

Embracing Change in the Academic Library

Creating Informal Learning Opportunities to Enhance Student Experience

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Who We Are



Christena McKillop (she/her)
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The University of Calgary, located in the heart of Southern Alberta, both acknowledges and pays tribute to the traditional territories of the peoples of Treaty 7, which include the Blackfoot Confederacy (comprised of the Siksika, the Piikani, and the Kainai First Nations), the Tsuut'ina First Nation, and the Stoney Nakoda (including Chiniki, Bearspaw, and Goodstoney First Nations). The City of Calgary is also home to the Métis Nation of Alberta (Districts 5 and 6).



Background & Outline

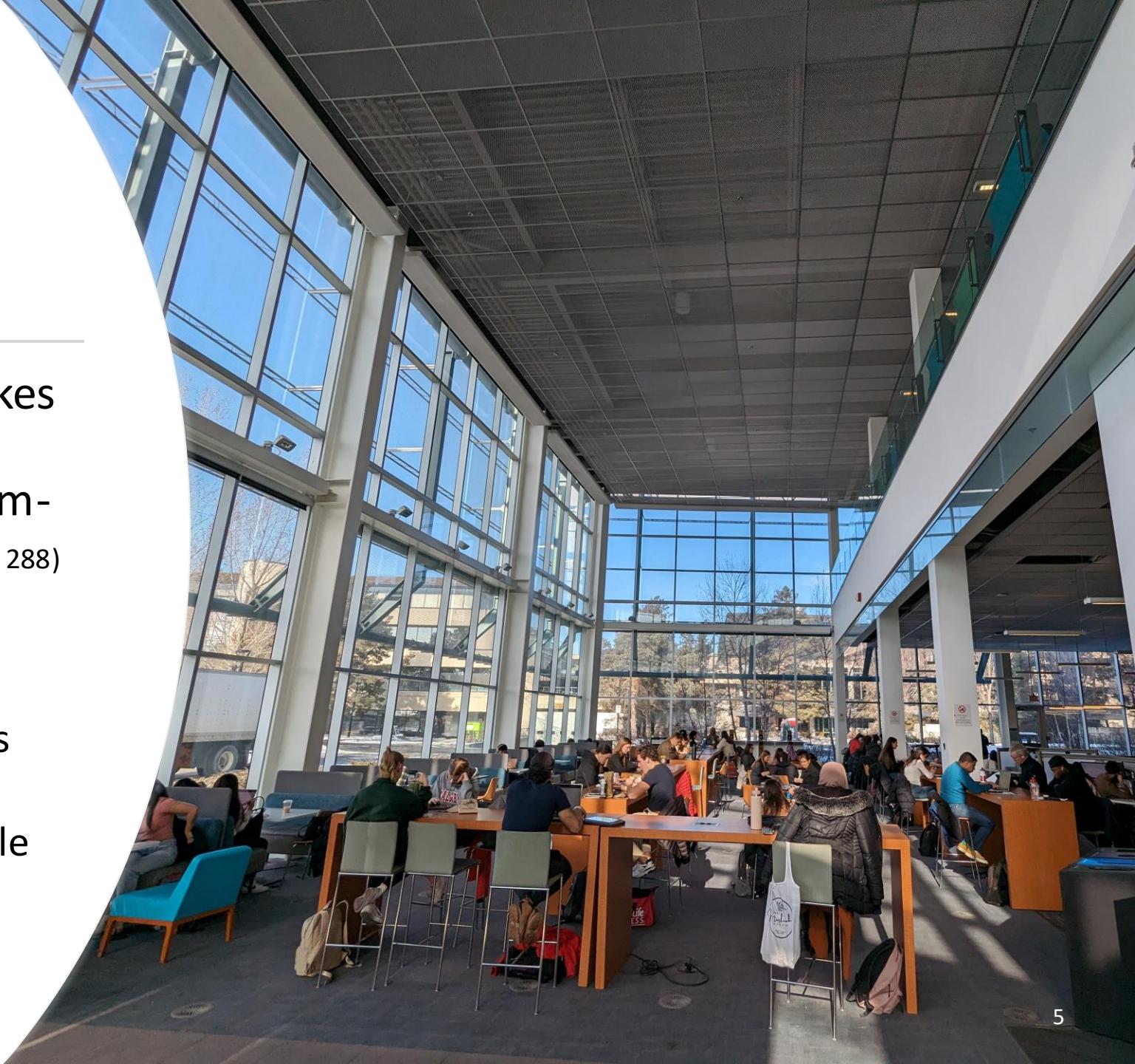


- Agenda for today
 - Informal Learning
 - Library Space
 - Literary Café and Writer-in-Residence events
 - Lessons Learned
 - Getting Started
 - Q&A

Informal Learning is...

“Learning from experience that takes place outside formally structured, institutionally sponsored, classroom-based activities” (Watkins & Marsick, 1992, p. 288)

- Characteristics:
 - Learning occurs holistically across multiple environments
 - Learning is informal and accessible
 - Learning happens in a non-threatening setting





Literary Café



Literary Café



Literary Café: the nuts and bolts

- Location
- Build your audience
- Be flexible
- Collect feedback



POP-UP Literary Cafes

Tell us what you think:

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CDWP: Zine Workshop, Café, and Wrap-Up



Lessons Learned

- Start early
- Personal touch
- Be flexible and keep an open mind
- Expect the unexpected
- Assessment



Getting Started

- Consider library space for informal learning programming
- Find campus partners
 - Faculty of Arts, Sciences, Student Union
- Colleagues in the library and the institution
- Brainstorm ideas that fit with your space and student interests
 - Science fair, creative workshops, themes or topics that are in the news
- Start small and have refreshments!

Thank you! Questions?

Please feel free to connect with us.

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Selected References

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Watkins, K. E., & Marsick, V. J. (1992). Towards a theory of informal and incidental learning in organizations*. *International Journal of Lifelong Education*, 11(4), 287–300. <https://doi.org/10.1080/0260137920110403>



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