

From the Ground: Using Zines for Emerging Stories Lindsae and Allyn, Bird's Nest Zine Library, Spokane

Spokane! Largest city between Seattle and Minneapolis
18% below poverty rate
high rates of disability
about 23% of residents hold
largely white, but large Native American community, made up of different
Allyn tried earlier and didn't have permanent space
Now has space in downtown Spokane, community radio station

- Lots of politic zines
 - "Personal narratives" make up about 1/3 of collection
 - No budget
 - Anyone can stop in and get a library card and check out zines for three weeks at a time.
- Open Thursdays and Fridays
- Started because A/L love zines, but have come to see that Spokane needs a zine community
 - Mission statement: Knowledge is power. Self-knowledge!

Allyn (author of Kiss Kiss Squish Squish)

- (on being a zinester in Spokane)
- her zine focuses on being an anarchist artist single mother
- first made them in Spokane, couch-surfing, got encouragement from friends
- moved to PDX for a year, great zine culture
- moved back to Spokane, realized there was a need to raise awareness of zines in her community
- zines she was giving out seemed to vanish and go out into the world...but has met folks who were affected by her zine.

Lindsae

- Story Walk took a group on a walking tour in downtown Spokane, shared local history stories, personal and political
 - zine library was a stop on the tour
 - raising awareness of zines
- helping people share their stories/voices
- Spokane has a history of excluding some people from community organizations/life
- held a zine-making workshop recently, a lot of response, even from folks who couldn't make the workshop in person
- suggestion to charge a fee and then offer scholarships reflects issues in progressive culture in Spokane. BN's goal is to keep things FREE and low bureaucracy
- work with queer youth community center, Native American organizations
- Currently working on outreach, raising awareness. Also, shared storytelling: verbal, written, acted, zine form or something else. Storytelling workshops, etc. Also,

soliciting donations, mostly from individuals. Also, adding zinemaking station in the library.

- A lot of community doesn't have computers, don't have access to that. Blogs may not be relevant to them. But the physicality of a zine can be really important.

(Laural's family zine, a recipe collection)