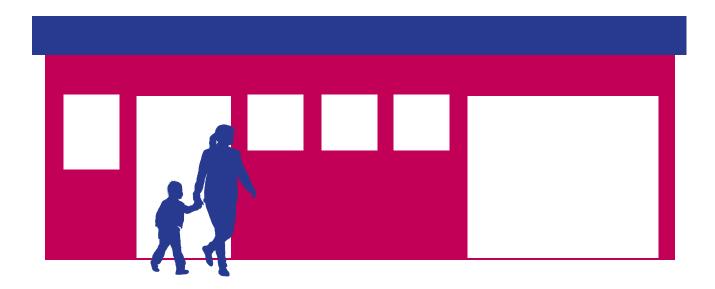
TINY LIBRARY TOOLKIT

An overview of the Meridian Library District's Tiny Library project for early literacy.

Development of this toolkit was supported by a Future of Libraries Fellowship from the American Library Association's Center for the Future of Libraries.









Website: www.mld.org

tinylibraryemld.org

Social Media: eMeridianLibrary









#myMLD



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Published August 2019

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INTRODUCTION: LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

At Meridian Library District, we are an "everyone serves youth" organization. We are responsive to our community's expressed priority to serve children and families in a city frequently listed as one of the "best places to live" in America.

The City of Meridian has grown exponentially over the past 20 years; in 2010, the population of Meridian was 75,092. Population estimates in 2016 were 95,623 making Meridian the second largest city in Idaho — and still growing! In addition to our main library on Cherry Lane (opened in 1997) we leased space for a branch location, Silverstone, in 2007. We then gained experience with creating unconventional library service points when we leased an old bank building in Meridian's downtown and launched a technology branch, unBound, in 2015. Yet, we were still falling short of the space needed to effectively serve our fast-growing community.

A collaborative community development project in the southern section of our community provided an opportunity to expand our footprint alongside several other organizations also serving Meridian families. Known as "The Hill" the development includes Hillsdale Elementary School, a YMCA, St. Luke's healthcare services, and grounds operated by Meridian Parks and Recreation. In our view this was the perfect location for a new full-service library branch. We ran a capital funding measure in 2016, but fell just short of the supermajority required to pass.

Our determined and scrappy crew was not ready to give up and we did not want to miss out on the opportunity to join with these excellent community partners and serve families in south Meridian. Inspired by the tiny homes movement and the use of portables for school classrooms, we began to look at options for creating a "lighter, quicker, cheaper" means of installing a service point in the area. We began to hone in on community needs and our own strategic plan. Soon, our Tiny Library full of early literacy resources and experiences was in the works!

While we know we can't answer every question you might have about the agencies, resources, companies, or legal codes that might be specific to your community, we hope this toolkit will provide inspiration and practical assistance, no matter what your community or strategic goal. We would love to hear about what you come up with!

Warm regards,

Gretchen Caserotti



Staff Day 2019



Jumping for joy outside of our main branch



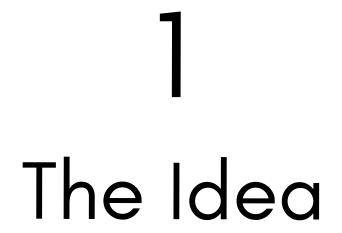
Emerging technology demonstration at our technology branch, unBound



Storytime at our Silverstone Branch



Opening day at the Tiny Library



A big idea for a tiny space



1 - THE IDEA

A BIG IDEA FOR A TINY SPACE

Expanding our service footprint with minimal square footage

In 2016, we had secured some amazing partnerships in South Meridian with the YMCA, the school district, the city, and healthcare providers who were collaborating on a shared space design called The Hill. It is a dream of ours to build a library that serves as a community center in close proximity to other hubs. When our 2016 bond failed to pass and we were unable to build the full-service branch in partnership with these entities, we had to get creative to still be able to meet the needs of our community and honor the intent behind our partnership.

We've long been advocates and practitioners of the "lighter, quicker, cheaper" model and decided to play off the Tiny Home movement to build a "Tiny Library" inside of a recycled shipping container.

Taking a minimalist approach to building a library meant we couldn't be everything to everyone. We had to be very strategic with how we filled our tiny space. None of the other partners at The Hill were offering services specifically for the 0-5 year old range, and based on a known community need combined with our area of early literacy expertise, focusing on the first five years was the obvious choice.

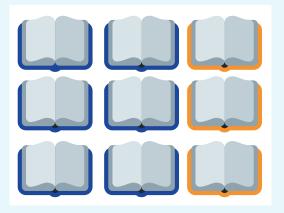
The guiding vision for our Tiny Library was, and still is, an informal literacy space that includes both resources and experiences for young children and caregivers. As we worked through design thinking activities and planning processes, we returned to this statement again and again to ensure that our focus had not drifted and that we were on track to meet our initial goals.

lighter, quicker, cheaper

EARLY LITERACY NEED

In Meridian, Idaho only 67% of children enter Kindergarten ready to read. Studies show that children who enter kindergarten unprepared are more likely to fall behind in school and are less likely to graduate from high school, go on to college, and succeed in their careers than those who have attended high-quality preschool programs. Idaho is one of only 6 states that does not currently invest in public preschool options. 62% of Meridian parents say there is a lack of affordable, high-quality early childhood programs in their area.

ONLY 67% OF IDAHO STUDENTS ENTER KINDERGARTEN READY TO READ*



1 - THE IDEA

SPACE AS PROGRAM

Books are just the beginning...

When you have to consider how every square inch of a building is going to be used, it changes the way you think about filling it. Without a lot of room to host traditional programs, the whole space became a program. Everything inside – from the rotating book collection, to magnet boards, early literacy kits, to self-check out equipment – was designed to encourage caregivers to practice early literacy skills with their children.

The space is also more than the stuff inside of it – our staff members all have a deep knowledge of early literacy practices and can answer caregiver questions about how to develop literacy at home. From thoughtfully curated bins of books and objects by age group to "Tiny Tips" adorning the walls and display cases, visitors receive subtle hints for engaging in early literacy practices.

Staff-led storytimes and other activities incorporate the five early literacy practices and give caregivers ideas on how to **play, write,** read, sing, and talk* with their children.

Tips for caregivers do not end at the exit door; a Tiny Tips booklet, activity calendar and other handouts are on hand for home use. Staff can also refer patrons to a selection of parentteacher resources on related subjects.

Patron Story

A grateful grandmother who is helping to raise her grandson reached out to let us know how our preschool storytimes helped prepare her grandson for kindergarten. The family cannot afford preschool, but through attending our programs, he was prepared for school and passed all the measures for kindergarten registration with flying colors.



Two patrons enjoy the kid-sized furniture and a good book

WORK IT OUT: WHAT'S YOUR BIG IDEA?

1

What community problem do you see your library having a role in helping to solve? Does this require a physical space?

What community organizations have similar goals or audiences?

Tiny Space for Your Big Ideas:

2 What it IS

A shipping container as a center for early literacy



WHAT IT IS

320 square feet of immersive early literacy space

With utilizing a recycled shipping container, we knew space would be at a premium. The final interior dimensions were 40x8x9 feet, which translates to 320 square feet of workable space with a max occupancy of SIX.

We looked to our bookmobile as a model for the needs of a tiny branch and considered the particular requirements of the specialized audience of children aged 0–5 and their families.

The criteria for selecting furniture included meeting the needs of our tiny-sized patrons, taking up minimal space, and being easy to clean and maintain. Everything is mobile and can be rearranged as needed in a flexible space.

THE TINY LIBRARY IS:

- Focused entirely on early literacy
- Designed specifically for children ages 0–5 and their caregivers
- Intended to blend resources with experiences

IT IS NOT:

- A full-service branch or holds pick-up location
- A childcare service
- Just a box filled with books



The exterior of the Tiny Library, 40 feet long and 8 feet deep

Visitors enjoy the flexible interior space with lightweight, moveable furniture that can be rearranged to accommodate different activities and accessibility needs



EXTERIOR: SITE PLAN

Joining our partners on "The Hill"

As the final partner to join what is known as "The Hill" development project, our building needed to fit with existing buildings on the site. The site already included an elementary school, YMCA, and medical offices.

