# Shandon Tool Lending Library: Building Sustainability in a Remote Community



# Here's the Drill

- Shandon, CA is a remote community of roughly 1,000 people.
- Shandon is an agrarian community.
- More than 30% of community members live below the poverty line.
- More than 75% of the workforce in Shandon work outside Shandon, but within the county of San Luis Obispo, contributing to the local economy.
- The Shandon Community Plan calls for new jobs that require tools.
- Shandon is located 20 miles from the nearest hardware store.

### Tools for the Planet

Fewer trips to the hardware store 20 the road,.

miles from Shandon means fewer cars on

Intent: Access to a local Tool Lending Library would potentially ease the burden of costs of traveling outside of the community to purchase tools that may be used only occasionally, are expensive, or are challenging to store on smaller properties, and may provide the community with resources that support occupational goals and family wellness.

## Project Goals

- To be an access point for shifting community equity
- To provide a relevant resource in our Library of Things collection
- To assist families and working adults in their occupational pursuits
- To offer tools that inspire creative projects and help with DIY repairs
- To facilitate access to tools that allow patrons to grow their own food, supporting individuals and families as they grow

# The Blueprint

Tools for the Planet

Sharing ion-lithium

battery powered tools

from a reputable

brand means fewer

tools purchased and

less landfill waste.



- Identify the intersection between the community's needs and planet sustainability.
- Write a Sustainable CA Libraries grant for funding.
- Evaluate the space to determine the quantity of tools, necessary infrastructure, and power sources.
- Visit a foundational Tool Lending Library to observe and collect data.
- Develop a community-based library of gardening and power tools with a local hardware store.
- Create a multi layered marketing tool-kit including mailers, press releases, email blasts, flyers, bookmarks, and social media.
- Collaborate with community partners such as SLO Food Bank, SLO Master Gardeners and SLO Master Preservers and City Council.
- Utilize word-of-mouth communication to engage involvement and participation in the events.
- Develop policies and waivers prior to launch date for pre-registration.
- All Hands on Deck: Build the shelving and cabinets, and catalogue the tools on site, on the delivery day for refined logistics.
  - Design a robust program of tool workshops and garden events to launch the library.



- Interviews were conducted with Oakland Tool Lending Library Founder, Ty Yurglevic and Head of the TLL, Rainn Shaw.
- Staff visited and observed Oakland TLL for one day of operation to note Best Practices, policies and procedures.



Shandon provided a Tool Lending Library with a dynamic program that included the following ouputs:

- A U-Build-It Earth Day Event that invited community members to tour their new Tool Library and use some of the tools to build a community garden.
  - The community had the expertise of SLO Master Gardeners, SLO assist and to demonstrate three stages of the food cycle in which young patrons participated.
- Two Tool Workshops led by bilingual tool experts to answer questions, offer demos and pro-tips
- A book collection centered around DIY projects that utilize tools, and books that engage patrons' curiosity about using tools.

### Tools for the Planet

Community gardens and gardening tools can enable access to healthy food and food security.







# Measure I wice, Cut Unce and Other Key Takeaways



- Find the intersection between community research and planet sustainability to develop your goals.
- Tool Libraries have many working parts --have a flexible plan and be ready to adapt as a team.
- Promotion in a remote area may require analog approaches.
- Learn from the pros.



