

A title slide for a presentation. On the left, a circular inset shows a clock with a globe as its face, mounted on a wall above a shelf of maker supplies. The words "MAKER SPACE" are printed in large, bold, black letters across the middle. On the right, the date "APRIL 11, 2026" is in red. Below it, the title "Centering Makers' Values: An Outcomes Framework for Public Libraries" is in blue. The speakers' names are listed below: Gustavo M. Garcia, MA; Maitrayi S. Subhedar, MA; and Rebecca M. Teasdale, PhD. The UIC University of Illinois Chicago logo is at the bottom right. A small photo credit "Photo by Benjamin Thomas on Unsplash" is in the bottom left corner.

APRIL 11, 2026

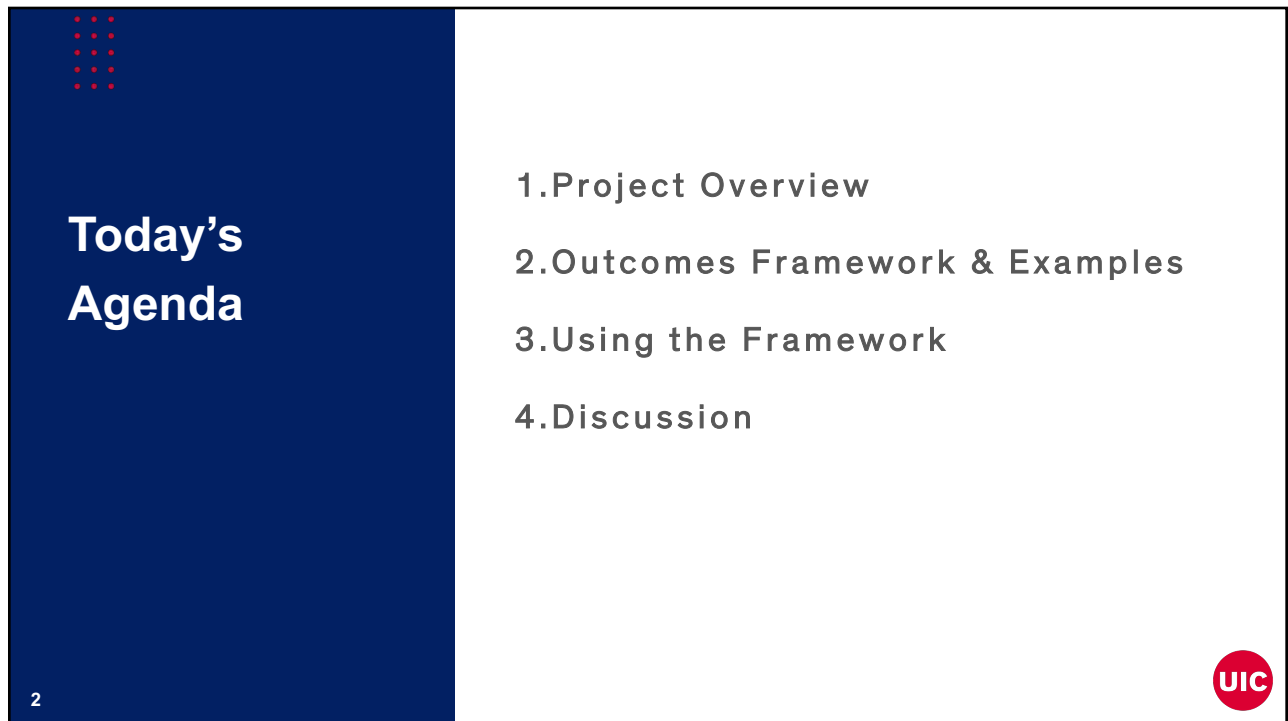
Centering Makers' Values: An Outcomes Framework for Public Libraries

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Rebecca M. Teasdale, PhD

UIC UNIVERSITY OF
ILLINOIS CHICAGO

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1

A slide titled "Today's Agenda" on a dark blue background. The title is in white. To the right, a list of four agenda items is shown in grey text. The UIC logo is in the bottom right corner.

Today's Agenda

1. Project Overview
2. Outcomes Framework & Examples
3. Using the Framework
4. Discussion

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How can public libraries...

- Equitably support adults' varying priorities and values?
- Evaluate their programs and services in light of makers' differing interests and needs?
- Identify improvements to better serve their communities?