The library is positioned in a convenient area with plenty of parking in front and just south of the YMCA's main entrance. Behind the YMCA sits Hillsdale Elementary School.



What organizations would make excellent community partners for your project?

- > Do you serve similar populations or have similar missions?
- > Do your missions overlap enough to collaborate on programs?
- > Can you co-op space to share design and building costs?

This location provides a space of their own for young children whose older siblings are in school and makes it easy for families to return books or browse in between fitness classes or medical appointments.





The Hill Development Site

The shipping container is delivered and placed on its foundation

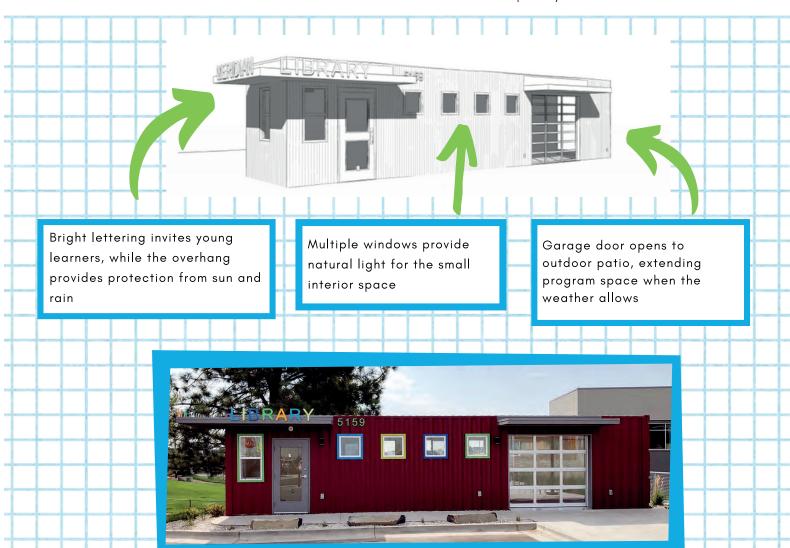
EXTERIOR: DESIGN

Transforming a container into an invitation for learning

With its small footprint and simple design, it may be tempting to try and DIY the construction of a tiny library. However, we found that the specialized nature makes it even less straightforward of a building project than it seemed.

Contracting architects and builders to transform a blank shipping container into a bright, inviting, and useful space was a necessary investment in the completion of the project. The container itself was relatively easy to acquire; there are many container companies nationwide and we purchased from a local company called Storage On Site. However, there was still quite a lot of design work involved and structural considerations for adding windows, doors, heating & cooling, and having it set properly on its foundation.

Due to fire safety and local codes, hiring professionals makes everything go smoothly and keeps everyone safe!

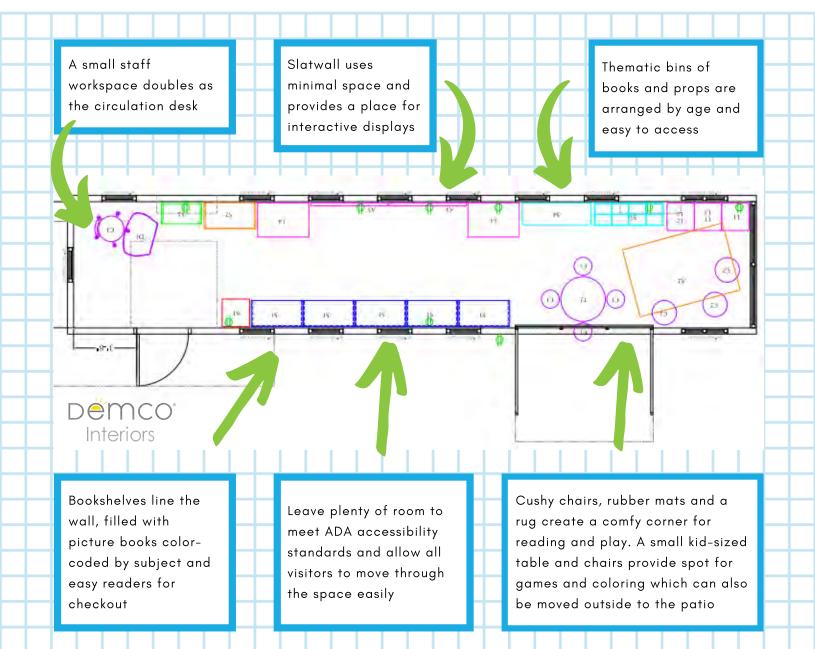


INTERIOR: LAYOUT

Every inch counts!

Be mindful of space as furniture and finishes (even drywall!) encroach on usable space and ADA requirements.





INTERIOR: FURNISHINGS

Tiny-patron-sized, flexible, easy to maintain

Initially we had envisioned having a small holds shelf or a few titles for family members accompanying our young patrons but it quickly became evident that our tiny footprint would require a complete focus on early literacy if we were to accomplish our goals for the space.

We used free tools like ShelfShuffler and floorplanner.com to begin sketching out our ideas for the space. Ultimately, we enlisted the services of DEMCO Interiors to assist with our furnishing choices and layout. Their virtual tour helped us really see how tight the space would be; even so, we decided not to replace a bookshelf that was damaged in transit in order to keep things as open and flexible as we could.

FREE TOOLS

- > ShelfShuffler uses Google Sheets or MS Excel to create a grid with standardized ratios for creating library layouts. Go to http://spreadsheetsforlibrarians.blogspot.c om for more details.
- > floorplanner.com can be a good starting point for mapping out furniture and ideas for your space

LESSONS LEARNED

- > Timing of financial approvals, arrival of furniture, and opening day can be difficult!
- > Allow time for possibility of damage in transit.
- > Be prepared for things to feel a little different in physical space than on paper.



DEMCO Interior's virtual tour demonstrated our chosen furnishings within the space





The furniture arrives!

Floors have a basic finish so they are easy to clean and less expensive to maintain with the anticipation of frequent dirt and water





Books are arranged by category, colorcoded by subject, and shelves are kept low - all for easy access by tiny users There is no need to spend a fortune – use what you have and employ simple tools for early learning

WORK IT OUT: ENVISION YOUR TINY SPACE

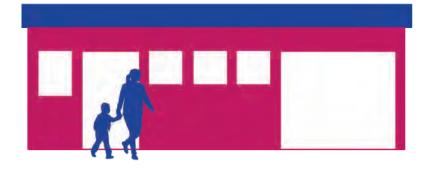
What will people accomplish in your space?

Conditions will vary depending on the location and surroundings, i.e. a shady park vs. a busy mall. What will you need to consider?

Tiny Space for Your Big Ideas:

3 Planning

Getting from idea to finished product



3 - PLANNING

THE PLANNING PROCESS

Getting from idea to reality

Planning

To make something happen "Lighter, Quicker, Cheaper," most of the time is spent in the planning and dreaming phase. Our library team spent hours researching the Tiny House movement, discussing different ways to work with our partners, and bookmarking pages upon pages of images and influences.

We utilized the Design Thinking for Libraries Toolkit*, choosing a variety of Design Thinking activities to define our project and explore all of the possibilities. Asking "How might we design the space for early literacy?" helped us craft a mission statement. The use of personas reminded us that the audience was parents and caregivers as much as it was children. Going through the design process as a team kept us all engaged with the end goal – supporting early literacy with a tiny library.

Approval

Before we could move forward with our ideas, we needed to get approval from a few different places. First, we needed our Library board to buy in and support the idea. Since funding for the project was still tentative, it took a leap of faith on their part to give us the go ahead.

It became more complicated when our legal team determined that the Tiny Library would be classified as a new building, not an accessory as we had hoped. This meant that the funding had to come from that year's operating budget because Idaho Code does not allow district libraries to fund new construction from funds saved year-to-year.

The next step was getting approval from Meridian City Council and working with the YMCA, owner of the property where our Tiny Library is placed.

Designing

Hand-in-hand with the approval process was hiring an architecture firm to design a code-compliant library. Utilizing an architect is a necessary investment for safety, meeting city regulations, and making sure every inch of a tiny space is maximized.

Our container company, Storage On Site, also worked with us on some modifications to the design, such as adding in the garage door and windows before it arrived, shortening our timeline.

