Library of Things

As a Gateway to Student Engagement

Kendra Lake
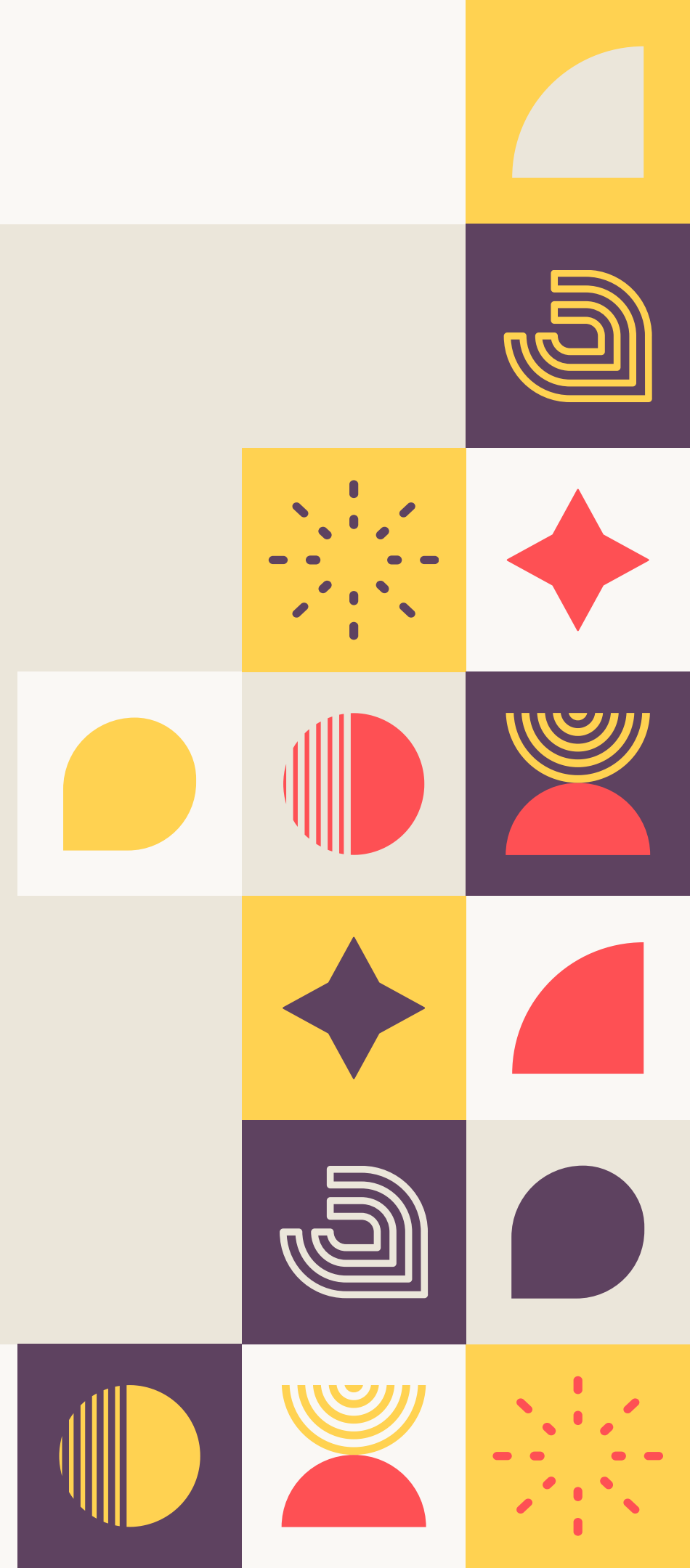North Central Michigan College

Jen Fiero
Jackson College

Jen Mikesell
Jackson College

Agenda

- Introduction & overview of our Library of Things experiences
- Communicate benefits of LOT collections for academic libraries and their communities
- Describe processes of planning and implementing an LOT collection
- Share opportunities for campus engagement that LOT collections offer

