

# **Makerspace in libraries**

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## **STEAMing with potential**

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# What is a makerspace?

- A place where stuff is made
- A community of learning and growing
- A space with resources to inspire
- A place for collaboration





# What is a makerspace?

*A shared workspace where people create things collaboratively, sharing knowledge but learning simultaneously.*



Image <https://colleengraves.org>

# Why makerspaces and libraries?

Open ended activities

+

Variety of supplies

+

Lots of time

+

Display space





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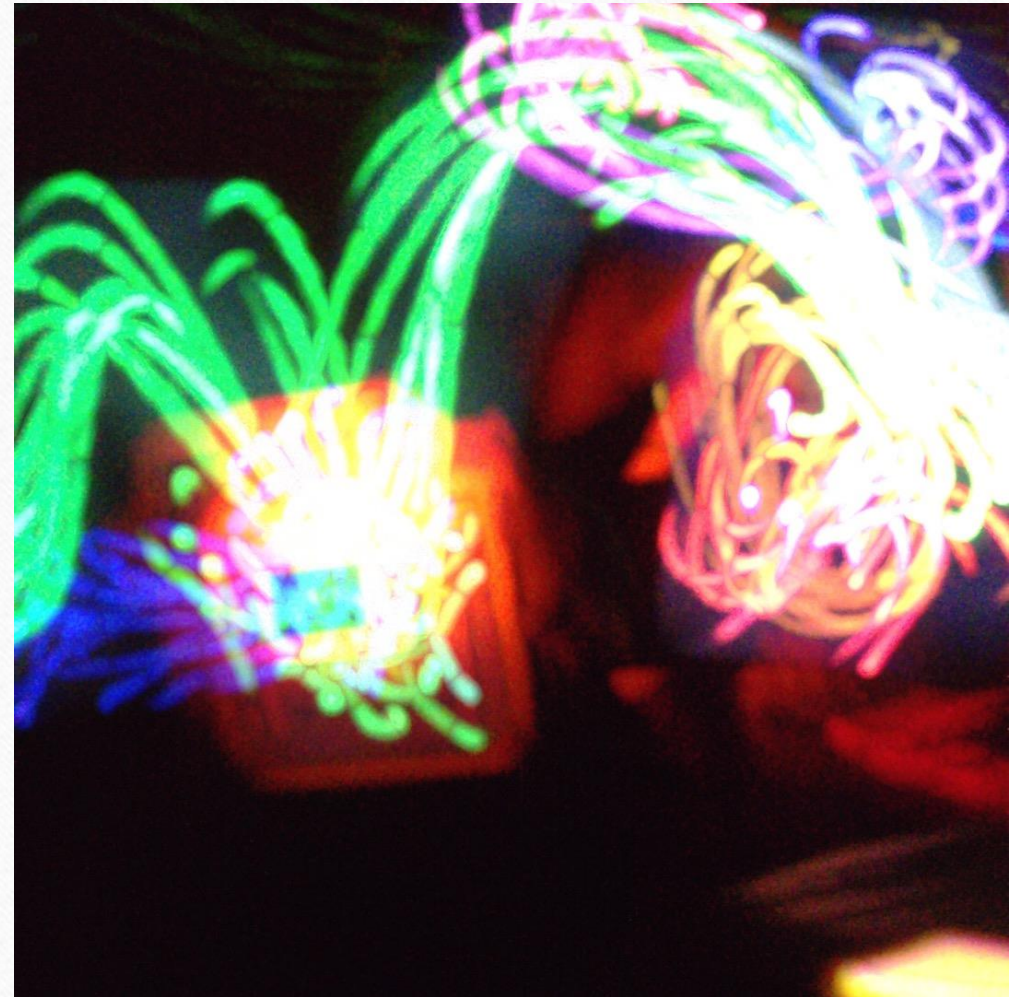
Display space





