

# Workshops with Partnerships Example: Puppet Building with Mermaid Theatre Company

## A Program Plan

This section of the hotline is a guide for how to run theatre programming in partnership with various theatre companies in Nova Scotia! Each theatre company has special skills to share with the library and with your teen participants. Partnering with a different company for each event will help you cover all the bases and help you appeal to all sorts of different teen theatre interests.

This is a suggested outline for a recurring monthly program event, run on a day of your choice, likely after-school on a weekday or on a weekend day, for 3.5 to 4 hours.

The intention behind this example will be to introduce teens to prop building, but feel free to copy this structure to cover any event of your choice: scriptwriting, dance classes, or something else! Consult the teens at your library about what their interests may be and be sure to follow up your programming with a debrief (example questions listed below) and adjust your programming to meet their feedback.

This program aims to fulfill many developmental assets for teens, according to the search institutes 40 developmental assets for teens. These assets include but are not limited to empowerment, boundaries and expectations, constructive use of time, and social competencies. The following plan is designed to help teens develop interpersonal competencies through teamwork, positive peer influence and adult role models by working alongside our community partners. Through these programs, we hope that you will think about what youth can contribute to the community through their participation in theatre, offering teens empowerment in the process.

Depending on the program, one librarian and one instructor from the community partner of your choice will be necessary. This will require advocating for budget allocation. Given the resource intensiveness of some of these types of programs, especially prop building like puppet building, attempts to create with found or recycled materials will be not only good for the environment but helpful when advocating for these programs within your library.

### Proposed Budget

Expense Name	Total (one time) Costs= \$500
Payment to Community Partner (example based on current Mermaid Theatre Co. Fees.	\$150
Librarian Salary (as Facilitator) for planning, marketing and	\$30/hour for approx. 8

execution of program	hours per workshop
Craft Supplies (Will differ depending on popularity of workshop, availability of recycled materials.)	\$30-50
Chart Paper and Markers	If not already included in library budget, (\$30)

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Time Allotment</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Outcome</b>	<b>Equipment/Materials</b>
<b>Introductions</b>	20 Minutes	Introduce the group to each other (name/pronouns/what interests you about the workshop?) and to partner from Mermaid Theatre Company. Provide some examples of puppet building (it can be “cool”), from the company’s previous workshops. Be sure not to force participants to share if they do not wish to.	Team building, social competencies, positive peer influence, adult role models. relations	
<b>Brainstorm</b>	30 Minutes	Teens will have 30 minutes to brainstorm all together or in small groups what kind of puppet they want to build. What will their puppet be like?	Creativity, teamwork, relationship building, leadership.	Chart-paper, markers.

		Name, characteristics, plotlines, voices? What will it be made out of/how big will it be?		
<b>Dividing Responsibility</b>	10 minutes	Who will build what?	Responsibility, expectations, boundaries.	
<b>Time to Build</b>	90 minutes	Teens will be given open space and time to work on their puppets with one another.	High expectations: We expect teens to be able to work in their groups for this length of time, and to stay on task.	Milk jugs, egg cartons, paint, markers, newspaper, cardboard, old yogurt containers, glue/hot glue, googly eyes, etc.  Be sure to send out an email a few days before the workshop encouraging participants to bring in any materials they may have at home.
<b>Show and Tell</b>	20 minutes	Teens are given the opportunity to present to the rest of the group what they built.	Community values youth (we care what you made!)	
<b>Debrief</b>	20 minutes	After the community partner has left, an opportunity for teens to give feedback in a safe space with the adult	Safety, caring community, adult role modeling that being a leader requires	

		<p>they (hopefully) trust, the librarian.</p> <p>Ask questions like:</p> <p>What were your likes/dislikes about the program?</p> <p>How did you feel throughout the program?</p> <p>How can we make the program more fun/safe/comfortable?</p> <p>A follow up online survey would be set up for teenagers who felt they could not express themselves in the debrief.</p>	<p>caring for others.</p>	
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**Internal assessment by the Librarian**

After each session, pause to reflect. Does this meet a need? Are we still creating original programming or are we accidentally duplicating existing programming?

**Community Partnership Options in Nova Scotia**

**Prop Building:** Mermaid Theatre Co. This theatre company specializes in puppetry, and already runs several programs for children. Let’s encourage them to run some programming for teens by partnering with them through the library. [Programs — Mermaid Theatre of Nova Scotia](#)

**Dance:** Stage Coach Halifax already offers musical theatre dance programming for teens- unfortunately, it is for profit and does not currently offer subsidized programming. This is an opportunity to offer their excellent programming to those who may not be able to typically afford it. [Stagecoach Halifax | Children's Dance, Drama, and Singing Classes](#)

**Script/Screenwriting:** While the Writers Federation does not currently target their services to teenagers, many of their workshops could be easily adapted to include teenagers. With your teen expertise and their writing workshop expertise, you will be unbeatable. [Workshops – Writers' Federation of Nova Scotia](#)

Other Potential Community Partners have been helpfully compiled by Theatre Nova Scotia [here](#).

Some standout examples include:

- [Ross Creek Centre for the Arts](#) (Canning)
- [Ship's Company Theatre](#) (Parrsboro)
- [Unicorn Theatre](#) (Head of St. Margaret's Bay)

### References

The Developmental Assets Framework. (n.d.). Search Institute. Retrieved March 21, 2023, from <https://www.search-institute.org/our-research/developmental-assets/developmental-assets-framework>