



**MENDING**

**CIRCLE**

*at the library*





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**01**

# About OPL

## Mission

Your Oakland Public Library empowers all people to explore, connect, and grow.

## Vision

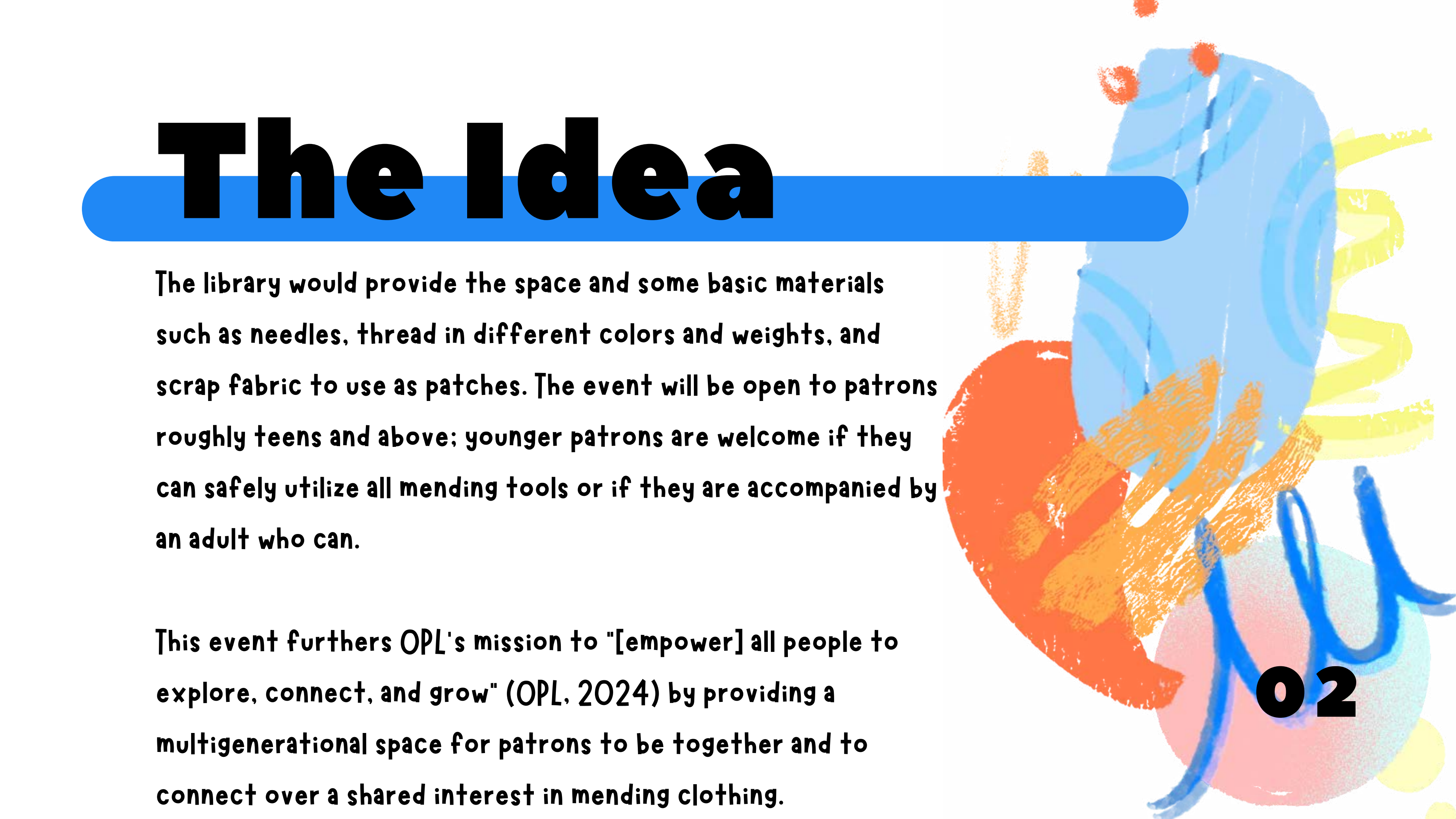
The Oakland Public Library will be celebrated locally and nationally as an indispensable partner in transforming lives.

## Values

The Oakland Public Library values:  
Diversity, Equity, Community,  
Responsive Service, Adaptability,  
Empowerment, Joy



# The Idea



The library would provide the space and some basic materials such as needles, thread in different colors and weights, and scrap fabric to use as patches. The event will be open to patrons roughly teens and above; younger patrons are welcome if they can safely utilize all mending tools or if they are accompanied by an adult who can.

