views of Makerplace resources