

Post-Conference Summary Report

Name of Event Culture Keepers Collective

Date of Event: May 13-15th

Conference Summary:

“The Culture Keepers Collective is a Native-led collective that serves cultural workers to advance their communities’ work within tribal libraries, archives, and museums.” * Note: The invitation was extended because of our Indigenous programming we do and support at the library. Sponsored by UW Madison TLAM, WILS, and NFLS.

Conference Highlights:

- Connect with leaders from all over Wisconsin and the United States. The conference had presenters from all over the country, including the Smithsonian. What makes this conference different is that you can connect with the presenters through your time at the conference. The way the conference is structured, there are many opportunities to engage.
- Learned about TK (traditional knowledge) labelling. These tags are starting to be utilized by communities to make sure items and resources are properly labelled with the people of origin, clan names, or community names. These tags make sure resources and items are being used properly or if they have restrictions. It prevents misuse of information or commercialization of tribal songs, art, and teachings. These labels are starting to be used in catalogues, museums, cultural centers, and libraries.
- Attended a makerspace session where we were able to explore different makerspaces from different libraries throughout the country. These spaces were anywhere from large spaces with high-tech equipment and staff to something as simple as makerspace carts. A key element to the spaces, they gave users opportunities for traditional crafts that were important to the region and communities that they served.
- Represent our Kaukauna Public Library and share how we serve our diverse community in ways not all libraries do. This led me to have the opportunity to serve on a planning committee for the future gathering as well as make a connection and share with other libraries about our Indigenous resources.
- Gifted resources for our library, including one item that is rarely seen outside its community.