JCPL Library of Things

Jessamine County Public Library

Charlotte Blakeman

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History of the JCPL Library of Things

- Created the Library of Things collection in 2016 when we moved into our newly expanded and renovated building

- We wanted to step out of the box and offer more than what the "traditional" library offered

- Began the collection with mostly acoustic stringed instruments, sewing machines, and iPad eReaders

- The collection has grown and adapted steadily since then

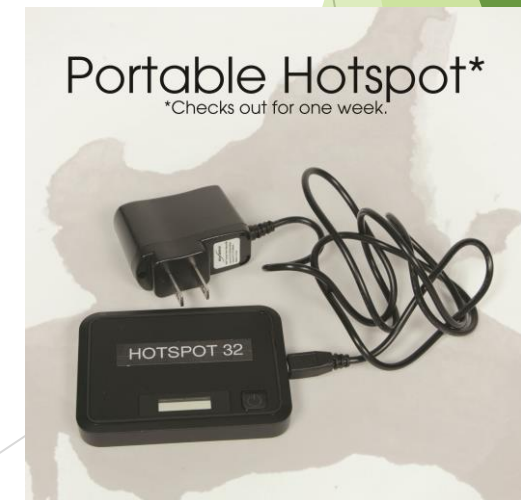Charlotte Blakeman cblakeman@jesspublib.org

Selecting for the Library of Things

- Technological trends

- Customer interest

- Relationship to existing materials in the collection

- Relationship to online resources and library programs

- Community need

- Price

- Storage

- Ability to repair/maintain items

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Items in the Collection

Most Popular Items

▶ Wifi Hotspots

▶ Chromebooks

▶ <u>Musical instruments</u>: acoustic guitars, ukuleles, banjos, mandolin, violin, theremin, djembe drum, electric guitars and bass with amps, electronic keyboard

▶ Sewing machines, embroidery machines, and Accuquilt Go Machines

▶ Birdwatching Kits

▶ Laser Level and Stud Finder

▶ Atari Flashback

▶ SNES Classic

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Bird Watching Kit

Banjo

Sewing Machine

Portable Hotspot*
*Checks out for one week.

Items in the Collection Continued

Items Not As Popular

- Board Games
- Portable CD Players and Portable DVD Players
- GPS Unit
- Graphing Calculator
- P90X and Insanity DVD Sets
- Disc/Frisbee Golf Sets
- Sound exploration kit geared for small children
- Boomwhackers
- Mayflash Arcade Fighting Stick

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Borrowing items from the Library of Things

- Must have a regular, full-access account in good standing
  - Temporary accounts cannot borrow Library of Things items
  - Adults and children can borrow
- We do not require customers to sign a special agreement
- All items, except for Wifi Hotspots checkout for 3 weeks and get 1 renewal
- Wifi Hotspots checkout for 1 week with no renewals
- Holds are allowed on all items
- Limit 2 Library of Things items to be checked out at a time

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Pros and Cons of Having a Library of Things

What's Good?

- It is popular with customers

- Gives your library that "Wow!" factor

- Keeps your library relevant to changing times

- Provides access to technology

- Often compliments other resources available through your library
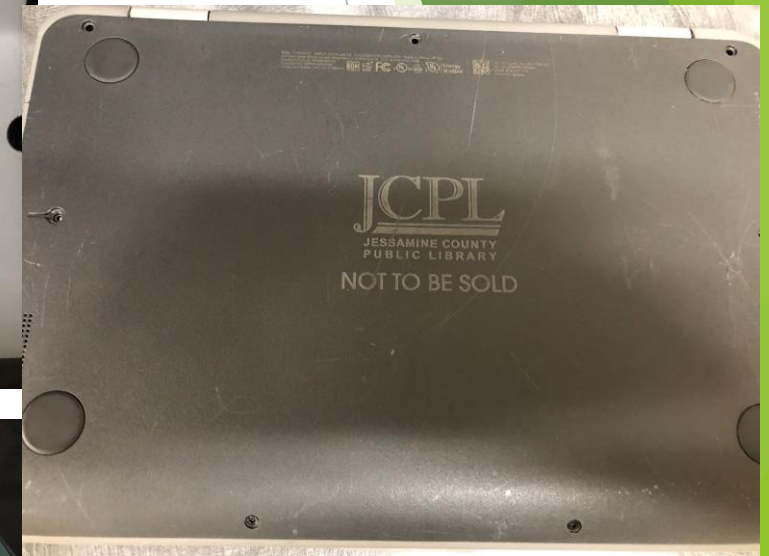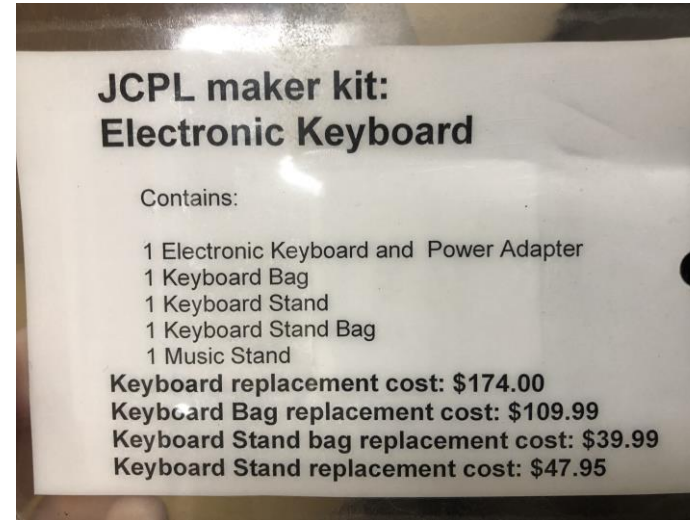
What's Not So Good