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Self-Direction


Makers leverage public library makerspaces in support of their varying goals, values, and desired ends

(Chang et al., 2019; Crawford Barniskis, 2017; Teasdale, 2021)

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Equity

Aim to extend opportunities and create inclusive spaces that foster a sense of belonging for a broad range of community members (Lakind et al., 2019)

“Baked into the fabric of their existence is a focus on equity and access” (Chang et al., 2019, p. 2)





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“Anyone could be making anything for any amount of time in a library makerspace”

Cun et al., p. 40





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Project Overview

IMLS-funded research project to develop an individualized, equity-focused framework for evaluating public library makerspaces that serve adults.



This project was made possible in part by the Institute of Museum and Library Services LG-254863-OLS-23



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Project Partners

- Blue Island (IL) Public Library
- Chicago (IL) Public Library
- Denver (CO) Public Library
- East Baton (LA) Rouge Parish Library
- Eaton (CO) Public Library
- Ignacio (CO) Community Library
- Public Library Association
- University of Illinois Chicago



8

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Outcomes Framework

Documented broad spectrum of benefits adult makers seek and achieve in public library making activities

Identified through focus groups with makers and staff in partner libraries



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11 Key Outcomes

Potential outcomes of adult participation

Desired and actual outcomes depend on each maker's unique interests, priorities, activities, and goals.



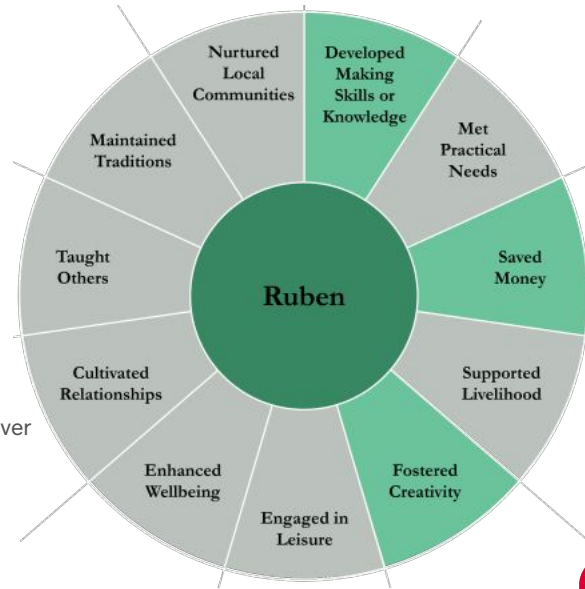
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10

Maker Portrait: Ruben

Ruben is a Latino musician in his 30s who uses the makerspace at his local public library to make music and build electronic musical equipment.

- **Developed Making Skills or Knowledge:** Learned electronics to build a MIDI launcher
- **Saved Money:** Cost less to make it than to buy a pre-made MIDI launcher which saved him hundreds of dollars.
- **Fostered Creativity:** Manufacturing his own equipment gave Ruben a renewed sense of control and ownership over his artistry.



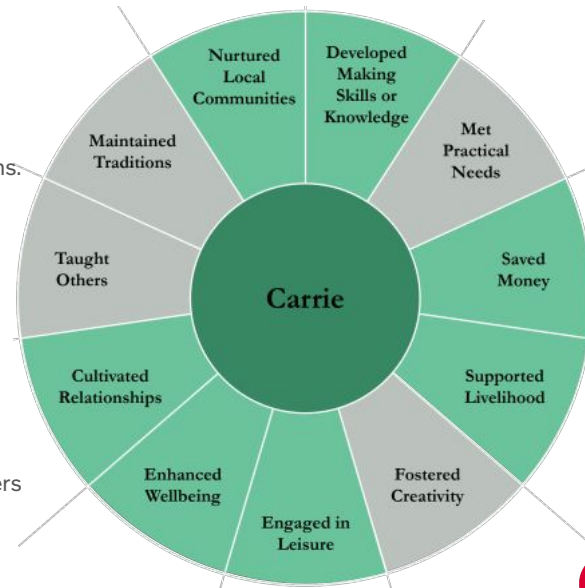
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Maker Portrait: Carrie

Carrie is a Black woman in her 40s, who works in the legal system and is an avid crafter. She visits her public library makerspace multiple times a week.

- **Saved Money:** The classes offered in the makerspace provide an alternative for Carrie to make expensive items.
- **Engaged in Leisure:** Despite owning a lot of the equipment available in the makerspace, she enjoys working there to get away from her daily responsibilities.
- **Enhanced Wellbeing:** For Carrie, the makerspace is a reprieve from the stresses of her work life.
- **Nurtured Local Communities:** She creates pins with pictures of loved ones lost to violence for family members to wear to court.