Building

Once the tiny-library-to-be had finally arrived, we hired a general contractor to complete the finish work. We also worked closely with DEMCO Interiors to design the interior and furniture. They were incredibly accommodating and sent 360° representations of the space to help us envision the layout.

Opening

Our community partners were involved in many of the decisions we made along the way, ready to offer solutions to issues such as lack of space for programs. We sat down with all four community partners who utilized or owned the classroom spaces inside of the YMCA in order to coordinate schedules. This also resulted in creating a "FAQ" document for the front desk staff at the YMCA and our staff members at other branches, answering all of the questions about when, where, and how things were happening with the Tiny Library.

Things to Consider

- Is it a building or an accessory?
- Do accessories get addresses?
- When will things be delivered?
- Where can people use the restroom?
- Does your climate influence placement? i.e. Do you need to be in the shade? Are winters too harsh for outdoor programs?

^{*}Design Thinking for Libraries Toolkit linked in Appendix

3 - PLANNING



The original design called for a blue exterior and different window placement as compared to the final product

The Tiny Library's BIG day!
Open for learning beginning October 1, 2018



MAY 2017 Feedback and Planning

JAN 2018 Location Set with partners

YMCA Opens

MAY 2018 Furniture Ordered

JUNE 2018 Permit Issued

JULY 2018 Container Delivered

AUG 2018 Furniture Delivered

SEPT 2018

Move in!

(Occupancy Certificate Issued)

OCT 2018 Open for Learning!

3 - PLANNING

WHO DID WHAT

For such a tiny project, there were a lot of moving pieces. Here's who handled what:

LIBRARY STAFF

- Ideas
- Interior Planning (with DEMCO)
- Defined what it is
- Coordinated with partners
- Planned collections

BOARD AND ATTORNEYS

- Legal considerations
- Determined funding
- Approved agreements

COMMUNITY PARTNERS

- Sharing Space
- Site location
- Overall project goals







ARCHITECT

- City code compliance
- Drew up plans
- Made everything work in a tiny space

GENERAL CONTRACTOR

- Handled bids with subcontractors for finish work
- Provided cost estimates
- Performed work





Not sure how to handle something? Need input on specific community needs or code compliance? Ask your people.

WORK IT OUT: THE PLANNING PROCESS

3

What stakeholders will you engage to get feedback and begin your planning process? Who needs to be a part of the planning?

Who gets to decide when something is final?

Stakeholder Stakeholder Stakeholder

WORK IT OUT: THE PLANNING PROCESS

3

What do you want people to be able to do or accomplish in the space?

Are there state laws or local building codes that relate to your project? What steps do you need to take to ensure compliance?

Tiny Space for Your Big Ideas:

4 Communications

Coordinating with partners and sharing with the community



4 - COMMUNICATIONS

INTERNAL COMMUNICATION

Keeping staff up-to-date and knowledgeable

We are firm believers that the most effective way to communicate is in-person, and one of our strongest marketing tools is our public-facing staff. This is where we build and cement relationships with our community and the first place patrons turn to when they have a question - library-related or otherwise. We periodically sent emails to our whole team, and issued updates at quarterly staff meetings. Leading up to the grand opening, we sent out a "FAQ" to both our staff and the YMCA, answering questions like "what is the Tiny Library?" and "what are the hours?" to provide an easy reference for anyone who might be fielding those questions.



FAQ for staff - a full resolution copy is available in the appendix.

COMMUNITY BOOK DRIVE

Our Community Book Drive was part fundraiser, and part public relations. A lot of thought went into building our collection, something you can read more about in the Collections section. One small piece of that was soliciting book donations from our community. Not only did this help cut down our collection cost, it increased community involvement and gave them more buy-in on the project.



4 - COMMUNICATIONS

COMMUNICATIONS

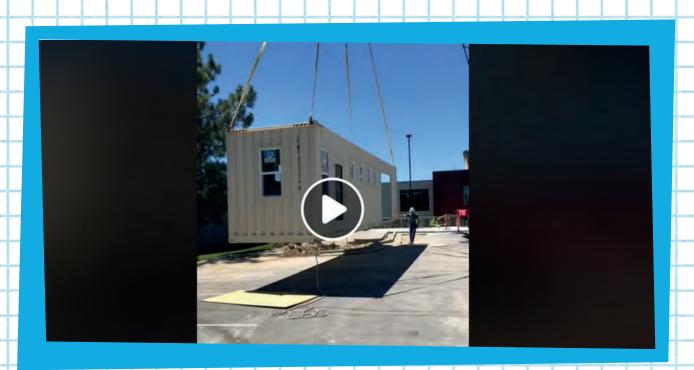
Sharing milestones with the community

Our community was nearly as excited as we were to open the Tiny Library – so of course, we had to keep them posted on our social media channels.

We posted major milestones to our social media. We did not pursue any traditional media outlets because we wanted to keep things low-key (and wouldn't be able to accommodate a crowd for a grand opening).

Lessons Learned

Don't forget to update Google and other digital map services with the new location. Not only does this help people find you, it also lets them geotag on their social media posts.



To see the video, click the link above or navigate to http://bit.ly/TinyVideo

4 - COMMUNICATIONS

SOCIAL MEDIA



meridianlibrary Exciting news! The exterior drawings of our Tiny Library have arrived and we are in love! Over the next few months we'll be sharing fun details and plans for this innovative, tiny footprint that will bring south Meridian resources and hands-on experiences for early childhood literacy. We hope you're excited Meridian, because we sure



meridianlibrary It's happening! First sightings of the Tiny Library arriving at The Hill this morning. Stay tuned for more updates as we start the full installment and painting.



meridianlibrary Thanks to the generosity of our community during our Book Drive this past Spring, the Tiny Library collection is starting to take shape! With the shipping container on site as of last week and the books being sorted, this project is starting to

meridianlibrary Many thanks to Girl Scouts Troop 525 for volunteering their time to make the planters in front of the Tiny Library look beautiful. You are shining examples of community engagement, and we

Please leave this shelf empty for the Tiny Library







PROGRAMS AT THE TINY LIBRARY FALL 2018

meridianlibrary Our Tiny Library doesn't have furniture in it yet (stay tuned for the installation process happening soon), but that's not stopping us from having some great programs! Come visit us at The Hill soon.



idienlibrary Yesterday, before we officially ned the Tiny Library, a young man wandered ugh the open door and was enchanted with all he He was so excited at the prospect of taking he one of our Early Literacy Kits (all about



WORK IT OUT: COMMUNICATION PLAN

4

How will you engage your community in the process?

Which staff members or community partners make up your core team?

Tiny Space for Your Big Ideas:



Budget

Matching funding to vision



5 - BUDGET

FUNDING

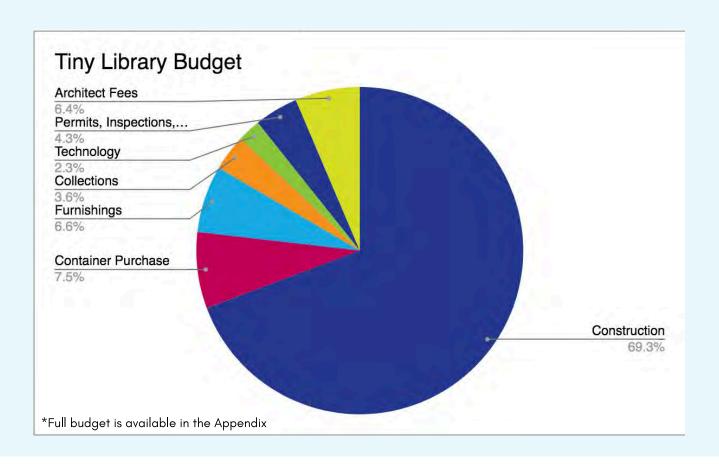
minimizing capital investment

The biggest obstacle came when it was determined that the Tiny Library would qualify as a new building instead of an accessory, like a Bookmobile. This changed which funds in our existing budget we were allowed to spend and meant that it took longer than anticipated to finalize a budget.

Our team sought out a variety of unique funding opportunities to make the Tiny Library happen. We specifically sought out grants related to our theme of early literacy. A recycling grant paid for the container itself.