- Items are usually expensive

- Certain items are more vulnerable to theft

- There is more to maintain

- Finding storage while not in use can be a challenge

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Preventing Theft and Missing Pieces

What We Do

▶ Engrave or paint JCPL name or logo onto items

▶ Communicate with local pawn shops

▶ Create tags that have all pieces listed and replacement prices

▶ Check that all pieces are present while customer is still at the service desk

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JCPL maker kit:
Electronic Keyboard

Contains:

1 Electronic Keyboard and Power Adapter
1 Keyboard Bag
1 Keyboard Stand
1 Keyboard Stand Bag
1 Music Stand
Keyboard replacement cost: $174.00
Keyboard Bag replacement cost: $109.99
Keyboard Stand bag replacement cost: $39.99
Keyboard Stand replacement cost: $47.95

JCPL
JESSAMINE COUNTY
PUBLIC LIBRARY
NOT TO BE SOLD

PROPERTY OF JCPL
JCPL MAKERKIT ELECTRIC GUITAR & AMP 003
32530609488083
PROPERTY OF JCPL

Other things to consider

▶ Items need to be cleaned, repaired, and replacement parts ordered

▶ Procedures for when an item comes back with missing pieces

▶ Cataloging and tagging items with multiple parts, such as a guitar and amp

▶ Collection Development Policy

▶ Weeding procedures and criteria

▶ Advertise! Advertise! Advertise!

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Questions?

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LIBRARY OF THINGS

@ Bullitt County Public Library

Presented by Kat Gillespie

ABOUT BCPL

- **Located in Bullitt County, KY**
  - Just south of Louisville on I-65
  - Population 81,676 and growing
- **5 branches**
  - Central (in Shepherdsville)
  - Mt. Washington
  - Nichols
  - Hillview
  - Lebanon Junction
- **Mission:**
  - We empower our community through free and open access to relevant, informative, and engaging resources and services.
- **Core Values:**
  - Adaptability
  - Accountability
  - Equality
  - Integrity

ABOUT US

- The Library of Things project was spearheaded by the reference department at the Ridgway Memorial Library, starting in 2020.
  - The goal was to increase access to needful things as well as to provide home entertainment and recreation for those staying home due to the pandemic
- Marianne spent countless hours researching programs at other libraries
  - Presented her findings to managers and our director
- I joined the department just as the project was getting off the ground
  - I'm inheriting it now that Marianne has retired.

Marianne

- Originally from Wisconsin
- Background in Real Estate and Merchandising
- Crafter extraordinaire
- Genealogy whizz
- Retiring after almost **15 years** with BCPL

Kat

- Originally from Carrollton, KY
- MSLS from UK
- Reader of weird books
- Joined the reference department in 2021
- Just getting started!

QUICK LOT FACTS

"This collection aims to reduce barriers for families, students, entrepreneurs, creatives, and lifelong learners by providing access to quality equipment, tools, games, and more."

