

INTRODUCTION

This poster describes successful efforts at the Williams S. Carlson library to re-envision underutilized space. We considered:

- The mission of institution [for UToledo this means retention and belonging]
- The needs of specific user groups (e.g. students with children)
- "...dedicated spaces for events and exhibits... provide... opportunities to grow intellectually outside of the classroom" (Meyer, Kristin & Fisher, Erin Silva in Montgomery, 2017)
- Special collections and archives (to draw people into the library and connect with community and other cultural organizations)
- Staff engagement (creative displays and programming)



North and south galleries located in high traffic areas (depicted: student art show)

Concepts and Theories of Space Applicable to Libraries:

- **Lived Space:** "...space emerges from intimate processes of dwelling in or with the world." (Merriman, 2022, p.12)
- **Third Space:** "...a margin or edge where ties can be severed...where new ties can be forged. It obtains meaning only when practiced and fully lived." (Soja 1999, p. 276)
- The academic library as informal learning place on campus (Montgomery, 2017) and an example of "situated learning" (Illeris, 2007)
- **Hierarchy of library space attributes:** Esteem--space decisions focus on faculty, student, and library personnel achievements and expertise; Self-actualization--fulfillment of personal potential. (Cunningham and Tabur, 2012).



The University Libraries partnered with the University of Toledo Formula SAE Racing team for a unique display in the atrium of the Carlson Library (including archive materials). Mural in b.g. experiential learning project.

LIBRARY SPACES: HOW WE CONNECT

- Annual READ posters (community showcase)
- Community promotion
- Community Meeting Room
- Displays (library and community)
- Event Room 1005
- Family Room and Infant Care Room
- North and South Galleries
- Multicultural celebration exhibits
- Murals
- Native Flora Garden (outdoor space)
- Starbucks
- Themed Reading Rooms
- Undergraduate Research Symposium
- Veterans Lounge



"Toledo's War" program in the Room 1005 event space.



Third floor student space dedicated to Pete Hoffman, UToledo alumnus and nationally syndicated cartoonist. The unique décor draws attention to the collection.

Event Room Usage Statistics

July 2022-June 2023

- 432 room reservations
- 1101 hours of usage
- 8172 people in attendance

July 2023-June 2024

- 302 room reservations*
- 689 hours of usage*
- 7759 people in attendance*

*records reflect July 2023 – December 2023 only

No. of Events/Exhibits

- 2021-22 = 48
- 2022-23 = 72
- 2023-24 = 83

Publicity AY 2023-2024

- 21 (plus 2 unsubmitted) of 29 stories sent to UTNews published
- Library newsletters sent=20



Personal Santana record collection for Hispanic Heritage Month coinciding with Santana's biopic.

Additional Examples

- Café/Club Carlson
- Anime Festival

Displays:

- Total Solar Eclipse 2024 [620+]*

Galleries:

- Toledo Labor Movement
- Toledo Glass Industry
- Toledo War Effort

GALLERY SCHEDULE OVER 2024-25*

- Hindsight – Historical Images: Then and Now - (community photographer)
- Life After Life (community, local artist)
- UToledo Employee Art Exhibition (faculty/staff) [582]*
- Art Student Showcase (students) [609]*
- Art Weber Photo Retrospective [659]*
- Digital Imagination: AI Artistry Unleashed (students)
- Undergraduate Film Festival (students)
- Canaday Center: Glamour Road: Color, Fashion, Style, and the Midcentury Automobile (archival collection)
- Human Figure: Typeface Sculptures & Objects



The exhibit "Behind Bars" was well-attended.

Lecture Schedule 2024-25

- The Toledo Papers: Uncovering the Hidden Backstories of Toledo's Past (community)
- Suburban Nightmares: Teenage Terror and the Slasher Film (faculty)
- A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood: The Urban Geography of American Craft Breweries (faculty)
- Three Lives of Philip Markowicz (community)
- Code, Collage, and Critique: Exploring Creativity and Control in the Age of AI (faculty)



Family space with a separate room created for infant care privacy. Wall decoration as experiential learning project.



Gallery space used for student, faculty, staff, and community art exhibits



Use of special collections and archives to showcase archives and celebrate local history. Design part of experiential learning project.



Gallery space converted to a theatre space for the Undergraduate Film Festival.



Providing community support for Bethany House, long-term shelter and advocacy services for victims of domestic violence and their children.

Past Events at UToledo Libraries:

<https://www.utoledo.edu/library/events/pastevents.html>