



Getting Started With Making: Your Guide & Checklist

Introduction

Over the past several years, the concept of creation spaces, or makerspaces, has found a home in libraries. With the learning opportunities and equitable access libraries have always offered, makerspaces are a perfect fit.

This guide was created to help you identify your goals and objectives and bring focus to how you will meet the needs of your students or community.

The answers may not be clear right away, and your decisions may change as you go — and that’s okay. This is your planning tool — make it work for you. Check anything that applies today and highlight ideas for the future.



Start With Your “Why”

What are the driving forces or needs motivating you to build your makerspace?

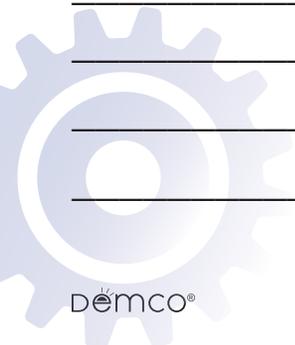
For schools, makerspaces offer project-based and collaborative learning opportunities, encourage design thinking and perseverance, and are the perfect place to help students develop critical 21st-century skills.

For public libraries, it may be that your community members need a resource for developing job skills, access to technology for personal or business use, or free and educational STEM opportunities. A makerspace can help you provide an access point to innovative learning resources and engage with patrons in new ways.

Before diving into the details of your new space, take a moment to think about *your* makerspace mission.

My Top 3 Driving Forces

3 Main Goals of My Makerspace



How Will Users Interact With Your Makerspace?

How users will interact with your space will influence the flow and layout, your furniture selections, the maker activities you'll offer, and how the space will be staffed and managed. Think about how your makerspace might be used, knowing it will likely evolve and shift over time.

School Environments

- Independent use before and after classes
- Guided use before and after classes
- During library class time
- During recess and lunch
- Independent use during free time
- The library will be the hub, but making will also extend to classrooms
- Open during all library hours
- Open to students on campus as well as the public
- _____

Public Library

- Open to the public for independent use during library hours
- Making will be available within children's, teen and adult service areas
- Making will be limited to the _____ area(s)
- Making will be part of library programming and events
- Making will be part of outreach programming and services
- Making activities will require supervision or training
- _____

What Comes First — Your Space or Your Maker Activities?

Actually, both. Because the two are so dependent on one another, it's helpful to think about them in tandem.

To determine the type of maker activities you'll provide, first think about the needs of your users and the making environment. When selecting the appropriate furnishings to build that environment, you'll be influenced by the activities you'll offer.

Before we jump into activities or furnishings, let's start by considering your space situation.

- Designing for a new building
- Designing as part of a renovation
- Updating to include more flexible-use space and incorporating new activities and/or technology
- Converting an existing room to become a makerspace (former computer lab, office, storage closet, etc.)
- Creating an area within the library for making (a space-within-a-space)
- I may be able to create more space for making by evaluating and weeding my collection or finding underutilized space in my library or building
- The space will need to accommodate multiple purposes throughout the day
- The space is supervised, so security is not an issue
- We will need an area to store maker tools and supplies
- We will need an area to store projects in progress
- I may need to add more power outlets
- I'll need charging stations to accommodate multiple devices
- My maker resources will need to be portable
 - Within the library
 - Within the entire school
 - Outside the library
 - In bins
 - In a mobile cart
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

What Type of Furnishings Will You Need?

Often called the Third Teacher, the learning environment has a critical influence on learning outcomes. Having an idea of the type of activities that will take place in the space will help you select furnishings that will support users and enhance the learning that will take place there.



Tables and Work Surfaces

Makers need space to create and flexibility is key in dynamic spaces. Consider the types of tools that will be used on the surfaces: power tools, soldering irons, hammering, sharp objects, sewing machines, computers, electronics, glue guns, tape, etc. Check the features that you think will work well in your space.

- Supports independent work
- Supports collaborative work
- Integrated multimedia options
- Integrated power options
- Sitting height
- Standing height
- A combo of sitting and standing or easy adjustability
- Casters for easy transportation and reconfiguration
- Ability to fold and nest tables and move them aside or out of the room
- Laminate surface (water-resistant, heat-resistant and scratch-resistant)
- Butcher block surface (durable, impact-resistant and easily refinished)
- _____
- _____

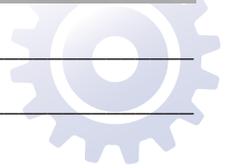
Below you'll find some of the most popular work surfaces. Explore the complete offering [here](#).

