



## **St. Helens Public Library Makerspace**

### **Use Between October 24 and December 6, 2024**

#### **Users to Date**

- 111 users in seven weeks
  - 84 adults
  - 22 from ages 5 to 13 (accompanied by parent)
  - 5 from ages 14 to 17
- 57 hours open to the public
- Programming
  - Weekly Makerspace 101 certification classes required for some equipment, e.g., the 3D printer and Glowforge and others
  - Weekly Maker three-hour open hours on Mondays and Fridays for all users
  - Weekly three-hour blocks for ½ hour appointments on Tuesdays and Thursdays
  - Monthly Maker Kids STEAM Wednesday (ages 6 to 10)
  - Monthly Junior Makers STEAM Wednesday (ages 10 to 14)
  - Monthly Teen Makers STEAM (ages 13 to 17)

#### **Volunteers**

- We have several volunteers with expertise in the 3D printer, serger, sewing machine, soldering and circuitry, robotics and hand tools who helped us get the space back open.
- We have a permanent volunteer who helps during open hours twice a week.
- We have several people who have shown an interest in helping in the Makerspace and/or collaborating with us for future programming.

#### **Examples of Use**

- We've certified multiple people on the Glowforge to use the laser cutter for creating name tags for their employees (business owners), support pieces for their classroom (kindergarten teacher), and various signs for businesses.
- Another patron has been coming in to learn how to create a QR code for their company website and to learn how to put that onto a t-shirt either via heat transfer or using the Cricut and Heat Press.
- Of the 3D print jobs, more than half have been to create a replacement part for something rather than having to throw it away.

- 3D printers have been used to create office supplies that are specifically designed for what they need, e.g., using TPU filament to create and 3D print a flexible cord manager.
- 3D printers have also been used by adults to create individualized Christmas presents for their children.
- Another business came in and used the letters with the die-cutter to create letters for a giant sign at an outreach event.
- A mother re-created her son's button pin that has accidentally been washed, before he got out of school and found out it had been ruined.
- An elderly woman is using the Fast Photo Scanner to catalog a lifetime of photos into digital format to leave to her family.
- Children have interacted with the space in multiple ways: Cardboard Maker tools are *VERY* popular, LEGO Robotics & LEGO Education sets have been used by children from age 5 to 10, and 3Doodler pens are also popular.
- We have certified several age 10+ kids on the 3D printer as well. Use of the 3D printer has demonstrated education enhancement by their choice to print replicas of dinosaur bones, frogs, and articulating slugs.

### **Programs Being Considered**

- Using 3D printers to develop prototypes for small businesses and entrepreneurs
- Quilt-making series
- Robotics Club for middle grade students (in partnership with the school district)
- Girls Who Code (national program)
- Holiday laser cutting and engraving (Glowforge) gifts
- Home construction, e.g., using basic tools, building and repairing walls
- Basic home maintenance series
- Summer Library Challenge programs presented by experts (adults, families and youth)
- Teen Advisory Council
- Siblings' workshops (in partnership with Youth ERA)
- Summer camp programs (in partnership with the Recreation Department)
- Developing a marketing plan and marketing materials (in partnership with GRO Greater St. Helens)