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## OPEN HOUSE PLANNED FOR THE MAKERSPACE AT NORFOLK PUBLIC LIBRARY ON MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 10

In October 2017, Governor Pete Ricketts announced that 18 Nebraska libraries were the initial local participants in Nebraska’s Library Innovation Studios: Transforming Rural Communities project to create library makerspaces. Norfolk was one of 30 community libraries in the state to receive this grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services to provide citizens a trial run with a “makerspace.”

“Libraries are about learning, and they’re especially about life-long learning for our community,” said Norfolk Public Library director, Jessica Chamberlain. “This is a real opportunity for us to expand the way in which we learn and the way in which the library can provide learning environments for the community.”

The project uses Library Innovation Studios makerspaces hosted by public libraries to support community engagement and participatory learning experiences by providing access to technology and innovative learning tools not readily accessible locally.

A makerspace is a collaborative work space designed for making, learning, exploring, and sharing by using high-tech to no-tech tools. The purpose of this unique area is to provide hands-on learning, sharpen critical thinking skills, and boost self-confidence. It is designed to help establish critical skills in the fields of science, technology, engineering, and math.

This is expected to stimulate creativity, innovation, and the exchange of ideas to facilitate entrepreneurship, skills development, and local economic development.

“Norfolk Public Library is so excited to host the Library Innovation Studio. This grant will allow us to provide a participatory learning space that will build interest in STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math) education in our young people, grow job skills for our workforce, provide tools for creative work and art, and allow lifelong learning for curious minds,” Chamberlain said.

The Library Innovation Studio arrived in Norfolk on August 28. An open house will be held on Monday, September 10, providing an overview of the equipment, training, and schedule. Training is required before patrons are able to use any of the equipment and could take 10-60 minutes depending on the station/kit. It will be offered often throughout the grant period which runs through mid-January 2019.

There are 15 different stations/kits that patrons have the opportunity to utilize through the Library Innovation Studio makerspace grant:

- Stations
  - a) Makerbot Replicator + 3D printer
  - b) Universal Laser Cutter
  - c) Graphtec CE6000-60 Vinyl Cutter
  - d) Carvey Inventables CNC Router
  - e) Bernette Embroidery Machine from Bernina
  - f) EnduraPRESS Heat Press & Epson WF 3260 Printers

People interested in using this equipment will need to take a certification class before using.\*

- Kits
  - a) Lego Mindstorms EV3 kit
  - b) Laminator kit
  - c) Arduino Starter kit
  - d) Sparkfun Inventor's kit
  - e) MakeyMakey kit
  - f) Camera & Video Creator kit
  - g) Audio/Music kit
  - h) Weller Soldering kit
  - i) Button Maker kit

People interested in using any of the kits will need to have a brief training that will be provided the first time they use the equipment.

\*To sign up for a time to take a certification class and to learn more about the technology in the MakerSpace, please visit [www.norfolkne.gov/library](http://www.norfolkne.gov/library) . Certification classes will begin on Tuesday, September 11.

*The makerspace open house will be held on Monday, September 10, from 5:00 – 7:00 p.m.*

The equipment in the makerspace is free to use, but patrons may be asked to provide their own materials for some of the stations (for example, you will need to bring your own t-shirt if you would like to create a unique t-shirt design). There will be a small fee for the use of materials needed for the different equipment.

Community residents are encouraged to stop by the library to hear more about the equipment, or volunteer to serve on the Community Action Team or as a trainer/mentor. Library staff are also very willing to speak with groups or organizations about the makerspace opportunity.