	 Muzo Kite® Mobile Tables	 Makerspace Mobile Tables	 OFM Endure Series Standing Height Table	 Adjustable Leg Work Benches	 Mobile STEM Table Stations
Mobile	X	X			X
Flip Top/Nest	X				
Multiple Shapes/Configurations	X				
Table Height Options	25", 27", 29" or 42"	37"	38"	29 to 33"	29"
Height Adjustable				Requires Tools	
Top Finish	Laminate	Laminate	Woodgrain Laminate or Dry-erase Surface	Butcher Block	Laminate
Power Options			X		X
Other		Coordinating Storage Available	Integrated Seating		Integrated Storage With Optional Locking Doors

Storage and Organization

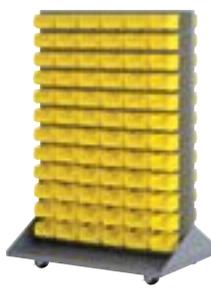
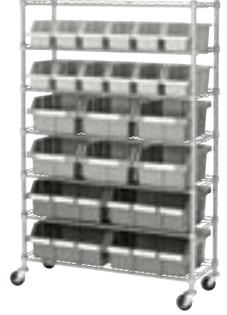
Making involves stuff. Keeping that stuff organized and accessible keeps the focus on the making rather than on spending time locating supplies and resources. Keep in mind that you may need to share resources or move them within your space or between buildings. Consider the following and check all that apply.

- I will need stationary storage for maker tools, supplies and projects.
- I will need mobile storage for maker tools, supplies and projects.
- I will need a secure storage area (lockable closet or cabinet) for maker items.
- I will need bins to store smaller items in bulk.
- My cabinets or carts will need to have adjustable shelves for storing items of varying sizes.
- _____
- _____

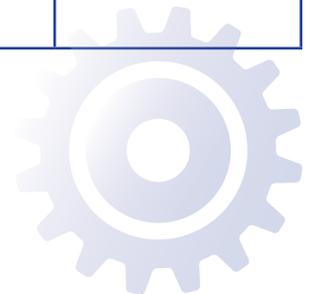


Below are some popular storage and organizational options. Explore the complete offering [here](#).



					
	<u>Akro-Mils ProCart™ Utility Carts</u>	<u>Double-sided Mobile Cart</u>	<u>Seville Classics® 7-tier Rack Shelving</u>	<u>Akro-Mils Plastic Drawer Storage</u>	<u>Seville Classics® 6-tier UltraZinc™ Shelving</u>

Mobile	X	X	X		X
Bins	Optional	X	X		
Drawers				X	
Shelves					X
Top Work Surface	X				





				
	<u>Copernicus STEM Maker Stations</u>	<u>Makerspace Mobile Tub Storage Carts</u>	<u>Mobile Makerspace Deluxe Workstations</u>	<u>Smith System™ Cascade™ Storage</u>
Mobile	X	X	X	X
Lockable		X	X	Optional
Open Access Bins	X			X
Drawers			X	
Shelves		X	X	X
Top Work Surface		X	X	X

Seating

The seating you choose will depend on your users and the work surfaces you've chosen. You may also want to create seating areas for quiet time and reflection. Consider the following features:

- Height-adjustable (accommodates multiple work surfaces and different age groups)
- Stackable (compact storage when not in use)
- Mobile (easily moved throughout the space)
- Active Seating (promotes good posture and focus)



Below are some of our favorite chairs and stools. Explore the complete offering [here](#).



						
	<u>Smith System™ Flavors™ Stack Chairs</u>	<u>Regency Glow Stools</u>	<u>Smith System™ noodle™ Seating</u>	<u>Metal Indoor/Outdoor Café Stools</u>	<u>Loop Arm Café Stools</u>	<u>Heavy-duty Steel Lab Stools</u>
Seat Height	10, 12, 14, 16 or 18"	13, 15, 17"	18½"	24 or 30"	22⅓-30⅓"	18, 24 or 30"
Height Adjustable			Add or remove sections		X	19-27", 25-33" or 31-39"

Maker Activities: What Will You Offer?

One of the most positive aspects of making is that there is something of interest for everyone, regardless of age. Where you start will be influenced by your students' or community's needs, your space and your staffing situation. If you're feeling overwhelmed, start with a couple simple activities and provide enough guidance and structure for success, while leaving room for critical thinking and problem solving. As makers progress, you can add more complex tools and challenges.

Below we feature some of the most common making categories and popular products, many of which offer user guides, apps and web-based content.



 Design & Build	 Coding	 Circuitry	 Engineering	 Technology
KEVA Planks K'NEX Makedo™ PowerClix® Q-BA MAZE Strawbees® Strictly Briks®	Code & Go Robot Mouse Cubetto Dash and Dot meeperBOT Ozobot®	littleBits™ Snap Circuits	K'NEX TeacherGeek® Cart, Activity Kits and Tools	Media Production and Presentation Virtual Reality Goggles

Looking to the Future

Demco is committed to helping librarians and educators succeed as they support communities of lifelong learners. If you would like to speak with someone about your makerspace needs, we're here to help.

Contact Us

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 Demco Makerspace Team
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