

MCLS Virtual Dialogue
Powerful Partnerships
March 19, 2021

Breakout #1

Think of a powerful partnership you have witnessed or experienced and tell your group about it. Who were the key players? What was the purpose of the partnership? What were the benefits to each partner? What made it powerful? Was there anything about the partnership that made it unlikely, unexpected, or surprising? What were the outcomes of the partnership?

01:08:39 Heather Clark: GROUP 4

Julie - Storywalk LPCPL - Partnership with local parks for having a storywalk and activities, well received by community, promoting idea library is more than just books. Getting grants for the physical stands.

Heather- College - partnered with local foster care organizations through the social work department. Giving kids the chance to see the opportunities for their education as they grow, catching ones who might slip through the cracks. This year partnering with a halfway house for kids aging out of the system as well.

Lyn - Food truck - Food truck in the area handing out meals to kids and library is giving out free books to the kids who get meals.

01:08:58 Patricia VanArsdale: Worked in a prison library. National Guard came in to do testing. Prison watched to see their organization to see how they ran this process and be able to duplicate it after they left.

01:09:22 Patricia VanArsdale: ILL conference, helped learn about ILL across the state and help create a conference from scratch. Helped expand those connections and bring knowledge back to each library. We continue to reach out to those folks with Covid. Also use those people for advice moving forward with other issues.

01:09:53 Jennifer Dye: Deborah has worked with Parks Dept. on Easter program in park

01:10:53 Jennifer Dye: Easter program cont. child-decorated Easter egg trees, drawing for donated baskets.

01:11:06 Patricia VanArsdale: Teen Community Service Club at local food pantry, we already worked with them for our food for fines where you could donate a food item for \$1 off fines. There were lots of regulars and when Covid first began, many of the food pantry volunteers were unable to provide necessary services to food pantry clients. But OUR TEENS showed up and worked hard and they helped make it possible to serve local clients.

01:12:02 Jennifer Dye: Kathy reported on internships across university departments, gave students opportunity to build resume material and have exhibit experience.

01:12:04 Amy Beckman-LEAP: Kat- Cold-calling possible partners. Play groups and literacy kits at the library in partnership with the Mid-Michigan Community

Action Agency. Partnering with local community colleges for a new STEM room and makerspace.

Lynn- Discovered a technology recycler that could take their outdated technology. Later on they partnered with them to do a technology recycling drop off for the community.

Amy- First year we are doing a Seed Library as part of the Michigan seed library network and are partnering with Small House Farm to offer a virtual program about seeds and saving seeds. Also were able to purchase heirloom seeds from this partner at a discount.

- 01:12:39 Jennifer Dye: expungement program had full cooperation from all groups
01:13:38 Jennifer Dye: Deborah building relationships with multiple community partners
01:15:28 Jennifer Dye: I am working with LWV on a series of online programs, great success and involvement. League is encouraging all local chapters to work with local libraries to deliver programs on MI redistricting
01:19:56 Hannah Ball - JDL: Yep!
01:20:59 Kathy Irwin: Folks in the libraries, not me specifically. ;-)

Breakout #2

A library director across the country recently read about you and your library in an ALA blog titled, "Powerful Partnerships," and just had to know more. She/he picked up the phone and called you and wants to know how you achieved this feat. They have so many questions for you...

How did you identify who to partner with? What first three small steps did you take to initiate the partnership? What makes you use the term "powerful" to describe this particular effort? Libraries engage in partnerships all the time – when or how did you know that this one was powerful?

As a breakout group, imagine the large group is the library director on the other end of the phone – what would you tell us?

- 01:42:55 Patricia VanArsdale: Kathy: Grant writing perspective tribal librarian worked with them, which they needed to do in order to apply for the grant. Bringing together science, libraries, art, and writing and tying it in to the community. Very powerful, the magnifying effect of joining together of many talented parties.
Lynn: Did a technology recycling program! Was upgrading technology and found an organization to pick up this technology. Was able to get a lot of bins that was passed out to others and more stuff was recycled and some companies. Literally recycled a TON (2500+ POUNDS)!
01:42:58 Hannah Ball - JDL: Susan, I caught the very end of that, but didn't have time to respond :)

- 01:44:16 Mo McKenna, Toronto, Canada: Unleashing the energy of conflict to fuel positive collaboration
- 01:49:32 Mo McKenna, Toronto, Canada: Wonderful book called 5 Cups of Tea about building schools in Afghanistan ... spend time building relationships before jumping into action
- 01:49:59 Kathy Irwin: <https://www.cmich.edu/library/Pages/Big-Water-Creates-Big-Impact-Exhibition.aspx>
- 01:50:23 Kathy Irwin: We have a library committee working on this project.

Reflection Question

What is one small step you'll take this month to explore a powerful partnership?

- 01:52:30 Patricia VanArsdale: No partnership is too small.
- 01:52:56 Mo McKenna, Toronto, Canada: I LOVED to hear the variety of innovative powerful partnerships ... humanizing, growing through conflict etc.
- 01:52:59 Kathy Irwin: Identify 3 new partners we might collaborate with in the future to accomplish mutual purposes.
- 01:53:11 Sarah Rick-Millington Arbela District Library: Get to know more about my community to explore the different partnerships
- 01:53:51 Patricia VanArsdale: I may just have to ask some of my current contacts, "Is there anyone you think I should know or an organization the library/teens should work with?" To the point with zero chance for miscommunication.
- 01:54:23 Patricia VanArsdale: Thank you, everyone for sharing!
- 01:54:24 Amy Beckman-LEAP: Sarah and I work at the same library!
- 01:54:30 Susan Powers CMU: I will take away that even though my powerful partnership workgroup at work has conflict, it is not a bad thing and we stick together and grow through it and from it.
- 01:55:05 Jan Davidson, MCLS: <https://www.mcls.org/training-events/presentation-slides/>
- 01:55:26 Deborah Kristoff - Lowell Public Library: Thank you - always uplifting
- 01:55:27 Mo McKenna, Toronto, Canada: @Susan Conflict is good - when ideas collide safety they spark new ideas
- 01:55:55 Heather Clark: Thank you all so much! I love these dialogues, they are always so energizing and I come out of them feeling so alive and enthusiastic!
- 01:55:55 Kathy Irwin: Thanks for hosting!
- 01:55:59 Hannah Ball - JDL: Thank you!
- 01:56:05 Jennifer Perryman: Thank you!
- 01:56:16 Susan Powers CMU: Bye everyone, thanks!