FUNDING SOURCES

- Community Grants for Recycling and Early Literacy
- National Grants for Innovation and Early Literacy
- Community Book Drive
- Operations Budget
- Local sponsors and donors



COSTS

Making the most of our budget

Our biggest budget line was building and construction – getting the site ready, running electrical, and fitting the container with windows, doors, and floors. Even with the main structure already built, there were many additional costs to make it functional. We decided to keep the floors mostly unfinished to avoid having refinishing costs in the future.

At one point, the estimate for a concrete foundation was \$50,000. While we knew we couldn't skip a foundation, we also couldn't make that number work with our budget, so we had to renegotiate with the architect to get it under \$20,000. A full budget with a breakdown of construction costs is available in the appendix.

We pay an annual cost-share to have space on the YMCA property, like a lease. This includes water, sewer, trash, and other basic property maintenance.

One way we found to cut costs was by utilizing things we already had available or by making things ourselves. Many of our supplies were sourced from our main building. The kits we circulate were already part of our collection, thanks to a different project and grant. We made the magnet boards ourselves using cookie sheets from the dollar store, and wall decals were made inhouse with a Cricut machine.

Libraries are accustomed to doing a lot with very little, and we used this to our advantage by figuring out where we could save money by making something ourselves, and where we needed to pay a professional to do the work.

Magnet boards made from dollar store cookie sheets were cheap and easy to make. Staff make custom magnets to match the monthly themes.



WORK IT OUT: BUDGET AND FUNDING

5

What opportunities in your community may provide funding or cooperative space for this project?

How can you capitalize on resources you already have?

Tiny Space for Your Big Ideas:

6 Collection

Books and kits to promote early literacy



COLLECTION OVERVIEW

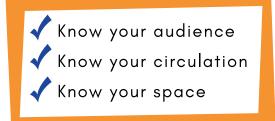
Items target ages 0-5 and their caregivers

All items in the Tiny Library collection target ages 0–5 years and their caregivers. Selections line up directly with early literacy practices and age-appropriate educational materials. The Colorado Libraries for Early Literacy (CLEL) Bell awards is an excellent resource for inspiration and establishing collection criteria.

The collection includes board books, picture books, easy readers (levels pre-k and 1 only), non-fiction (written for ages 5 and lower), parent/teacher resources, and kits. A small selection of CDs was added after we opened, primarily for staff and program use.

We use rotating collections district-wide to supplement the small existing collection, scheduled and delivered on an ongoing basis. This keeps the collection fresh with minimal cost impact (no need to buy more books), and also highlights the theme for caregivers and staff. We have curated our rotating collections by subject and by the 5 early literacy practices: play, write, read, sing, and talk.

By including a healthy selection of the classics and popular items, we can anticipate a higher circulation rate for a portion of the collection, thus freeing up additional shelf space with these items continually checked out.



FILLING THE SHELVES

As a multi-branch library with a district-wide collection budget, we were able to take advantage of our existing materials as a means for beginning to build the collection for the Tiny Library. In the months leading up to opening, our collection development librarians were simultaneously transferring items from our existing collection, ordering new items, and incorporating donations. Cumulative numbers were kept in a spreadsheet as we worked toward hitting our target numbers for each collection by opening day.





COLLECTION CALCULATIONS

Dedicating space and allocating budget

Based on the layout of the space and the shelving ordered, you can calculate the approximate total materials needed for opening day using linear measurements.

Our space allows for:

Board books: 75 inches in bins (not shelves)
Picture books: 240 inches across 12 categories

Easy Readers: 80–90 inches Nonfiction: 40 inches Parent/teacher: 20 inches



By multiplying the number of items by type that would fit in a given space, we were able to set goals for the total number of items to collect. Shelves were initially calculated at a 100% fill, knowing space would be freed up by items checked out. Ultimately we reduced that number to 75% because of adjustments to both visitation expectations and the timeline for receiving materials.

By the [approximate] item numbers:

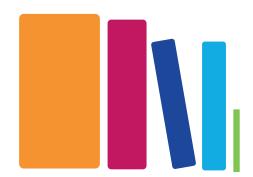
Picture books: 785 items, 58%

Easy readers: 310 items, 23%

Non-fiction: 120 items, 9%

Board books: 115 items, 8%

Parent/teacher: 30 items, 2%





KITS

Kits had long been a well-loved part of our collection, many of which were centered on early literacy, making them a perfect fit for our Tiny Library. They were developed to increase convenience for caregivers by creating a "grab and go" option that included multiple formats in one. Kits are subject- or function-focused and geared to specific age ranges. A grant from our local Rotary club provided funding to duplicate kits and have a selection on-hand at the Tiny Library.

Baby Board Books: curated to match baby's development, a few months at a time

Early Literacy: 5 books, games, music, and more in fun themes for ages 0-5

Rascal Reader: 5 books and a puppet of our mascot for early readers in 5 skill levels

Kindergarten Readiness: books, games, and activities in 5 skill areas to get kids K-ready

Complete kits list available at: https://www.mld.org/kits-devices-and-objects



Baby Board Book Kit: 9-12 mo.



Early Literacy Kit: seasons



Rascal Reader Kit: animals



K-Ready Kit: math & science

TIMELINE

Balancing storage space and opening date

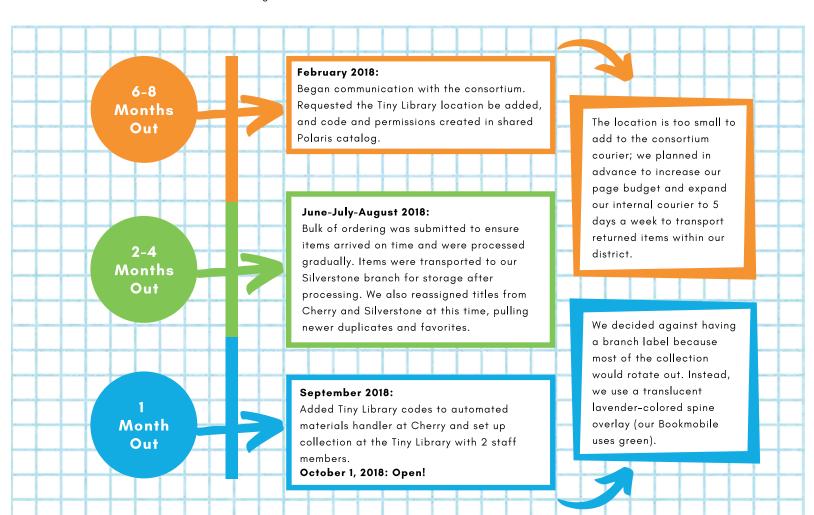
Collection development for the Tiny Library required planning a few months in advance in order for many moving parts to come together on time. We are in a consortium of 11 public libraries and we do not have ability to make major changes -like adding a branch - in the shared Polaris catalog. We made sure to communicate our needs to our ILS administrators early in the process to ensure the proper codes were available before books started arriving.

As a library that was already bursting at the seams, we made our purchases and transfers in small batches with creative adjustments to our limited storage space along the way. Orders were placed every 1–2 weeks to space out shipping. This also minimized overburdening our small (3–person) team of processing and cataloging staff.

communicate with consortium

keep cataloging staff in the loop

stagger orders, allow time for processing



WORK IT OUT: COLLECTION DEVELOPOMENT

6

What kind of collection will you need to build to realize your vision?

How can you capitalize on resources you already have?

Tiny Space for Your Big Ideas:



Space as a passive program



7 - PROGRAM PLAN

CLASSES AND EVENTS

Increasing community space through partnerships

Since our Tiny Library is... tiny, we had to get creative about building strategic partnerships with our neighbors to share space. During the warmer months, we can open up the side of the building to utilize the great outdoors as part of our space. However, during the long winters of Idaho, we worked with the YMCA and St. Luke's, the nearby pediatric office, to host programs in a larger indoor space.

We kept our staff-led programs relatively minimal in order to minimize impacts on staffing, reduce use and scheduling of partner spaces, and to encourage free play and exploration within the Tiny Library space itself.

Weekly year-round programs:

Stumble Upon STEAM: Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math for brilliant young minds.

Baby Storytime: new concepts, songs, books and engaging play for ages 0–1.

Preschool Storytime: a morning of stories, songs, dancing, and playing for ages 2–5.