Background

North Central Michigan College

The Library of Things is a collection of items selected to promote personal exploration and discovery, well being, creativity, and self-growth. Launched in December 2021.
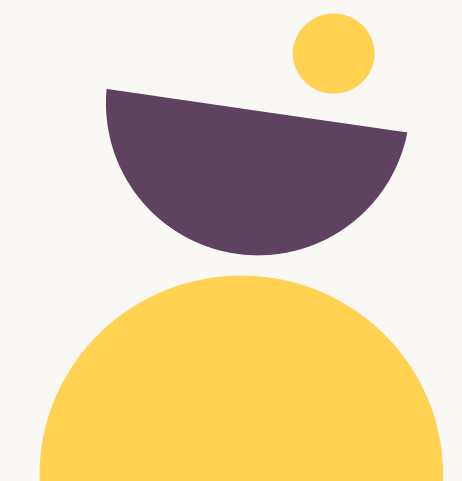
Jackson College

The Library of Things is designed to engage students by providing items that promote wellness, creativity, and discovery, as well as meet technological needs. Soft launch in April 2024; full launch September 2024.
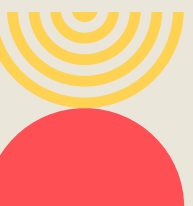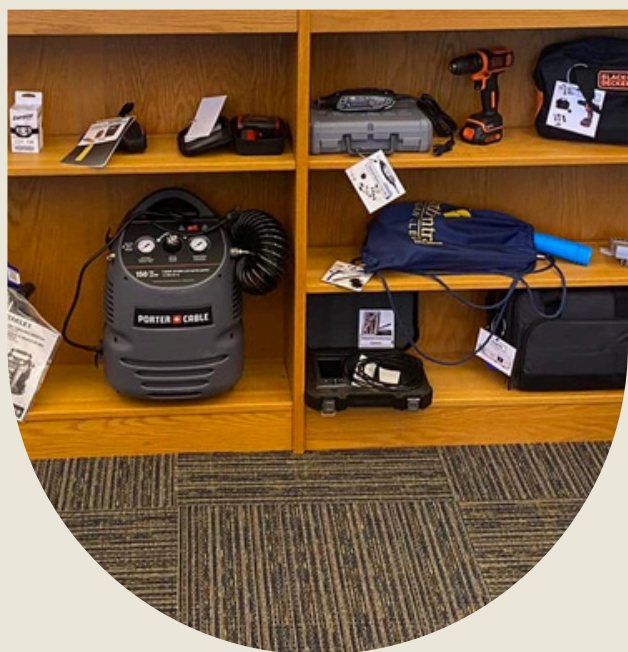
Creating Your Pitch

- Ties to mission / strategic agenda
- Creates sense of place
- Enhances equity & whole student support
- Supports curriculum
- Brings community to campus
- Supports library programming, student clubs, and campus events
- Fosters creativity, exploration, collaboration - the "sharing economy"

community student silos exploration engagement collaboration place events equity sharing cocurricular resources belonging clubs curriculum programming campus creativity support

Logistics

The not-so-glamourous parts before rollout

- Administrative approval
- Policies
- Item wishlists
- Purchasing priorities
- Storage & organization
- Processing
- Cataloging
- Circulation
- Maintenance & cleaning
- Training
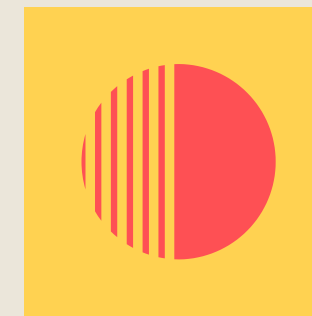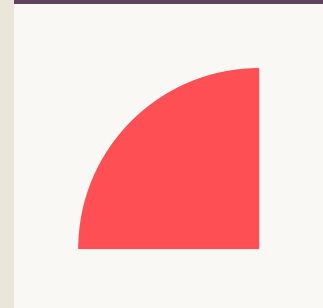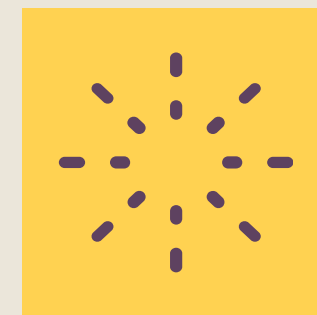
Rollout & Promotion

