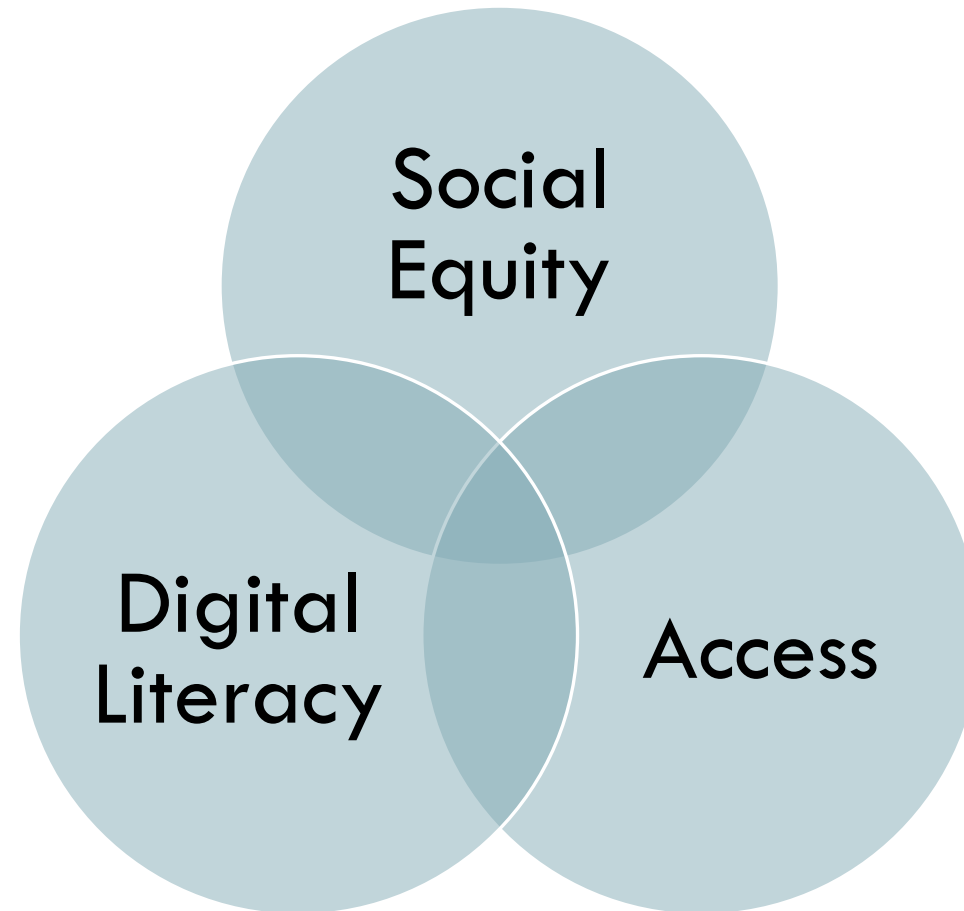# FIVE WAYS TO PROMOTE DIGITAL EQUITY IN YOUR LIBRARY

Lauren Comito

LAUREN COMITO

A cape wearing, sword swinging, ukulele playing, tech training, job search helping, activist librarian in NYC.
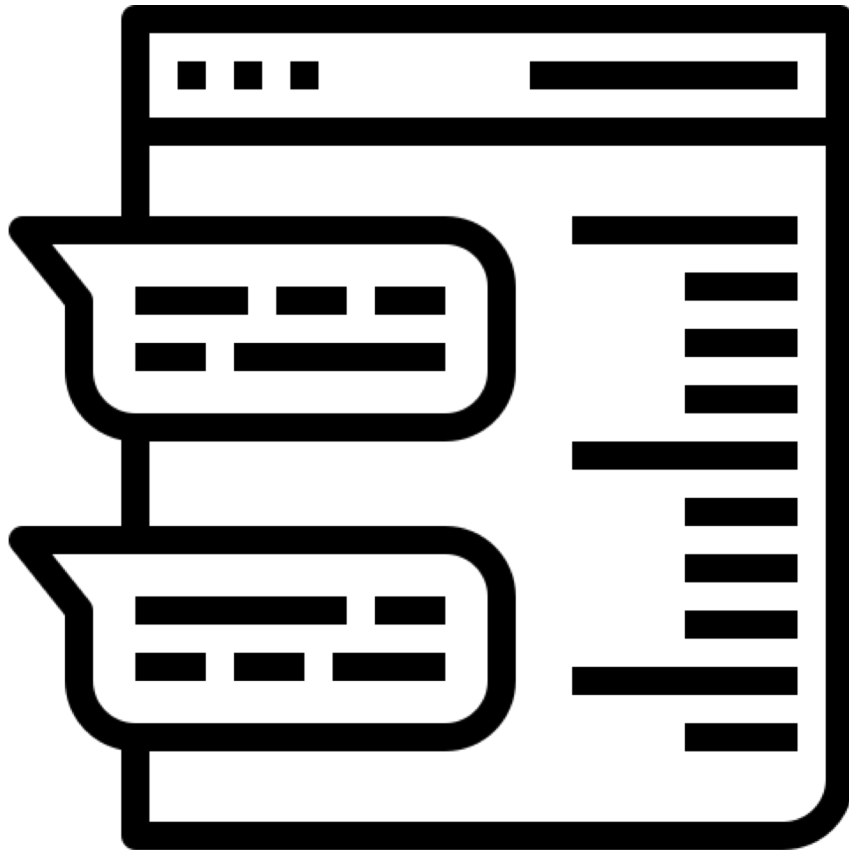
Currently the Neighborhood Library Supervisor at the Mill Basin Branch of the Brooklyn Public Library

WHAT IS DIGITAL EQUITY?

ASK THE COMMUNITY WHAT IT NEEDS

TALK TO PEOPLE

- Surveys
- Recording reference questions
- Talking to other organizations
- Community Conversations
- Outreach!

ASK **BIG** QUESTIONS

Don't ask what people want to learn.

Ask what they want to **DO**

IT'S ALL ABOUT CONTEXT

DON'T TEACH PROGRAMS, TEACH SOLUTIONS

It's not about Skype.
It's about the baby at
the other end.

