

Local Library Selected to Participate in National Project

The Fayette Public Library was recently named one of fifteen U.S. public libraries selected to participate in the “Small Libraries Create Smart Spaces” project led by the Online Computer Library Center (OCLC) in partnership with the Association for Rural and Small Libraries. The project is generously funded by the Institute of Museum and Library Services.

The project team received 120 applications from 38 states. The selected libraries represent 15 states and serve communities ranging in size from 900 to 15,500 people. Of the 15 libraries selected, the Fayette Public Library is the only library in Texas. Participating libraries will be guided through the 15-month project designed by OCLC’s WebJunction, in which they will work with their community members to reimagine and reconfigure a library space to encourage socially engaging and active learning at the library.

Participants will gather online to learn and apply principles of placemaking, community engagement, and human-centered space and service design. After conducting community input, action planning, and prototyping, the libraries will create their learning spaces, using a \$5,000 sub-grant toward materials.

“We are thrilled to have been selected to participate in this innovative project. Involvement in the project will help the library better understand the learning needs of our community and how we can reimagine a space to meet those needs.” said Allison Shimek, Director of the Fayette Public Library Museum & Archives.

To learn more about the project visit WebJunction.org and follow the Fayette Public Library, Museum & Archives on Facebook @FPLMA for updates. The library can be contacted at 979-968-3765.