This event furthers OPL's mission to "[empower] all people to explore, connect, and grow" (OPL, 2024) by providing a multigenerational space for patrons to be together and to connect over a shared interest in mending clothing.





# **Action Brief**

**Convince Oakland Public Library that by hosting a recurring mending circle, patrons will learn how to repair clothing and textiles, which will reduce waste and improve the longevity of clothing, because the library is committed to promoting eco-friendly practices and lifelong learning opportunities.**

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# Goals & Objectives

- Promote sustainable living practices by teaching skills to extend the life of clothing and textiles
- Provide an opportunity for community members to learn a valuable life skill
- Foster a sense of community and connection through a shared interest
- Raise awareness of the library's role in offering non-traditional educational programs



(Collingwood-Norris, 2020)

<https://www.collingwoodnorrisdesign.com/knitwearblog/visible-mending-projects>



# The Community

## Who will this help? How?

1. **Environmentally-conscious individuals:** Those who want to reduce textile waste and extend the life of clothing through mending and upcycling techniques.
2. **Cost-conscious individuals and families:** Mending allows people to save money by repairing clothing instead of constantly replacing items.
3. **Crafters and makers:** People with an interest in textile arts, sewing, and hands-on creative projects.
4. **Learners of all ages:** Both youth and adults looking to pick up new skills in a community setting.
5. **Library patrons seeking non-traditional programs:** Drawing people to the library for unique educational experiences.

The mending circle can benefit this community in several ways:

- Teaching valuable life skills around clothing repair that promote sustainability.
- Providing an affordable way to extend the life of garments and household textiles.
- Offering a creative outlet and chance to socialize around a shared interest.
- Connecting people with resources on mending, upcycling, and textile recycling.
- Positioning the library as a hub for non-traditional learning opportunities.



# Inspiration



Similar events have been held at several different libraries. The Alameda County Library, for example, hosts a regular mending circle at their San Lorenzo branch. The New York Public Library also hosts a mending circle at the Morningside Heights branch.

There are also numerous community groups, local yarn stores, makerspaces, and more that host regular mending circles.





# 07 **Implementation**

## **Guidelines**

**Registration will not be required in advance for this event. The program is open to teens and above, though children under 12 may attend if accompanied by an adult.**

**The library will provide basic mending supplies like needles, thread, patches, etc. Participants should bring their own items to mend as well as any additional supplies they may want.**

**This is not a formal class or a workshop. Library staff and volunteers may be able to assist with some mending techniques, there will be books and other resources available for participants to reference, and participants are encouraged to talk to one another about their projects.**



Photo from [honey\\_folk clothing](#).



# Timeline

The timeline for implementation could be fairly quick, depending on what supplies the library already has access to. Gathering materials and ordering additional supplies may take 2-3 weeks. Promotion may take an addition 2 weeks-1 month, with ongoing advertising as this is a recurring event.

Since no special staff training will be required, no additional time needs to be allotted for that.



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# Promotion



The graphic is a rectangular box with a brown border on a light beige background. It features various sewing-related icons: a pair of scissors, a spool of thread, a needle and thread, a sewing machine, a dressmaker's mannequin, a piece of fabric, a button, a pin, a ball of yarn, and a pincushion. The text is centered and reads: "Mending Circle", "Join us for a community mending circle, every Tuesday 4-6pm. The library will provide all basic materials. Please bring a project to work on and any other supplies you might need.", and "Open to all patrons 13+. Younger patrons may attend if accompanied by an adult." The word "Canva" is faintly visible as a watermark on several items.

## Mending Circle

Join us for a community mending circle, every Tuesday 4-6pm. The library will provide all basic materials. Please bring a project to work on and any other supplies you might need.

Open to all patrons 13+. Younger patrons may attend if accompanied by an adult.



# Evaluation

**01**

## Attendance & Participation

- Attendance numbers at each session
- Percentage of recurring participants (measure of retention)

**02**

## Skills Development & Learning Metrics

Qualitative feedback from participants about what skills they have learned at mending circles

**03**

## Library Value Metrics

- New library memberships from program participants
- Circulation increases for relevant books/materials
- Overall program satisfaction ratings from participants

To evaluate the success of the mending circle initiative and plan for potential expansion, we can use a combination of quantitative metrics and qualitative feedback. Here are some benchmarks and performance metrics that could be used:

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