APPS FOR INDEPENDENCE

Workshop created by Cherry Hill librarian Andy Woodworth.

- Teaches solutions to problems common to seniors and people who are mobility impaired

- App/device agnostic

- Gives a real reason to learn to use tech

LEVERAGE FREE STUFF

WHO HAS $$$ ANYWAY?

FREE RESOURCES

Resource	URL
GCF Learn Free	https://edu.gcfglobal.org/en/
Codecademy	http://www.codecademy.org
Hour of Code	https://hourofcode.com
Digitalliteracy.gov	https://digitalliteracy.gov/resources

PARTNER UP

DON'T TRY TO DO EVERYTHING YOURSELF

- Other organizations may already have stuff started!
  - Curricula
  - Space
  - An audience
  - Other services like job placement, or transit assistance
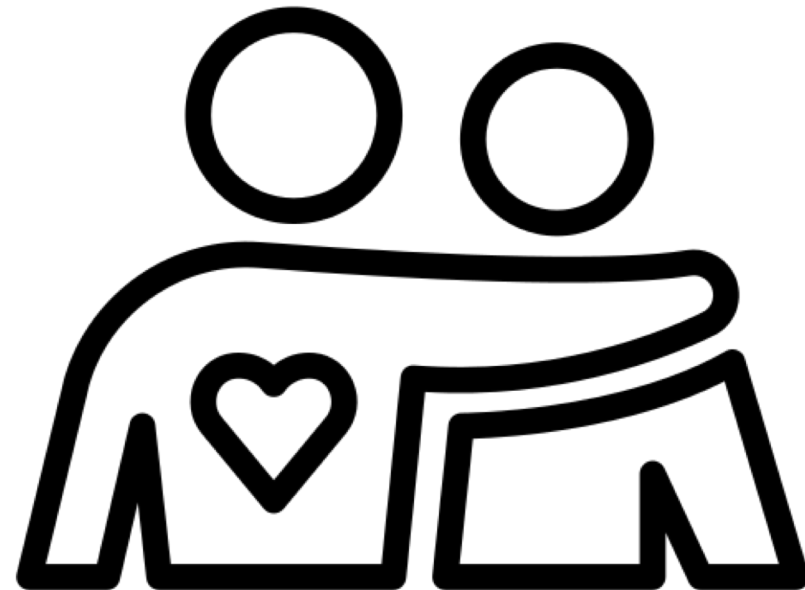
MOBILE WORKPLACE – ST PAUL

work**PLACE**
grow your skills.

