

Meadow Lake Library Week Programming 2020

Name: Tawn Marshall

Position: Programming Clerk

Library Name and Location: Meadow Lake Library, Meadow Lake, Saskatchewan

Description of the program: Take-home packages of the supplies needed to participate in the projects included in the SLA Library Week & Culture Days 2020 videos.

Did you provide supplies for participants? The take-home kits included everything needed to undertake the projects in the videos. Each kit was designed for one (or more) of the videos.

How did you get word out about the programming? Social media (Facebook and Instagram) and word of mouth, as we didn't have foot traffic at the time.

Was the programming offered in the library branch or was it all virtual? This program was delivered through a combination of take-home bags and online video instruction.

If you used the SLA Library Week videos, which videos were most popular? The videos were accessed at home by each user so I can't be sure.

What age range were participants? Children to seniors.

How many participated? We had about 100 requests for the 40 kits available (we drew names rather than offering them as first-come).

Suggestions for other branches in offering this type of programming:

Many people are interested in trying new arts and developing new skills but are hesitant about the expenses required to start new creative endeavours. Beginner packs with all the basic supplies included let people freely try something new without worrying about investment costs.

The SLA Library Week and Culture Days grants covered most of the supplies. We paired notebooks with erasable pens for those who were interested in the writing videos, bought watercolour paints with paper and brushes for Clint Hunker's video, and collected a wide variety of creative supplies and canvas boards for Erickka Patmore's video. We supplemented the packs with our own supplies and included 10 previously purchased kaleidoscope making kits for children.

Our patrons were delighted by the packs! While in-person classes are always fun, this approach is perfect for libraries looking for program ideas that don't require indoor groups. Patrons can explore projects on their own schedule with open access to the instructor, and libraries can take advantage of the reduced expenses from not having to hire instructors. Huge thanks to SLA for producing these videos, and for the grants that make so many of our programs possible!