2
YEARS RUNNING

3
PARTICIPATING LOCATIONS

3
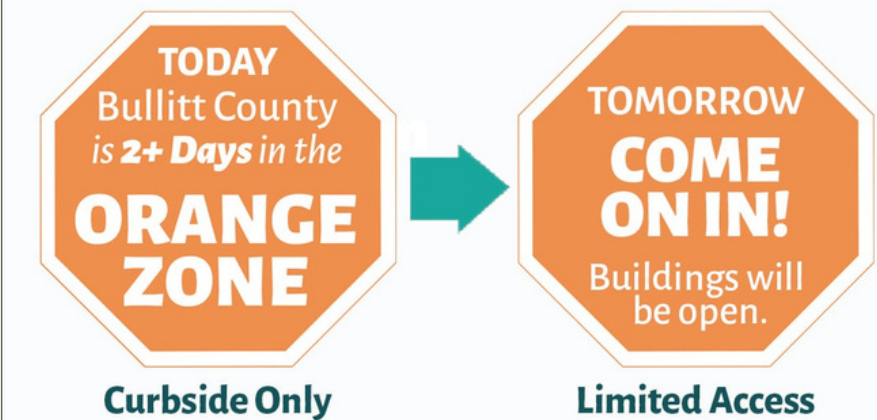DEPARTMENTS INVOLVED

71
ITEMS

700+
CHECKOUTS

Early Stages 2020

- **Reference department** used spare staff time resulting from our pandemic closure to plan and brainstorm
- **Staff** researched how Library of Things Programs were run at other library locations
  - We picked and chose what worked for us & our patron base
    - We wanted to focus on accessibility for families
- **Once a clear idea** was established, the reference department collaborated with Admin and Technical Services to make the collection happen.

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SERVICE STATUS UPDATE

TODAY
Bullitt County
is **2+ Days** in the
ORANGE ZONE
Curbside Only

TOMORROW
COME ON IN!
Buildings will
be open.
Limited Access

Follow us on Facebook for updates.

BCPL
BULLITT COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY

Collection 1 2021

- First collection included:
- outdoor games
- gardening tools
- projector
- more recreational items!
- We used an existing curved wall for display
- Added bright yellow lettering to advertise and attract attention

Collection 1 2021

- Signage included:
  - pictures of the item
  - contents
  - overview of policies

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Expansion & Additions
2022

- In 2022, we added items to help patrons who work at home
  - light box
  - scanner
  - webcam
  - etc.
- Added other items of interest
- Replaced some items that had been lost or damaged

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New Building 2022

- New display area
- New Promotions
  - Instagram
  - Facebook
- New items

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New Building 2022

- New display area
- New Promotions
  - Instagram
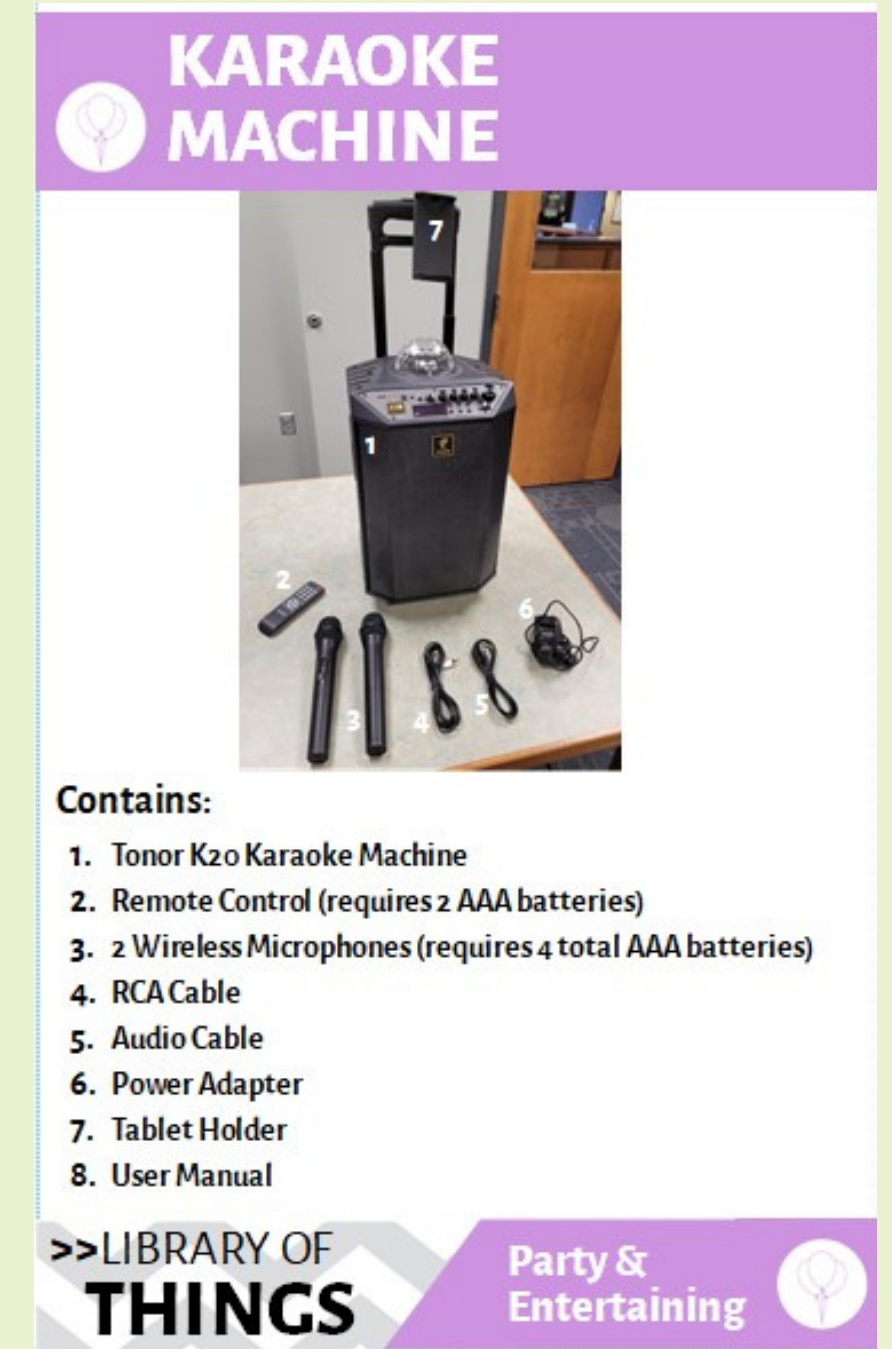 - Facebook
- New items