- Events
- Marketing collaborations
- Dorms
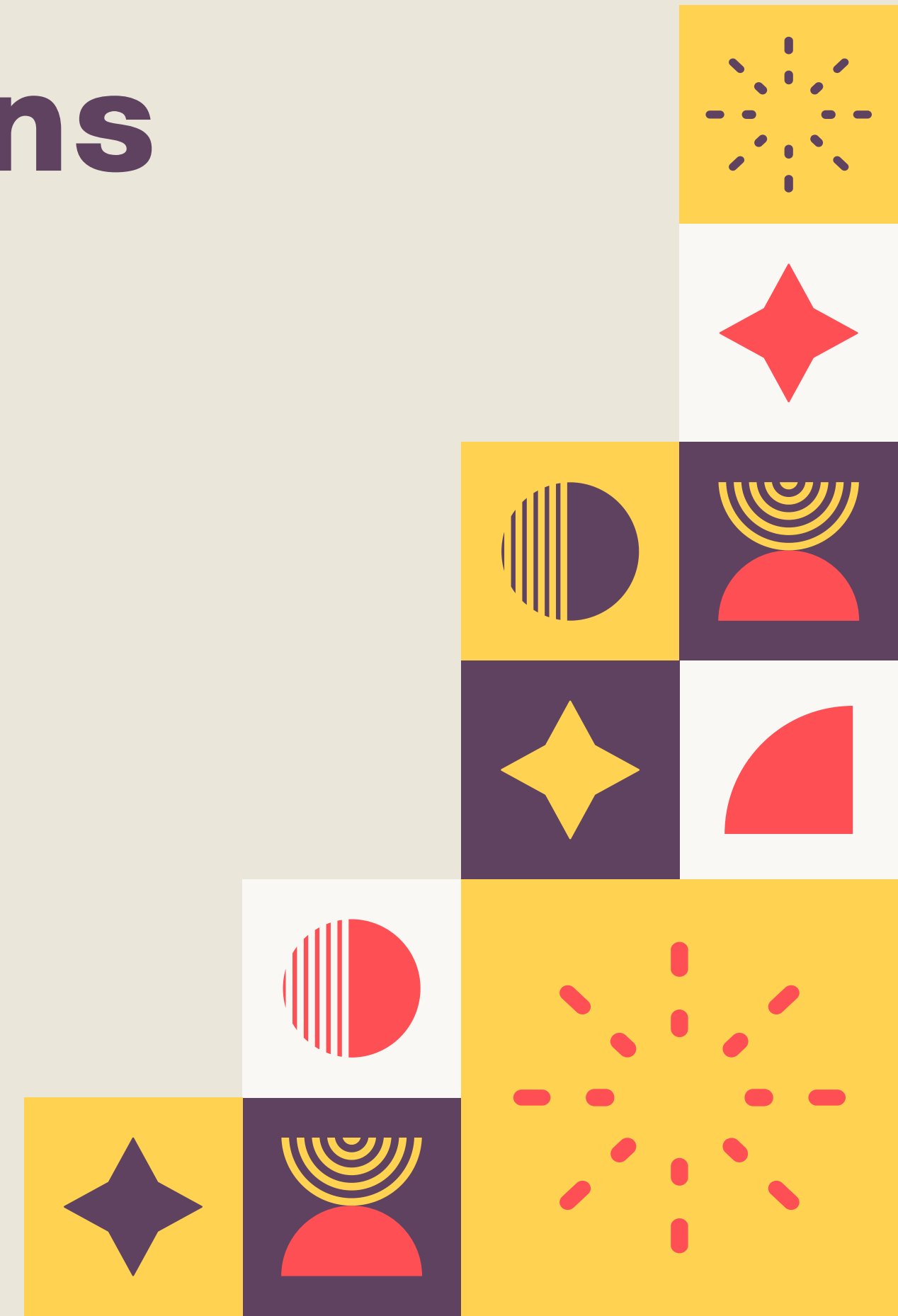- Student tours
- Registration days

Building Connections

Campus Groups & Departments

Individual Students

Community Members

By the Numbers

North Central Michigan College

Budget
- $25,000 initial funding from institution CARES Act HEERF funds
- Beginning 23/24, $2,500 annually

