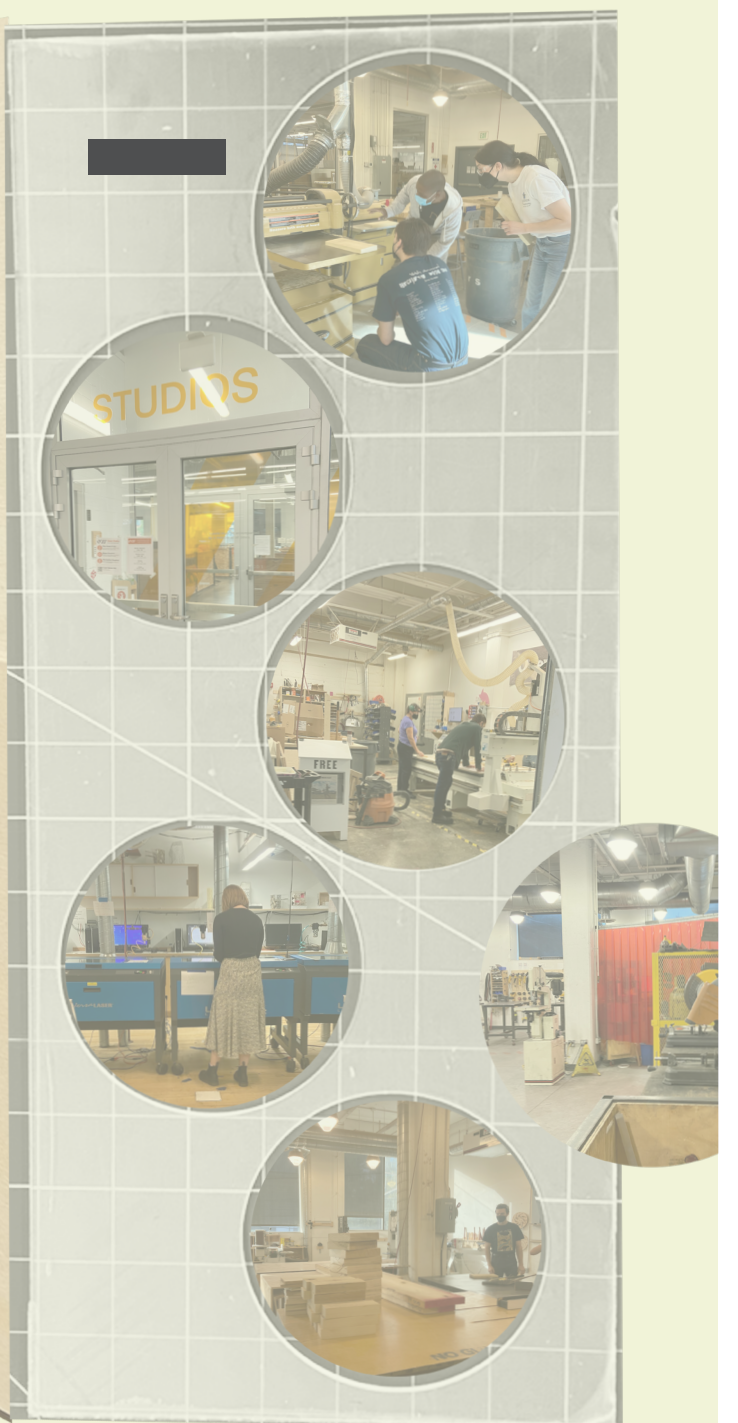


Cards for the

A community-centered ideation card deck and workbook.

Collective

initiative



By Mary Kahle
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Makerspace Communities and Ecosystem Strategy, Co-Creating Social and Operational Infrastructure

Design Research Master's Thesis By Mary Kahle

Makerspaces hold the potential to support entrepreneurship, small-scale manufacturing, access to STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts and math) education and community engagement. However, makerspaces globally face many challenges including scalability, sustained funding, trained staff, diversity, inclusivity, and accessibility. There are interconnected systemic issues preventing the ideal-state to emerge across scales.

Kahle's research design included interviews, in vivo coding, observational studies, and analysis through collaging, to synthesize the research into insights for a final prototyped ideation card deck, Cards for the Collective.

A speculative digital collage by the designer titled Maker-mall, was used as the workbook backdrop. This represents the potentials of an interconnected, regenerative maker ecosystem, where makers and consumers collaboratively approach circular consumption and production. Additional collages were made using a DIY maker magazine. Depictions of hands from all instructional content were clipped from the publication as an analysis of genders represented in over 300 pages.

A participatory workshop was designed to aid in the co-development of the ideation card deck, which includes over 160 cards and 10 categories. The deck acts as a versatile tool and can be brought into a framework or method to shape to the community's particular goals.

The outcome provides grass-roots maker communities and small-scale makerspaces with facilitation tools to co-develop equitable, sustainable and accessible programmatic and organizational outcomes.



Collage title: 'Show of Hands' I
by Mary Kahle

Collective. Cards for the Collective.
Cards for the Collective.