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New Building 2022

- Branding refresh
  - New signage
  - New inserts
  - Color coded sections for the display shelf

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Before

After

POLICIES

Guidelines for Borrowing and Use

- Objects lent out by the Library through its Library of Things program ("Things"), may only be checked out from the Service Desk. **(Not the Self-checks)**
- A valid Bullitt County Public Library card with current address and no outstanding fines above $10.00 are required to borrow a Thing.
- A valid government issued ID with picture and current address must be presented. If the address on ID and account do not match, you will be asked to validate your account by bringing proof of address.
- Borrowers must be 18 years old or older.
- Borrowers must read, understand, and sign this Agreement before they check out a Thing.
- The borrower is solely responsible for the Thing and will be billed for reasonable repair or replacement costs associated with damage or loss of Things and/or peripherals due to neglect or abuse.
- A list of the replacement costs of Things is maintained by the Library and is available upon request.
- The responsibility to protect against loss is the borrower's.
- Bullitt County Public Library is not responsible for the loss of any data while using this equipment.

POLICIES

Lending Agreement

I agree:
• To abide by Bullitt County Public Library's Library of Things Lending guidelines as stated above.
• To pay an overdue fine if the Thing is returned late.
• To pay full repair and/or replacement costs should the Thing or components of the Thing be stolen, lost, not returned or damaged.

In consideration of being permitted to borrow the Thing, I hereby voluntarily waive, release, and discharge and covenant not to sue the Bullitt Public Library ("Library"), its respective successors, assigns, officers, agents, employees, and volunteer (hereafter referred to as "Releasees") from any and all claims, actions or demands of any kind, nature and description, including claims or actions for damages for death, personal injury, or property damage and from any and all liabilities, damage, injuries, action or causes of action either at law or in equity, whether caused by any defect in the Thing, negligent act or omission of the Releasees, or otherwise arising out of or in any way related to or connected with my borrowing the Thing.
I have read the entire document and my signature below indicates my agreement with the above statements.

POLICIES

Waiver

Informed Consent Form For Equipment

In consideration of my use of the equipment lent out by the Bullitt County Public Library ("Library") through its Library of Things program ("Equipment"), I hereby voluntarily release, discharge, waive, and hold harmless, on behalf of myself, my heirs, executors, administrators, and assigns, the Library and its employees, officers, and agents, from any loss, damage, or injury to persons or property arising from the Equipment, whether arising through the Library's negligence or imposed by law. In no event shall the Library be liable to me for indirect, consequential or special damages, including without limitation lost use, revenue or profits.