Silly Song and Dance: silly songs, singing, and dancing to the beat for ages 2–5.

Weekly summertime program:

Super Saturday: an afternoon of play highlighting parachutes, fort-building, and something new each week.

Special programs in 2018-2019:

Kindergarten All-Stars: a 9-week program to prepare kids with academic and social-emotional skills needed for starting school.

Yoga Storytime: a fun afternoon of yoga, paired with story book favorites.



Programs move outdoors when weather allows



A Silly Song and Dance program takes place in an indoor classroom, provided by St.
Luke's Healthcare



7 - PROGRAM PLAN

SPACE AS PROGRAM

Guiding early literacy experiences

Our initial concept was to view the entire space as a passive program centered on play, however, we realized caregivers wanted more guidance on how to engage with the space and with early literacy practices. Based on this observation, we created a rotation of curated boxes themed around the Five Early Literacy Practices of **Read, Write, Talk, Play, and Sing.** Every practice has three bins (ages 0–2, 2–3, 3–5) that match the practice and guide caregivers in age-appropriate activities. Bins are rotated every three months when the practices rotate, which is also in sync with the systemwide programs calendar. The rotating bins are filled with a combination of toys, books, and tips for caregivers.



Activity bins for the "Read" rotation are left open on shelves near the play area. Signage guides caregivers to materials in three age ranges with helpful hints on engaging with the items.



7 - PROGRAM PLAN

READ: SAMPLE BIN CONTENT



READ: 0-2

One of the first ways a child learns words is by us talking to them! Talk about what you see around you or what they are doing. Believe us, they are retaining the words whether we think so or not!



READ: 2-3

Letter recognition is the first step on the way to reading! Some of the first letters kids learn are the letters in their name.



READ: 3-5

Rhyming and alliteration help children feel more confident using language to communicate. Playing with sounds and figuring out what sounds the same prepares children to become better readers.

A YEAR OF PROGRAMS

date	theme	our favorites
December 2018– February 2019	play	0-1: <i>Moo, Baa, Lalala</i> + puppets 2-3: <i>Duck</i> ! <i>Rabbit</i> ! + puppets 3-5: <i>Book-O-Hats</i> + costumes
March – May 2019	sing	0–1: <i>Happy</i> !, song, Pharrell Williams 2–3: <i>Hip–Hop Lollipop</i> , S. Montanari 3–5: <i>Pete the Cat</i> , Litwin & Dean
June – August 2019	read + talk	0–1: Touch & feel books 2–3: Playdough letter stamping 3–5: <i>Not a Box</i> , A. Portis
September – November 2019	write	0-1: Tummy time no-mess finger-painting 2-3: <i>Where's Spot</i> + egg-shaped crayons 3-5: <i>Little Plane Learns to Write, S</i> . Savage

*Check out the Colorado Libraries for Early Literacy (CLEL) Bell awards for book ideas!

A sample Tiny Tips calendar with activities for the month of May 2019. See full size in appendix.



WORK IT OUT: CLASSES AND EVENTS

7

What classes, events, or services are you already doing well that would be a good fit for your tiny library?

What community partners offer programs or services that would be a good fit for your tiny library?

Tiny Space for Your Big Ideas:

8 Operations

Day-to-day details



8 - OPERATIONS

PARTNERSHIPS

When the space is the program, but you still need space for programs...

Something major that was sacrificed to the lack of space was running water. Any public space needs to be less than 500 feet away from a public restroom if it doesn't have its own. Fortunately, our proximity to the YMCA made it easy to share. Sharing space required some creativity and planning. The YMCA requires memberships for people to enter their facility. They made exceptions for our patrons, allowing them to just leave their driver's license at the desk to enter the building to attend library programs and use the restroom. We signed an MOU outlining all of the terms of the shared space.

Our partners' gracious sharing of their own space made it possible to host larger programs at The Hill. The Tiny Library is great at being "space as a program," but it does not have space for traditional children's programs.

We coordinated with St. Lukes, The YMCA, Hillsdale, and Parks and Recreation to use the classrooms inside The Hill. Matching up four different organizational calendars with different planning deadlines was a challenge and requires quarterly meetings with all partners to map out everyone's schedules. These quarterly meetings have led to our partners planning programs around our themes.

space as program + space for programs

STAFF MANUALS

Equipping staff with operational FAQs

Without ever being in the same place at once, our staff had to get creative with communication and consistency. This led to a few manuals with everything from partner contact information to the Spotify password (we create custom playlists for storytimes), to opening and closing procedures.

Since our staff are frequently working alone, it was especially important to make sure they had access to all of the information they might need to keep things running smoothly.

Supplies, collection rotation, and other deliveries either go over with staff or with one of our Pages running the internal courier service.

IMPORTANT INFO:

YMCA Phone number : 555-555-555-555

Wifi Password: Spotify Password: Emergency contacts:

Who Has Keys:

- Outreach Dept.
- · YMCA front desk
- Managers

8 - OPERATIONS

STAFFING

Training and hiring early literacy experts who can work solo

The initial vision for the space was to have a trained, Early Literacy Librarian providing high-quality services for all of the hours the Tiny Library was open. Our reality ended up being a collaboritve staffing model pulling from all departments. We developed a pipeline for staff interested in working in the space and provided training in early literacy education for anyone not yet qualified, in addition to training on the logistics of the space itself.



HOURS OF OPERATION

Choosing our hours of operations was pure guess-work. We knew that our intended audience probably wouldn't be out late, might have nap times, and showed up consistently for morning and afternoon story times at our other branches. We also knew that with a solo staffing plan, we'd need to keep hours short enough that people would be less likely to need a bathroom break.

This resulted in being open for three-hour shifts, alternating mornings and afternoons throughout the week, and four hours on Saturdays. These hours provided an additional benefit of solidifying the space especially for early literacy since it was primarily open while older siblings would be in school at Hillsdale Elementary, next door. During the summer, our hours nearly double, from 19/week to 36/week, but still be in 3-hour blocks.



WORK IT OUT: OPERATIONS

8

How will you handle the daily operations of your new space? Do you have adequate staff and systems in place already?

What unique challenges can you foresee in operating your tiny library?

Tiny Space for Your Big Ideas:

9

Technology

Choosing the right tools for the space



9 - TECHNOLOGY

WEBSITE

Adding a new location to our existing website

The Tiny Library isn't a full-service branch, and organizationally, it is part of our Outreach Department. Our current website has a brand color assigned to each of our branches on our calendar to make it easier for patrons to find events. Initially we had planned on Tiny's events matching Outreach Blue, however, we

realized that as much as this made sense to us as organizers, it wouldn't be apparent to our patrons. We were hoping to avoid any major changes to our website until we had a better idea of what our bigger expansion plans looked like. We made the call to our website provider, and found it was cheaper than expected to add the infrastructure to our current site for Tiny Library to stand on its own, with its own unique color. Magenta was unofficially added to our brand color line-up, for minimal use.

See it here: https://www.mld.org/tiny-library

"As much as this made sense to us as organizers, it wouldn't be apparent to our patrons."

CHOOSING A NETWORK PROVIDER

Internet service is necessary to have access to our catalog and ILS – after some debate, we settled on using a cellular modem and cellular data service because it had the lowest up-front costs and took up the least amount of space. We tested different service providers and settled on the one that provided the best bandwidth where our Tiny Library is. This allowed us to have a static IP address so we could access our ILS. In hindsight, a more traditional internet connection with better bandwidth would have made it possible to make the whole space self-serve and a space for unstaffed holds pickups.

CELLULAR

- Lower Cost
- Takes up less space
- Inconsistent bandwidth
- Cannot support self-serve model

DSL/CABLE

- Higher upfront cost
- Requires a bulky server rack
- consistent bandwidth
- Higher speeds available

9 - TECHNOLOGY

SELF CHECK

Empowering patrons to make the most of their time in the space

With our Tiny Library, it didn't make sense to create a circulation desk and place the (often only) staff member behind it. For one, there simply wasn't room, but we also wanted to empower caregivers to make the most of their time in the space. With a self checkout option, parents and caregivers could check out books and kits while the children enjoyed storytime, eliminating a bottleneck of checkouts after programs.