Mobile WorkPLACE partners with local community organizations outside the library.

- Offsite Classes

- Multiple Languages

- Combining Computer Classes and Storytime
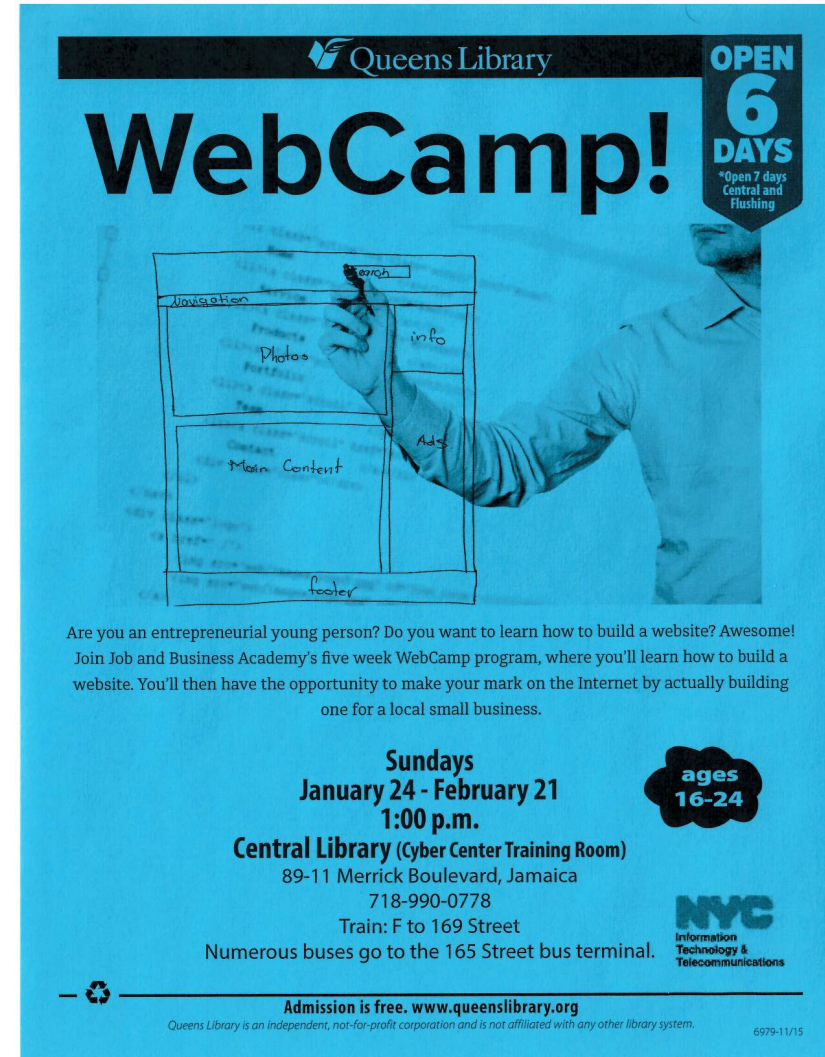
EXPERT, SCHMEXPERT

STAYING 2 STEPS AHEAD

- You don't have to master a program to teach it.

- Plan your curriculum carefully

- Integrate Free Resources

- Review/do the activities a class or two ahead

WEBCAMP

WebCamp combined young adults who wanted to learn how to build a website with Small Business Owners who needed one.

- curriculum designed to teach the basics of web design using WordPress

- I had to teach myself how to build a WAMP stack on a flash drive, not an easy thing

- but all doable with FREE resources and a bunch of hard work

THANK YOU!

Lauren Comito
www.laurencomito.rocks