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Tinkering, Learning, Creating

Launch Pad MakerSpace Ribbon Cutting @ Central Library

Mini remote control robots, 3D printers, a synthesizer keyboard, video cameras, weaving looms and circuitry discovery kits are just a few of the items available for use in the Launch Pad, MakerSpace, now open at the downtown Central Library. A ribbon cutting ceremony and demonstrations took place earlier today at the Launch Pad–designed for the public to learn on their own, create and share.

"What is a MakerSpace? It is a creative space, a destination in the Library filled with digital and physical equipment, tools—both old and new—designed for thinking, learning, tinkering, inventing, producing, collaborating and sharing, stated asked Library Director Mary Jean Jakubowski. "Our MakerSpace offers opportunities for all learning styles. Because libraries have always been about discovering and learning, our MakerSpace takes it to the next step by encouraging the 'doing'. We expect that through actively engaging with MakerSpace tools and programs, library patrons can learn while having fun."

The Launch Pad is equipped with tools to encourage reinvention of old ideas using new conceptual frameworks, utilizing advancements in thinking, and investigating and constructing their own projects as part of the Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) educational requirements which are a priority for student learning.

Free training, including classes geared toward educators and school groups are available with the Library's Technology Team on:

- Use of 3D printers with 3D software (there is a nominal fee for materials printed using 3D printers);
- Use of the Recording Studio—equipped with professional recording equipment including Final Cut Pro X, Avid Protools 12, electric guitar, Adobe Create Suite, a synthesizer, and more;
- Augmented Reality Books;
- Cubelets – to build your own robot;
- Osmo Gaming – digital word and puzzle games for IPads;
- LittleBits & Snap Circuits – to learn about basic circuitry and fun interactive projects;
- Devices such as iPad Mini, Kindle Fire, Galaxy Tab 4 and more.

Equipment and programming available in the Launch Pad, like other MakerSpaces, will evolve based on public need, demand and interest. Hours for the main room are: **Monday, Wednesday and Friday 11a.m. – 5p.m.; Tuesday, Thursday 9a.m. – 5p.m., and Saturday 10a.m. – 4p.m. Contact the library at 858-8900 for open hours for the recording studio.** To learn more about the Launch Pad, visit the Buffalo & Erie County Public Library website at www.BuffaloLib.org, or follow this link: http://www.buffalolib.org/content/launch-pad-makerspace .

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