Items in Collection
- 275

Jackson College

Budget
- $5,000 initial funding
- Beginning 24/25, $2,500 annually

Items in Collection
- 131

Circulation Stats ...
(NCMC, Jan '22 - Apr '24)

Patron Type	LOT	LOT $100+
Staff	543	27
Faculty	58	8
Guest	363	31
Student	417	68
Local Use	206	13
Totals	**1587**	**147**

- **1734 uses of LOT items**
- **171 borrowers**
- **29% total circulation**
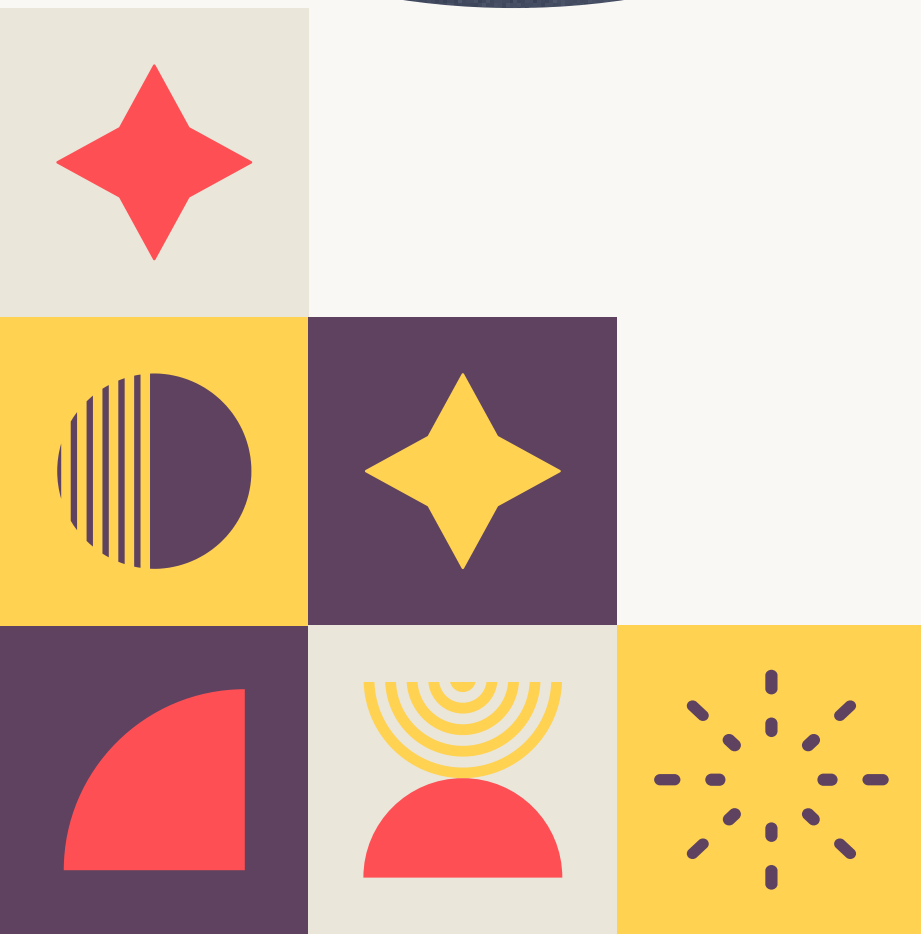
NCMC Popular Items

Item	# of uses	Item	# of uses
iPad Air	75	Happy Light	21
Electric Scooter	54	Helmet	21
DSLR Camera	39	PA System	21
Electric Keyboard	37	Pizza Oven	21
Projector	27	Paddleboard (11ft)	20
GoPro Hero 9	25	Life Vest	20
Electric Drum Set	22	Projector Screen	20
Folding Table	22	River Tube	20
Metal Detector	22	Ghost Blitz (game)	18
Bluetooth Speaker	21	Wacom Drawing Tablet	18

Circulation Stats
(JC, May 2023–May 2024*)