We went with meeScan from Bintec. At \$599, the meeScan "Small Library Edition" is a lower cost alternative to Bintec's full-sized branch offering. The "Small Library Edition" name has more to do with service point size than actual functionality of the software since they are essentially the same product. The software allows patrons to check out books from their own smartphone while at the branch. (While MLD patrons can only use meeScan at this location, multi-branch, multi-site checkout options using meeScan are available.)

- A laptop with access to our catalog
- Barcode scanner
- MeeScan Kiosk
- iPad



WORK IT OUT: TECHNOLOGY

9

What technology will be needed for core functions?

How important is consistent bandwidth in accomplishing the goals of your space? Are you wanting to make it self-serve?

Tiny Space for Your Big Ideas:



Assessing the impact



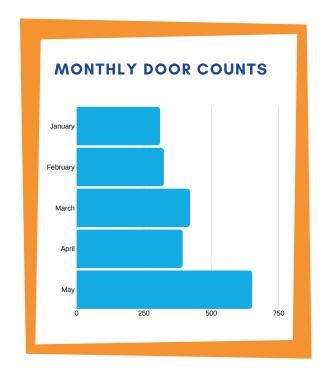
10 - EVALUATION

MEASURING IMPACT

Using available data, surveys, and the Logic Model to show the difference we make

Our evaluation plan focused on early literacy and kindergarten readiness measurements, and it is an ongoing process. For many of our metrics, we need to coordinate with the local school district to see how we are moving the needle on school readiness for kindergartners and their caregivers.

This year we included questions about the Tiny Library in our annual Customer Service Survey. In the spring, we issued short paper surveys to encourage patrons to "share their tiny story" with us. Using a blend of hard data questions and narrative questions has resulted in some great information. (A copy of this survey is available in the Appendix). These questions and our goals were developed using The Logic Model, which is broken down on the next page.





The results of our evaluation so far have been people asking for more – more open hours, more storytimes, more books.

LOGIC MODEL

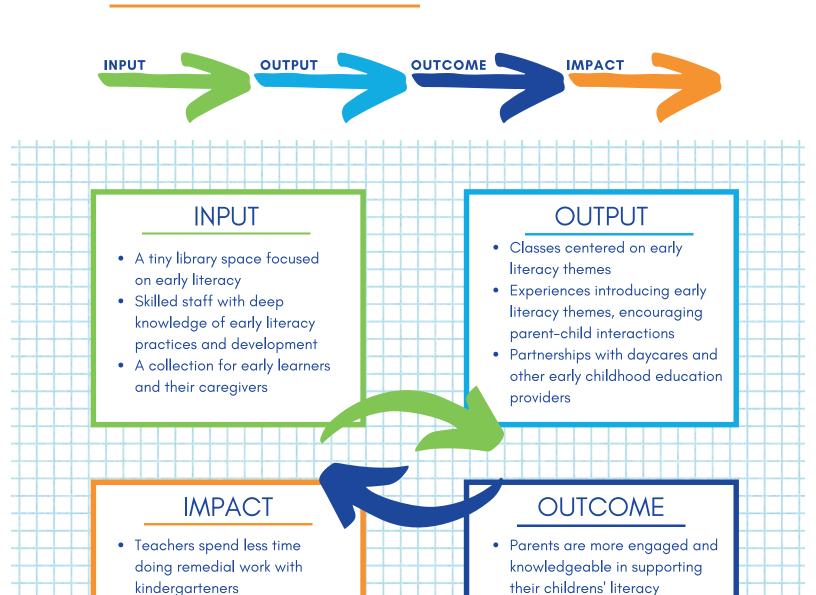
• Families feel supported when

• Higher literacy and education

achievement rates

using early literacy resources

IF we build a library focused on early literacy, THEN kindergarten readiness will increase



foundations

kindergarten

• More students are prepared for

10 - EVALUATION

LESSONS LEARNED

Things that would have been nice to know at the beginning

First Things First

With so many moving pieces, it wasn't always easy to accomplish them in the right order. While we highly recommend ordering your furniture with enough time for it to be delivered, don't forget to get official permission from all the powers that be before jumping into the middle of things. To sum it up, Official Permission > On-Time Furniture Delivery.

Cataloging Fumbles

Our ILS is administered through another library in our system, and we did not coordinate with them as closely as we should have to make sure that all functionality was turned on in time for opening. We recommend double-checking that all items are "checked in" and ready to circulate; we overlooked one small segment of our collection.

Blue Tape

Early on, we took a roll of blue painters tape, headed to the biggest room in our library, and taped out the dimensions of our shipping container on the floor. It was humbling to see just how tiny of a space we were working with, and we immediately scaled back our plans to match the size. Seeing it visually, and standing in the tape mockup was much different than seeing the mockups on a screen.



RED TAPE

Because no project is complete without it

We were so blue

Our first color choice for the Tiny Library was blue, but this didn't match the color palette of the main building, the YMCA. City Code ultimately dictated what color we could choose (hint: not colorful primary kid-friendly colors!). It was a good lesson in not getting too stuck on small details.

Snail Mail

Our shipping container is big enough to be a building with its very own address, but not big enough to get a mailbox, which is sometimes a very minor inconvenience.

Make a List

When you're opening a new building, it feels like a million people need to be notified. Don't assume other organizations will be proactive; instead, make a list of everyone and everywhere you need to post your new address. Don't forget to be added to both Google's and Apple's maps for navigation.

WORK IT OUT: EVALUATION

10

What does success look like in your tiny library?

How will you measure your success?

Tiny Space for Your Big Ideas:

Appendix

Resources, References, and Printouts



GLOSSARY

DEMCO Interiors

Demco's team utilizes user-centered design to help schools and libraries create comfortable and engaging interiors that support inquiry and learning. https://www.demcointeriors.com/

DIY

Made popular by Home and Garden Television (HGTV), "Do it yourself" ("DIY") is the method of building, modifying, or repairing things without the direct aid of experts or professionals.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Do_it_yourself

Early Childhood Learning Framework

In 2017 MLD's Early Learning Taskforce conducted a series of internal and external environmental scans that helped identify needs and develop a strategic direction for services to children ages 0–5 and their caregivers.

Early Literacy

"Literacy development begins at birth and is closely linked to a baby's earliest experiences with books and stories. Babies learn language through social literacy experiences – parents interacting with them using books."

http://www.ala.org/united/products_services/booksforbabies/earlyliteracy

Early Literacy Practices

There are multiple ways to help with your child's cognitive, physical, language, social, and emotional development. Singing, Talking, Reading, Writing, and Playing are the five foundations on which literacy is based.

http://everychildreadytoread.org/about/



The "Hill"

An innovative collaboration of the Treasure Valley Family YMCA, the West Ada School District, St. Luke's Health System, the City of Meridian Parks and Recreation Department and the Meridian Library District. It's where families, the community, and people of all ages can come together to have fun, be active, learn from each other, and achieve their potential through learning, wellness and fitness. https://www.thehillmeridian.org/



Idaho Statute 33-2724 (4)

The board of trustees of a library district may establish a capital assets replacement and repair fund within the library district budget for which district moneys may be budgeted and carried over from year to year. [...] Moneys from the capital assets replacement and repair fund may not be used for the purchase of land or to build new library facilities or to build additions to current library facilities.

https://legislature.idaho.gov/statutesrules/idstat/title 33/t33ch27/sect33-2724/

Kits

MLD circulates kits, devices, and objects in addition to traditional library materials. The kits were designed to be convenient "grab and go" selections on a range of topics that include a variety of formats. See all offerings at https://www.mld.org/kits-devices-and-objects.

meeScan

The Tiny Library's self-checkout system is powered by meeScan. Using the app, patrons can check out the branch's collection of materials via the built-in barcode scanner.

GLOSSARY, CON'T

(City of) Meridian

Located in Ada County about 10 miles west of Boise, Idaho's state capital. Population estimates in 2016 were 95,623. It is the second-largest city in Idaho and has remained the fastest-growing since 1994, more than doubling in population from 2000–2007. https://meridiancity.org/

Meridian Library District

Started by the Occident Club in 1924 and established as the Meridian Free Library District in 1975, MLD is a publicly funded library that supports its community by enriching lives, igniting curiosity, and cultivating connections.

