Sustainable Connected Learning

April 11, 2018

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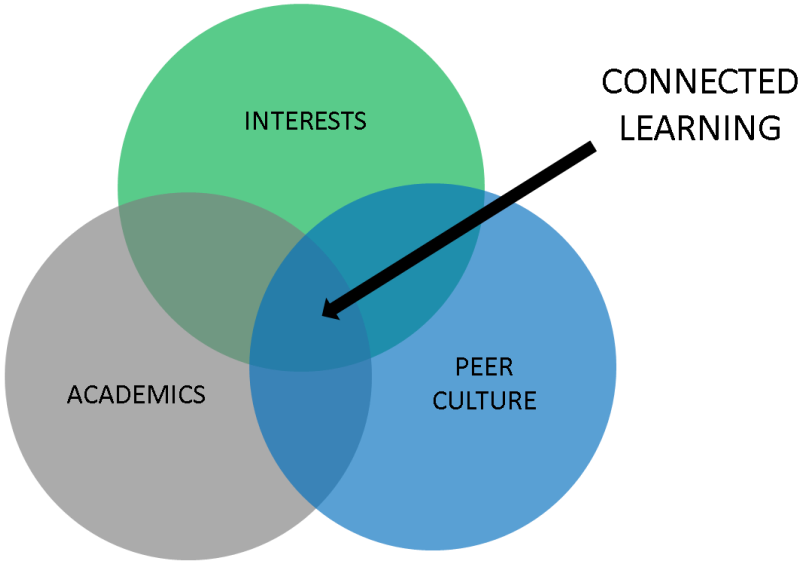
Who we are

Cuyahoga County Public Library

What is Connected Learning?



Connected Learning is:

- A research-based approach to facilitate youth learning.
- Based on the principle that learning happens best when it is:
  - **interest-driven**
  - **peer-supported**
  - **academically oriented**

Connected Learning Environments are VIBRANT

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- Teens can hang out, mess around, geek out
- Teens pursue their own interests and learn skills with real-world benefits
- Interests are tied to academic pursuits

Connected Learning Environments are SOCIAL

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- Teens can develop a social connection with each other
- Teens can develop a connection with adult and peer mentors