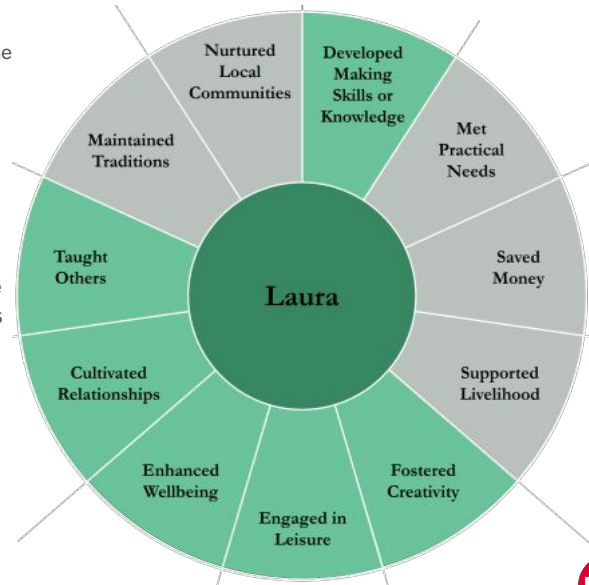
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Maker Portrait: Laura

Laura is a Latina homemaker in her 50s who frequents her public library to attend a wide variety of Spanish-language programs. She regularly participates in makerspace arts and crafts.

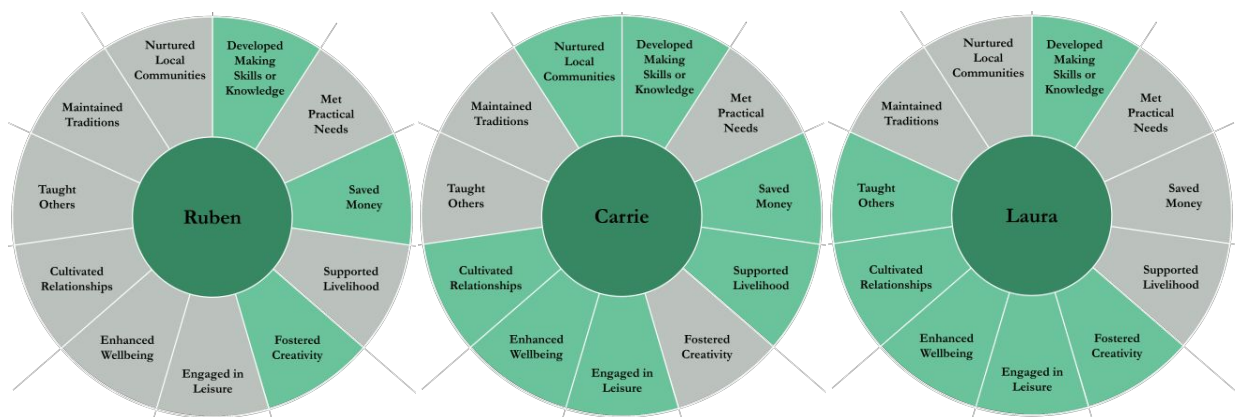
- **Developed Making Skills or Knowledge | Taught Others:** As a part of the library programs, Laura learns different skills from her peers and shares her talents and culture with other women.
- **Cultivated Relationships:** Attending Spanish language programs has introduced her to a community of Latinas with whom she has formed close friendships
- **Enhanced Wellbeing:** Laura and her peers have developed a support system for each other. Participating in the programs is a way for them to develop their own identity, separate from their familial and domestic responsibilities, and feel empowered.



13

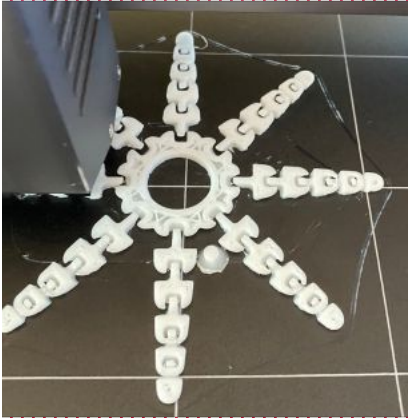
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Maker Portraits



14

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Using the Framework

Identify outcomes that are most relevant for specific makers and communities

Assess alignment between makers' values and library offerings

Develop services and train staff to support varying priorities

Communicate the broad range of outcomes makers prioritize




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Discussion

How do our findings reflect (or differ from) what you experience in your spaces?

How might you use this framework?



16

16



MAKER SPACE

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Thank you!

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