Current operations include:

- Cherry Lane: main location, opened in 1997
- Outreach: operates a bookmobile and sprinter van, visiting schools, retirement facilities, homes, neighborhoods, and community events year-round
- Silverstone: small full-service branch location, leased and opened in 2007
- Tiny Library: materials for ages 0-5 and their caregivers, opened in 2018
- unBound: technology branch based in downtown Meridian, opened in 2015

Learn more at www.mld.org.

Plan A

We ran a capital funding measure in 2016 to build a full-service branch location at "The Hill" but fell just short of the supermajority required to pass.

Polaris

The Integrated Library System (ILS) utilized by the LYNX Consortium of 11 public libraries, of which MLD is a member. https://www.iii.com/products/polaris-ils/

Rascal

Rascal the dog is Meridian Library District's mascot.



Shipping Container

A container designed to be moved from one mode of transport to another without unloading and reloading. The widespread availability and relative cheapness of used intermodal shipping containers meant that architects began to consider them as an alternative to traditional building materials.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shipping_container#Reuse

Tiny House Movement

An architectural and social movement that advocates living simply in small homes. A residential structure under 400 sq. ft is generally considered a tiny home. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tiny_house_movement

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Meridian Library District Staff & Trustees

It is not an exaggeration to state that *every* member of our staff contributed to the success of the Tiny Library in one way or another. From the initial planning stages at our branch library, to the hardwork of our collections team, and our Outreach team adopting it into their department, – our Tiny Library is still staffed, planned, and made possible by people from all departments. Their collaboration, flexibility, and team work made this dream happen. Thank you to the Library Board of Trustees who supported this dream and helped it become a reality.

Partners at The Hill

YMCA Treasure Valley
St. Luke's Hospital
Hillsdale Elementary School (West Ada School District)
City of Meridian Parks and Recreation

Donors and Grants

Lila Hill – Private Donor

Meridian Recycling Fund Grant

First Interstate Bank Foundation

Penguin Random House Innovation Award

ALA Fellowship for the Future of Libraries

Friends of Meridian Library

Toolkit Design

Jenaleigh Kiebert Alex Johnatakis

RESOURCES

Collection

CLEL Bell Awards | https://www.clel.org/clelbellawards

Planning and Design

Shelf Shuffler | http://spreadsheetsforlibrarians.blogspot.com
Floorplanner | www.floorplanner.com
Design Thinking for Libraries Toolkit | www.designthinkingforlibraries.com
The Logic Model | https://www.cdc.gov/eval/logicmodels/index.htm
Canva | canva.com

Inspirations

Biebbus Library | https://greendiary.com/biebbus-amazing-dutch-children-s-library-pops-up-inside-a-shipping-container.html

Vissershok Classroom | https://inhabitat.com/the-vissershok-school-is-a-colorful-shipping-container-classroom-for-kids-in-south-africa/

Appendix Items

Budget
Architectural Drawings
Short Patron Survey
Tiny Tips Calendar
Tiny Library FAQ
Tiny Library and Early Literacy Training Checklist

REFERENCES AND RECOMMENDED READING

Center for Childhood Creativity at the Bay Area Discovery Museum. (2016). Reimagining School Readiness: A position paper with key findings. Retrieved November 27, 2018, from https://centerforchildhoodcreativity.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2016/03/CCC_SchoolReadinessPositionPaper_Electronic.pdf

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Romero, L., & Armstrong, L. (Winter 2017). Sharing the Secret Sauce: Engaging Early Childhood Educators in Library Storytime Practices. In Association for Library Services to Children, Children and Libraries. Retrieved from https://journals.ala.org/index.php/cal/article/view/6506/8646

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https://www.unitedwaytv.org/sites/unitedwaytv.org/files/2017_UW_CommunityAssessment.pdf

MLD Tiny Library at the Hill Budget

Project budget approved by the Library Boar	d of	Trustees May	16,	2018
Company Company Duniont Budget				
General Contractor Project Budget General Conditions	\$	12 250 00		
Site Work	\$	12,350.00 9,380.00		
Concrete	\$			
Metals	\$	15,035.00		
		18,595.00		
Carpentry The control of Marietana Datasetics	\$	1,000.00		
Thermal & Moisture Protection	\$	3,450.00		
Doors and Windows	\$	6,216.00		
Finishes	\$	20,369.00		
Specialities	\$	1,000.00		
Mechanical	\$	11,814.00		
Electrical	\$	18,201.00		
Subtotal Building Costs			\$	117,410.00
Contractor Costs			\$	18,947.00
			\$	136,357.00
Owner's Costs				
Container Purchase + Improvements	\$	14,800.00		
Testing and Inspection	\$	1,500.00		
Permit	\$	2,000.00		
A&E Fees	\$	12,618.00		
Contingency	\$	4,500.00		
FF&E shelving, desk, etc	\$	12,799.00		
Collections	\$	7,000.00		
Supplies	\$	500.00		
Technology	\$	4,500.00		
Subtotal			\$	60,217.00
The Hill Partner Cost-Share*			\$	12,300.00
Total Project Budget			\$	208,874.00
Contingency			\$	11,126.00
Board Approved			\$	220,000.00
*Cost-share is an annual cost paid to the property owners at The Hill to cover shared costs suchs as water, sewer, trash, and other maintenance items.				

STRUCTURAL ENGINEER
AXIOM PLLC
a: 121 N. 9TH ST. SUITE 401
Boise, idah 83702 p: 208.639.4520

a: 495 West Main Street

JENSEN BELTS Boise, Idaho 83702

p: 208.343.7175

p: 208.846.8955

Boise, Idaho 83713

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KMENGINEERING
ERICKSON CIVIL, IN C.
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Boise, Idaho 83709

p: 208.384.0585

ELECTRICAL ENGINEER
MUSGROVE ENGINEERING
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a 2765 North Bogus Besin Road Boise, Utahu 52702 208343.752 HUMME 1326 W. CHERRY LANE MERIDIAN, ID. 83642