LEGEND

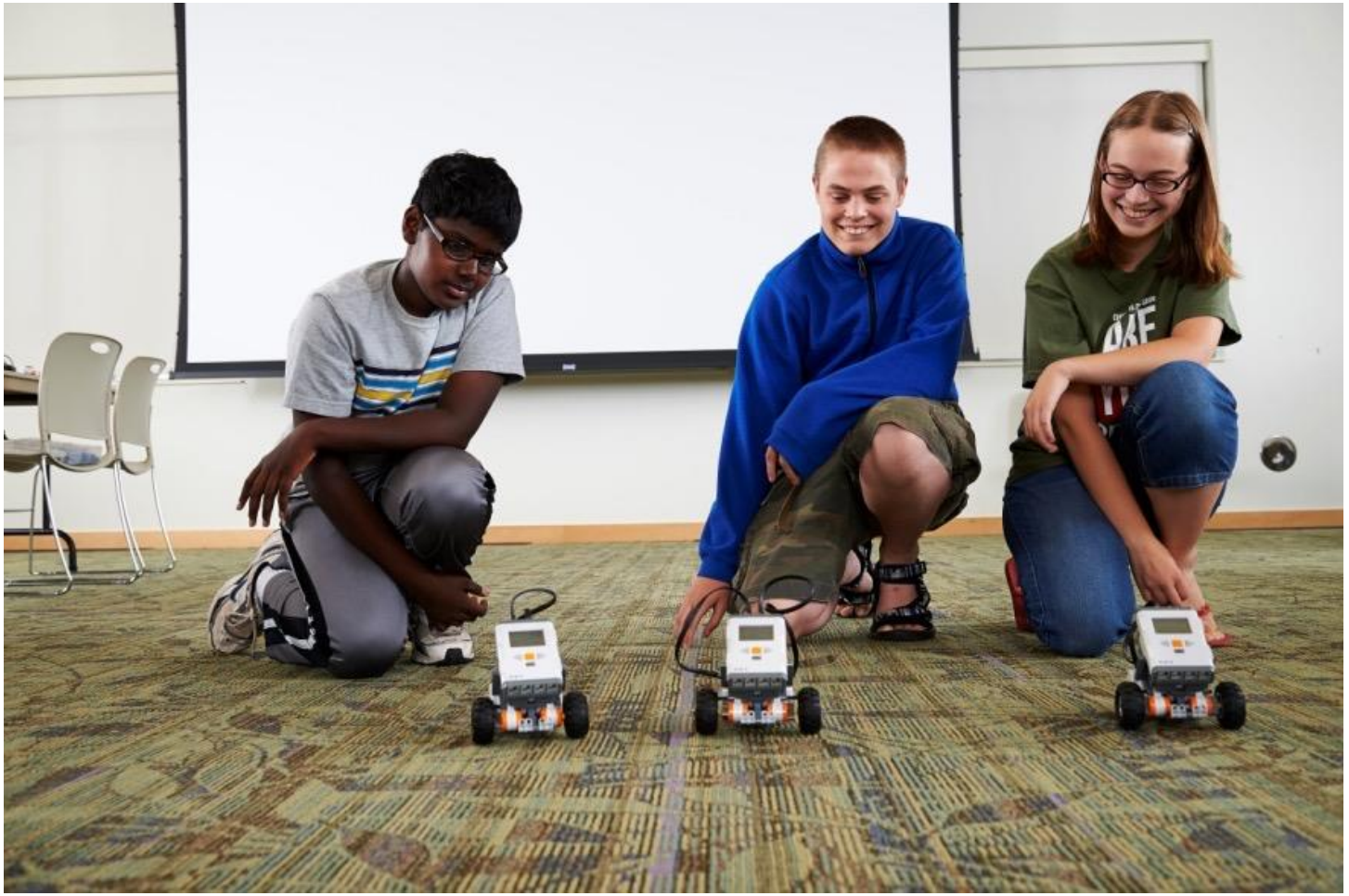
Why Libraries?

- Libraries already serve as locations for out-of-school-time programming
- Libraries embrace HOMAGO:
  Hanging Out, Messing Around, Geeking Out

11
Parma
RECREATION
10
Parma

Connected Learning at Cuyahoga County Public Library

- Interest-Driven
- Academically Oriented
- STEAM-focused
- Mentoring Component
- On-the-floor or on-the-fly programs



Creating Your Connected Learning Plan

- Your Mission & Strategic Plan
- Administrative & Staff buy-in
- Funding
- Partnerships & Collaboration

25

CLEVELAND
Indians

Staffing for Connected Learning

- Library staff as educators
- Library staff as facilitators
- Library staff as lifelong learners

FICTION

Offer programs based on teens' interests

Connected Learning Programs that Work

- On-the-floor program benefits
  - Remove barriers
  - Engage a larger crowd
  - Teens can observe before participating
  - More opportunity to engage

- Traditional program formats

Wildcats
MAYFIELD
BRIGHTER
Welcome, myrtinker!

Technology & Connected Learning Programs

- Does it need to include technology?
- What if we don't have a budget to constantly update technology?
- Technology makes me nervous

iPad Air

Mentors & Volunteers in Connected Learning programs

- CCPL's work with volunteers
- Where do I find volunteers?
- What details do I need to consider?