I agree to indemnify and hold the Library and its employees, officers, and agents, harmless from and against all liabilities, claims, actions, proceedings, damages, losses, costs and expenses, including attorneys' fees, for all injuries or death of any person, or damage to any property occurring or arising from or connected with, directly or indirectly, my possession, use, and return of the Equipment. No warranties, expressed or implied, including without limitation: suitability, durability, fitness for a particular purpose, condition, or quality have been made by Library, directly or indirectly in connection with the Equipment. I am borrowing the Equipment "as is." I acknowledge that I have examined the Equipment and that its condition is acceptable. I agree to surrender the Equipment to the Library in as good order and condition as when received, except for reasonable wear and tear resulting from proper use, and if returned unclean, I may be charged a reasonable cleaning fee. I agree to keep and maintain the Equipment in good condition, use it in a careful and proper manner and comply with all applicable laws and regulations.

I understand that the Library does not provide supervision or instruction for the use of the Equipment. I understand and acknowledge that the use of the Equipment may involve risk of serious injury, including permanent disability and death. I agree to refrain from using any Equipment in a manner inconsistent with its intended design and purpose.

I have read this Liability Waiver and Informed Consent Form and sign it voluntarily. I understand that I am giving up substantial rights by signing it.
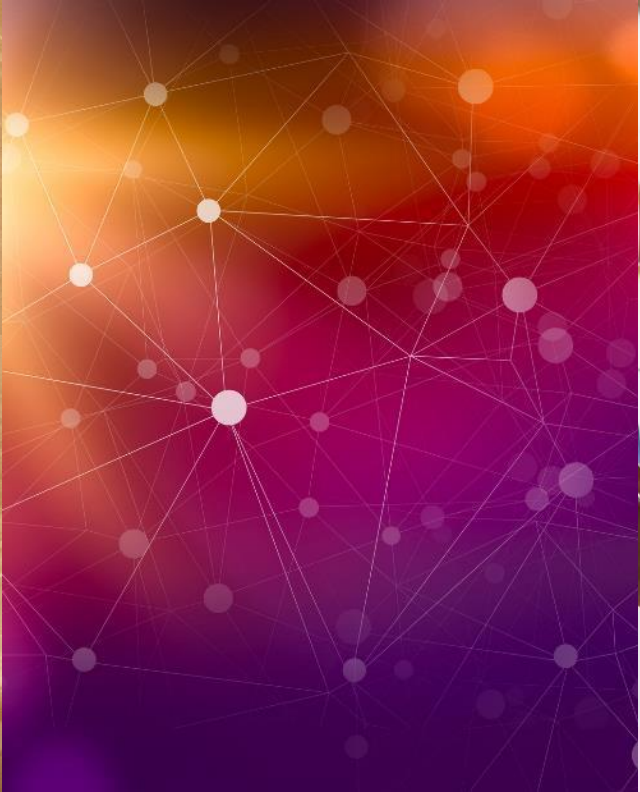
Questions?

Empower Tools: a tool lending library powered by civic engagement

Julia Allegrini, MLIS,

Facilities and Community Engagement
Manager, Kenton County Public Library

The original partners

- Center for Great Neighborhoods: original community based planning and associated FrehLo grant to develop fresh, local, and equitable food development, health and culture; technology infrastructure, and staffing

- Kenton County Public Library: cataloging, overall materials management; operational policies and procedures, staff supervision

- Wolf Tree Farms; facility

- Original Grants from Kresge Foundation and Else Sule Foundation

The original partners

- Center for Great Neighborhoods: original community-based planning and associated FreshLo grant to develop fresh, local, and equitable food development, health and culture; technology infrastructure, and staffing

- Kenton County Public Library: cataloging, overall materials management; operational policies and procedures, staff supervision

- Wolf Tree Farms; facility

- Original Grants from Kresge Foundation and Else Sule Foundation

The Process

Substantive community listening project (this is not a "brilliant idea" project.

