Hands-on Showcase:
Tools and Materials for Making Affordable Exhibits
Resource List

PRESENTERS:

Meguey Baker
Hatfield Historical Society
margolotte@gmail.com

Todd Harris
42 Design Fab
todd@42designfab.com

Don Biehl
Green Dot Design
dbiehl@startmail.com

Betsy Loring
expLoring exhibits & engagement
betsy@exploringexhibits.com

Sheila Damkoehler
Pocumtuck Valley Memorial Association
sdamkoehler@gmail.com

Laurie Pasteryak
marketing manager/consultant
laurie24154@gmail.com

MATERIALS:

McMaster-Carr
Hardware and materials of every description
https://www.mcmaster.com/

Grainger
Similar to McMaster, though less helpful illustration
(members of Massachusetts Higher Education Collaborative (name?) qualify for free shipping)
https://www.grainger.com/

Restaurant supply stores

Try your local store – or - Westerman https://www.westermanstore.com/

Don't forget your local print shops. Ask to see samples of the materials and processes available.

Ditto for any local maker spaces - ask for a meeting to see what they can make.

It can also be worth a conversation with local vocational/technical schools, if you can afford a long lead time - it takes a while to develop a relationship with the right teachers.

IDEAS, DESIGNS, and PLANS:

Paul Orselli's Exhibit Cheapbooks:
How-to for hands-on interactives (usually STEM-related)
https://www.orselli.net/exhibit-cheapbooks.html

MathHappens
Ideas, plans and resources for adding hands-on math to exhibits and programs (many related to history!)
https://www.mathhappens.org/

EXHIBIT PLANNING GUIDE:

"A Guide to Exhibit Development", by Smithsonian Exhibits
Lays out the basics: common phases of exhibit development, framing the content hierarchy, etc.
http://exhibits.si.edu/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/Guide-to-Exhibit-Development.pdf

PROJECT MANAGEMENT TOOLS:

Exhibition Budget Tracking Template:
https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1sY5U3CJkyfWso7wCztQd1pWQ-jmdCEO-/edit?usp=sharing&ouid=103897156473350224205&rtpof=true&sd=true

Exhibition Task Planning Sheet:
https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1rishfH78w-xO68PKOGX7RbrHWZnLNzV6QZy7KlFVR7M/edit?usp=sharing

Google's Gantt Chart Template (all the bells & whistles…make it your own!)
https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1hFrJcqXO1x6GWjYjRnMlgpJbNEFCqnh_vr2EVRu99VE/edit?usp=sharing