Item	# of checkouts
Phone charging kit	40
Headphones, large	30
Headphones, small	23
HDMI cable	17
Universal laptop charging kit	8
USB-C laptop charging kit	6
Bread pan set	4
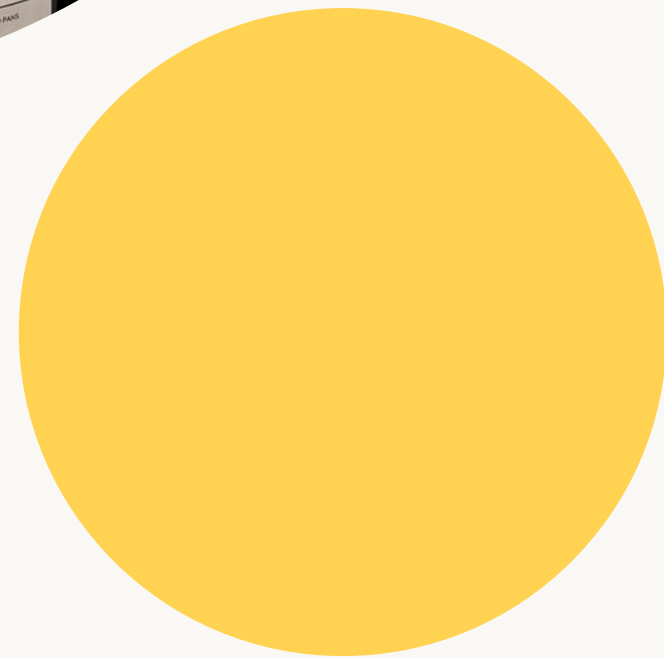
*Expanded LOT "soft launch" began April 2024; most tech items are part of earlier collection (not labeled as LOT previously)

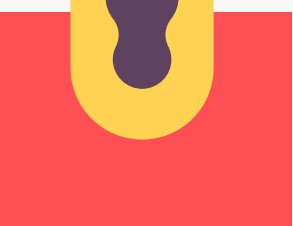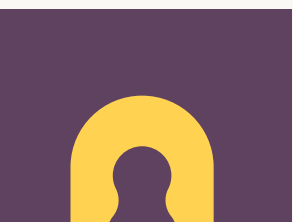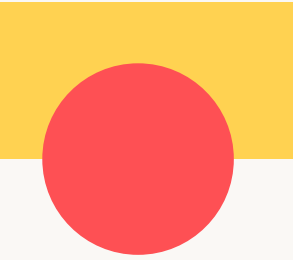# What We're Excited About

Crafternoons

Little Free Fiber Library

Event Partnerships

Lessons Learned & Lessons to Learn

- Approval processes vary widely
- Administration buy-in / concerns
- "Libraries don't do that"
- Space and logistics
- Staff time
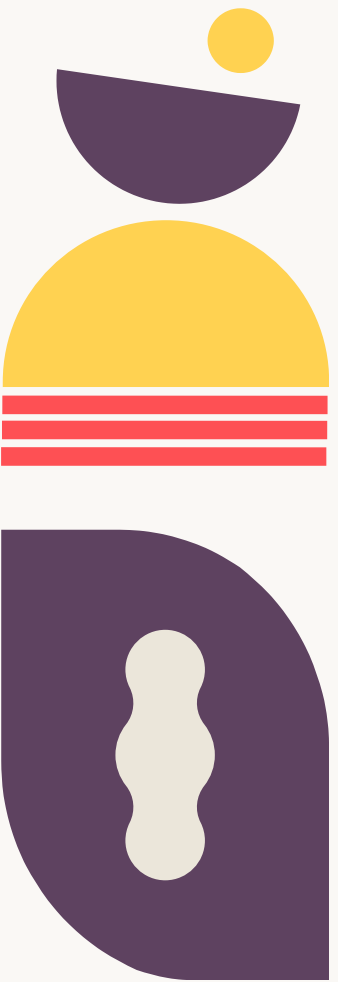- Collection maintenance
- Policy adjustments

What's Next?

NCMC

- Continued development
- Partnership growth with Foundation and local businesses
- Maintenance, repair, replacement,
- Club outreach and programming

JC

- Full launch!
- Training modules for staff & student workers
- More aggressive marketing campaigns for Fall
- Continued event partnerships

Contact Us!

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Questions?