## Highlight – Light Makers

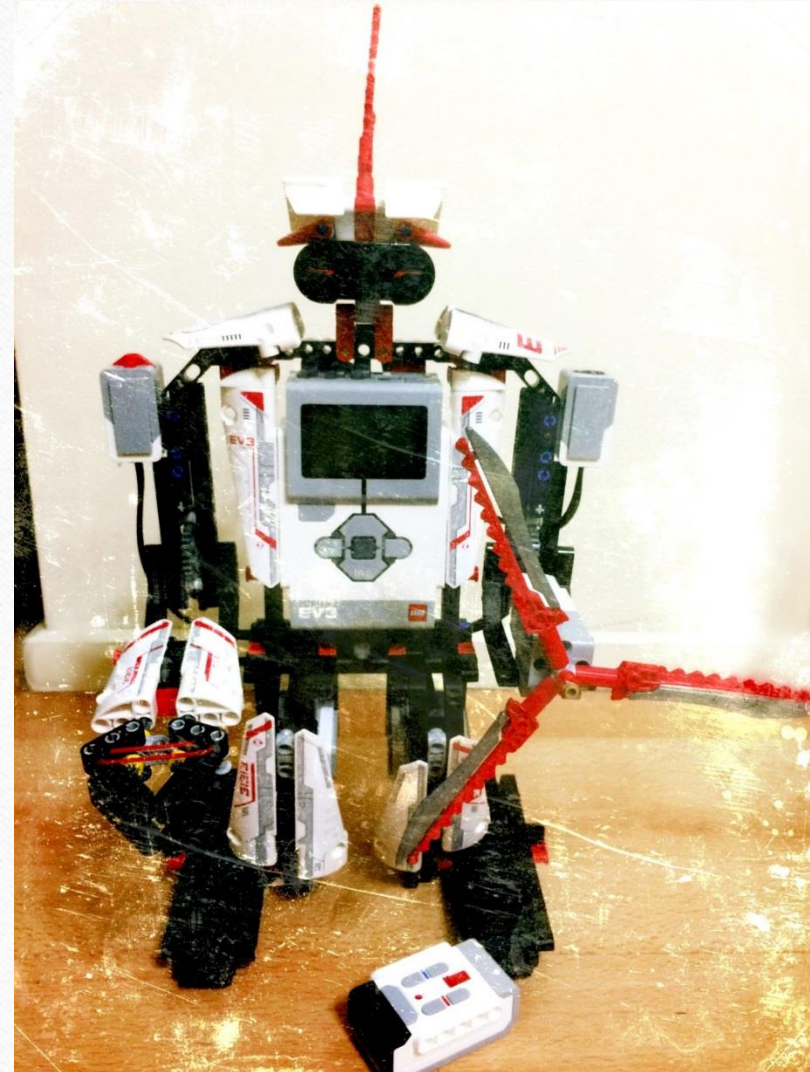
- Community engagement part of academic library's mission
- National Science Week 2015
- Participants were 1/3 Curtin community and 2/3 public – esp. home school families
- Illuminated origami, makey makeys, sewable electronics, VR, light painting ... fun!





## Highlight – LEGO Robotics

- STEAM learning concepts are important for libraries to promote
- Important to expose children to these concepts
- Demonstrates that learning can be fun and exciting
- *The robots children imagine today are the robots they will build in the future*





## Benefits

- Create and encourage unique thinking
- Creates producers, not consumers
- Creates social levelling
- Increased community ownership





## Outcomes

- New program development
- Creation of new partnerships
- Increases in attendances
- Promoting the Curtin brand
- Creation of new spaces





# Outcomes

- Staff training and development
- Innovative and forward thinking
- Replication
- Increased pride in the workplace



# Questions?



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Libraries and makerspaces

[http://www.pinterest.com/shewgirl/libraries  
-and-maker-spaces/](http://www.pinterest.com/shewgirl/libraries-and-maker-spaces/)

Makerspaces in libraries

[linkd.in/1mvcs6n](http://linkd.in/1mvcs6n)