CLIENT

MERIDIAN, ID. 83642 5159 S. HOWRY LN. MERIDIAN STORAGE CONTAINER LIBRARY

MERIDAIN LIBRARY DISTRICT



DRAWING SET

STRUCTURAL MECHANICAL ELECTRICAL LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURAL\ CIVIL





E Amity Rd

VICINITY MAP

A2.01 FLOOR PLAN, ELEVATIONS, SECTIONS DETAILS, CODE PLAN/ANALYSIS, ETC. STRUCTURAL

ARCHITECTURAL

S0.01 STRUCTURAL COVER SHEET S0.02 GENERAL NOTES S1.01 PLANS S5.01 DETAILS

MECHANICAL

M0.0 MECHANICAL COVER
M0.1 MECHANICAL ENERGY COMPLIANCE.
M0.2 MECHANICAL SPECIFICATIONS
M1.1 HVAC FLOOR PLAN

AGENCY REVIEW DRAWINGS

H.A.-JOB # 17039

DRAWING INDEX

C2.70 GRADING PLAN - OVERALL

LANDSCAPE

L101 SITE CALLOUT AND DIMENSION PLAN
L201 LANDSCAPE PLAN
L301 IRRIGATION PLAN
L302 IRRIGATION SCHEDULES, NOTES & DETAILS

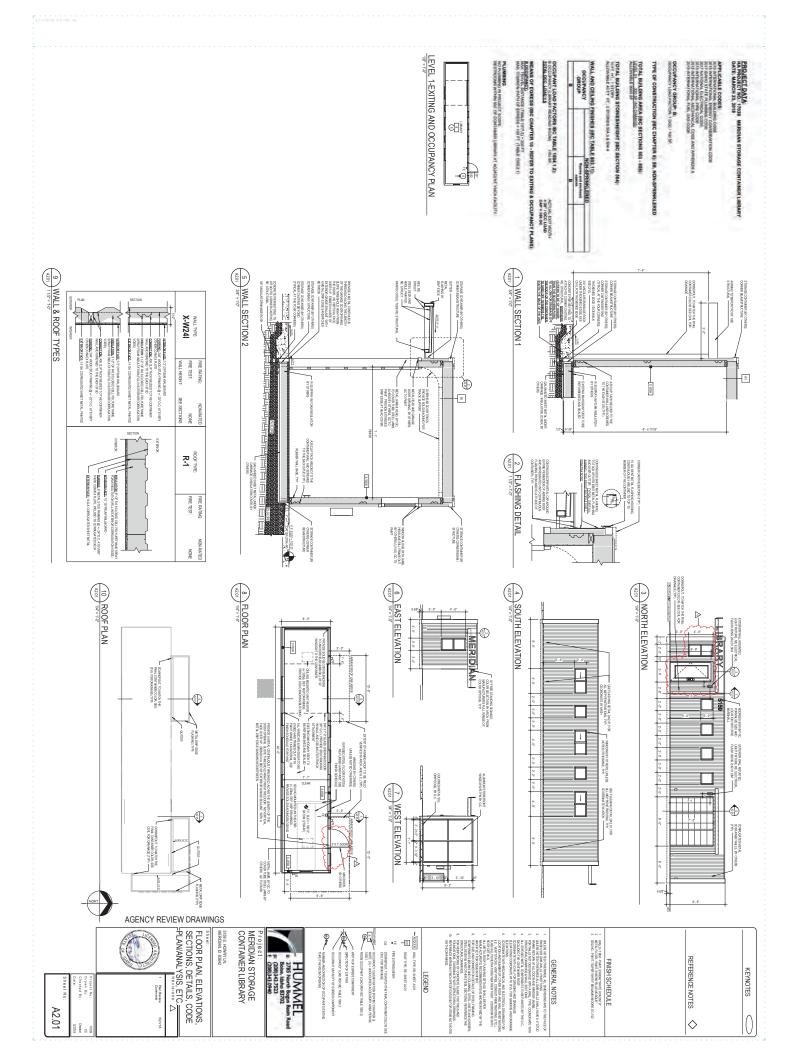
DRAWING SET NO

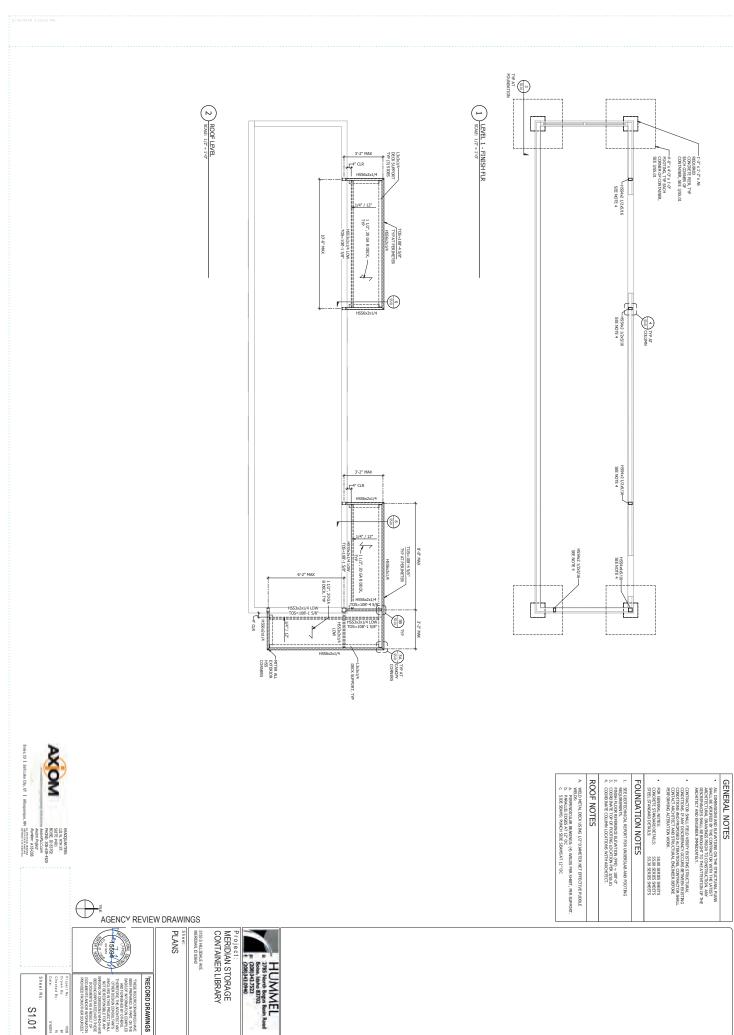
E0.0 ELECTRICAL COVER SHEET
E0.1 ENERGY COMPLIANCE
E1.0 ELECTRICAL PLANS
E2.0 ELECTRICAL DETAILS / SCHEDULES

ELECTRICAL

S Eagle Rd

Howry Ln







S1.01

RECORD DRAWINGS





I visited the Tiny Library on **MONDAY TUESDAY WEDNESDAY THURSDAY FRIDAY SATURDAY** (circle all that apply): I come to the Tiny library (circle one): **RARELY ONCE A WEEK MULTIPLE TIMES A WEEK** When we are at the Tiny Library we (circle all that apply): **CHECKED OUT BOOKS READ BOOKS INSIDE PLAYED WENT TO A PROGRAM** LEARNED SOMETHING NEW ABOUT HOW TO SUPPORT MY CHILD'S LEARNING AND **DEVELOPMENT** OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY): I (we) especially liked but wish that

district



What is it?

An interactive learning library aimed at children ages 0-5 to help kids be ready to read when they enter kindergarten.

Items and activities are focused on ages 0-5 (board books, Easy Readers and picture books) with a small Parent-Teacher collection.

Collections and interactive activities are focused on the five early learning practices: talk, play, sing, write, read.

What are the hours of operation?

Monday 1:00 - 4:00 pm Tuesday 9:00 - noon Wednesday 1:00 - 4:00 pm Thursday 9:00 - noon Friday 1:00 - 4:00 pm Saturday 1:00 - 5:00 pm

Where can I find a current list of programs?

www.mld.org/tiny-library
Y Lobby Kiosk - MLD program brochures

Can people pick up holds and return books there?

No holds at this location.

Returns are available only during open hours.

For holds and returning materials when closed, the three closest locations are:

Meridian Library, Silverstone Branch 3531 E Overland Road, Meridian, ID 83642 Ada Community Library - Lake Hazel 10489 Lake Hazel Rd, Boise, ID 83709 Ada Community Library - Victory 10664 W Victory Rd, Boise, ID 83709

How does the Y Lobby Book Collection work?

Visitors can take a book or leave a book.

It's ok if the books do not come back.

Outreach Staff will monitor the collection and restock it - if patrons notice an issue with this area, they can notify MLD by either calling 208.888.4451 or emailing outreach@mld.org.

Whom do I contact with further questions?

tinylibrary@mld.org



Tiny Training Checklist

Opening and Closing Procedures:				
Opening and closing quick sheet				
☐ Important numbers				
Observe/Shadow Tiny:				
☐ Tiny Tips and <u>Tiny page</u>				
☐ An Idea a Day				
☐ 1,000 BBK				
Deposit Collection in Y lobby				
And where to get materials				
Learning about early literacy:				
☐ Read An Overview of Early Literacy				
☐ Read Library Storytime: It's a lot more than just the story				
■ Watch Storytime in the Library: Getting Ready to Read				
☐ Fostering Readers (Literacy for K-3rd graders)				
Idaho Resources				
□ Subscribe to The Bookworm				
☐ Familiarize yourself with Idaho Commission for Libraries Read to Me				
<u>Programs</u>				
□ Check out DaybyDayID.org				
□ Subscribe to The Scoop Newsletter				
□ View our subject lists of children's books				
For further exploration				
CLEL Bell Awards				
Read about choosing books for storytime				
□ Storytime Secrets				
□ Future Librarian Superhero				
Rhymes and Songs:				

	Watch Making a Rhyme Interactive				
	Read about options for songs in storytimes				
	<u>List of storytime rhymes</u>				
Finge	rplays/Flannelboards/puppets:				
	Read and watch Don't be Shy: Using Puppets in Storytimes				
	Five Posts About Flannelboard				
	Watch Using Flannelboard Activities to build Background Knowledge				
	Read and Watch Baby Storytime: Favorite Fingerplays and Tickles				
Parent asides:					
	Read and watch Early Literacy Messages in Action				
	Watch early literacy aside videos				