Secure the funding

Secure the effective partners

Develop the operations

Evaluate, change, evolve operations and partner relationships

Give an accounting to the community

The Product

- Second location approximately 600 patrons; 300 tools; seasonal access

- The average tool that the average person can put in the average car

- 50% of patrons from the original targeted community

- Once the grants expired the Library increased its partnership responsibility; now pays for staffing, and partial rent; CGN continues to subsidize rent and pay for all technology infrastructure and consult on grant and expansion opportunities
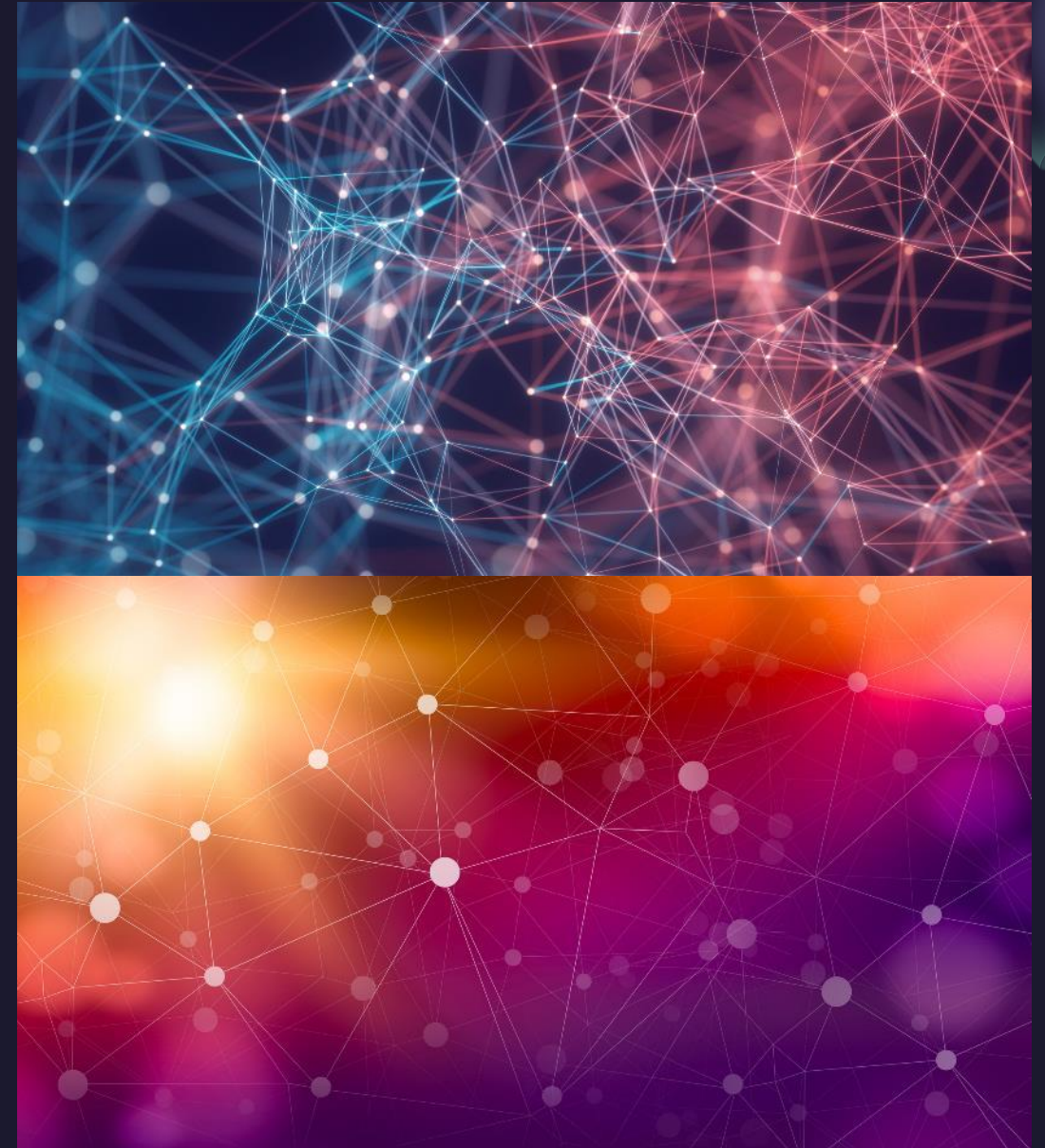
The Advice

- Listen, really listen to what your community wants, remember it may not be what you think they need; be open to being surprised

- Remember, we are building relationships, not simply completing transactions.

- Find community partners that compliment your library's skill set

- Evolve the partnership

- Stay accountable to the community

Thank you

Julia Allegrini, MLIS

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www.kentonlibrary.org

**Thank you to the
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for sponsorship of this webinar.**

Thank you for attending!

Questions?
KDLA.Certification@ky.gov

Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives

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