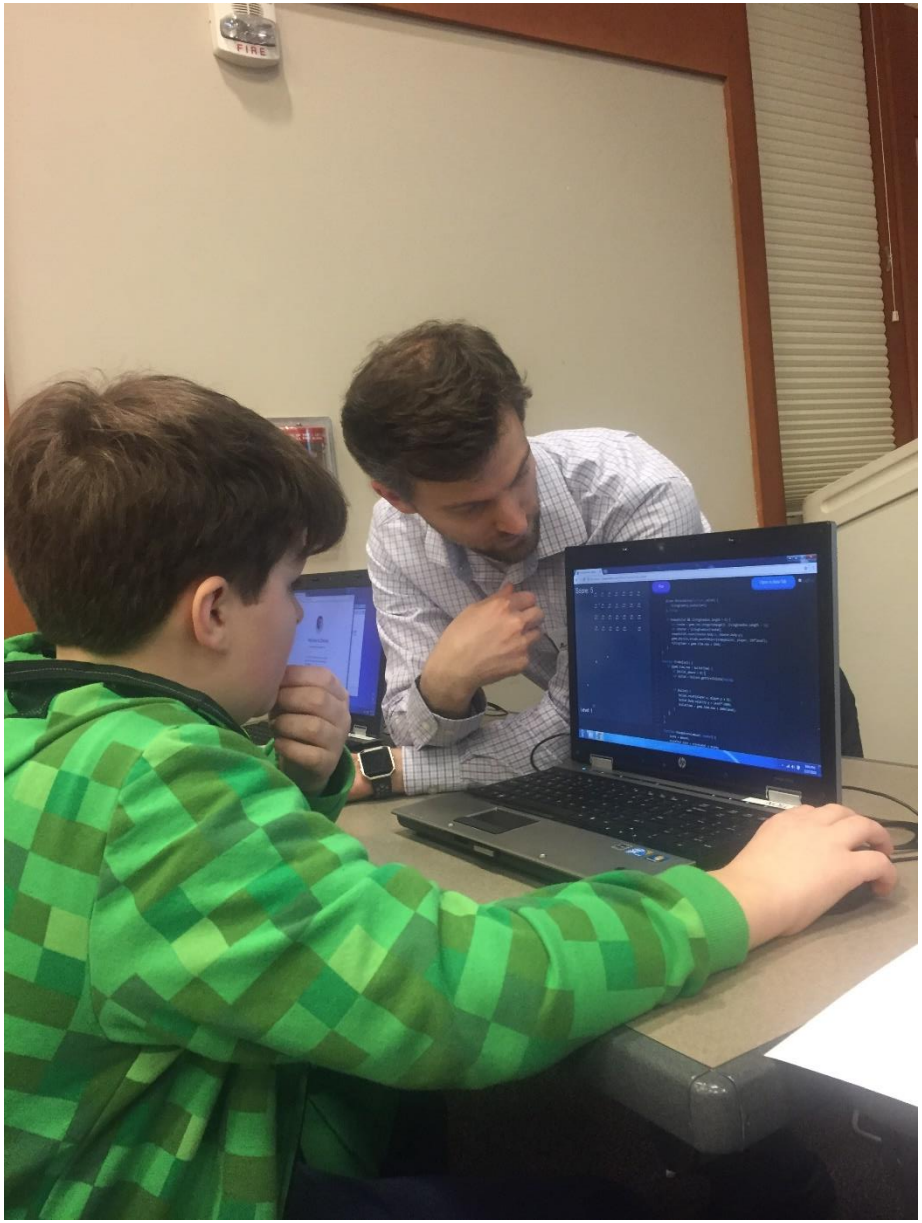
Reaching your audience

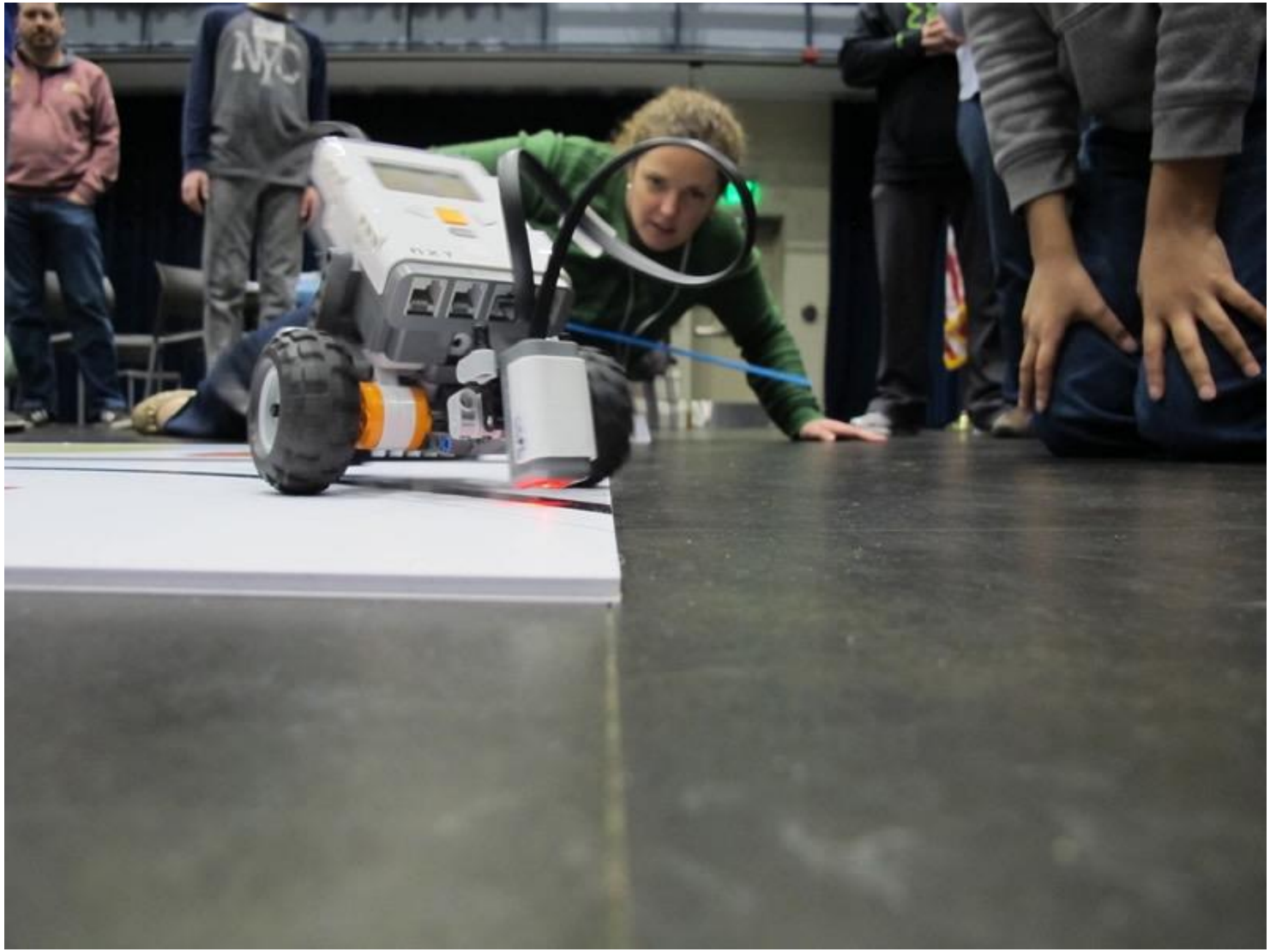
- Marketing to teens works differently
- How do you reach out?
- To whom do you reach out?

LOVE

Assessment & Evaluation

- How do you know it's working?
- Making changes
- Sustainability


FIRE



Resources

- **The Afterschool Alliance:** http://www.afterschoolalliance.org/.
- **Connected Learning Alliance:** https://clalliance.org/.
- **Design Thinking for Libraries:** http://designthinkingforlibraries.com/.
- **DML Research Hub:** https://dmlhub.net/.

Resources

- **The Joan Ganz Cooney Center at Sesame Workshop:** http://www.joanganzcooneycenter.org/.
- **MakerEd:** http://makered.org/.
- **Making+Learning:** https://makingandlearning.squarespace.com/.
- **P21 Partnership for 21st Century Learning:** http://www.p21.org/.

Resources

- **Visualizing Funding for Libraries Data Tool:** http://libraries.foundationcenter.org/.

- **YALSA Partnering to Increase Your Impact Toolkit:** http://www.ala.org/yalsa/sites/ala.org.yalsa/files/content/Partnerships_WebVersion.pdf.

- **YALSA STEAM Toolkit:** http://www.ala.org/yalsa/sites/ala.org.yalsa/files/content/YALSA_STEAMToolkit_WEB_Dec2016.pdf