



Box Prototypes ... What might you DO?

MCCCD purchased music box kits for the maker experience (**image shown**) *and* there are unlimited ways to engage participants in *the arts and making* using a variety of simple and/or customized boxes. Below is a prompt given to ChatGPT 4.0; generative AI can get us started on our first prototype ideas as we engage students, employees and community members:

Prompt:

We are promoting college/university makerspaces as locations that can become the hubs of innovation, entrepreneurship and futurist thinking through arts and making experiences for students, employees and community members. A laser cutter is a tool that can easily be used to make a box and boxes can be customized in a variety of ways as well as being used to hold/collect items in workshops designed for a variety of purposes. What are 20 (really fun!) ways a box could be used in a makerspace to promote arts and making as pathways to innovation, entrepreneurship and futurist thinking/behaviors?

ChatGPT

Here are 20 fun and creative ways a box could be used in a makerspace to promote arts, making, and pathways to innovation, entrepreneurship, and futurist thinking:

1. **Interactive Puzzle Box:** Create boxes with intricate locking mechanisms that require problem-solving skills to open, encouraging critical thinking and creativity.
2. **Customized Storage Solutions:** Design personalized storage boxes for tools and materials, promoting organization and efficient workspace management.
3. **Portable Mini-Labs:** Equip boxes with basic electronics or chemistry kits, allowing users to carry out experiments and projects anywhere.
4. **Art Display Cases:** Use boxes to create portable art galleries or display cases, showcasing student artwork and promoting artistic expression.
5. **Sound Amplifiers:** Design boxes that can amplify sound, turning smartphones into makeshift speakers and exploring acoustic principles.
6. **Greenhouse Boxes:** Build small greenhouses or terrariums, promoting sustainability and the study of plant growth.
7. **Robotics Platforms:** Create boxes as bases for small robots, encouraging exploration in robotics and programming.
8. **Secret Message Boxes:** Develop boxes with hidden compartments for secret messages, fostering an interest in cryptography and secure communication.

9. **Augmented Reality (AR) Displays:** Integrate AR markers into boxes, creating interactive experiences that blend physical and digital worlds.
10. **Kinetic Sculpture Bases:** Use boxes as foundations for kinetic sculptures, exploring principles of motion and mechanics.
11. **Light Art Installations:** Equip boxes with LEDs and sensors to create dynamic light displays, teaching about electronics and creative coding.
12. **Portable Makerspace Kits:** Assemble essential tools and materials in boxes for on-the-go making sessions, promoting mobile creativity.
13. **Community Wish Boxes:** Collect ideas and wishes from community members for future makerspace projects, fostering collaboration and inclusivity.
14. **Storytelling Props:** Design boxes as props for storytelling sessions, encouraging narrative skills and imaginative play.
15. **VR Headset Storage:** Create customized storage for virtual reality headsets and accessories, promoting the use of VR in educational and creative projects.
16. **Material Sample Kits:** Develop boxes containing samples of various materials (wood, metal, plastic), helping users learn about material properties and selection.
17. **Interactive Learning Modules:** Design boxes that house interactive learning modules on topics like electronics, mechanics, or art, promoting hands-on education.
18. **Prototype Presentation Cases:** Use boxes to present prototypes in an organized and professional manner, enhancing entrepreneurial pitches and presentations.
19. **Historical Artifact Reproductions:** Create boxes that contain replicas of historical artifacts, promoting the study of history and material culture.
20. **Puzzle Challenges:** Design boxes with built-in puzzles or challenges that users must solve, promoting problem-solving and critical thinking skills.

These ideas can transform simple boxes into versatile tools for learning, creativity, and innovation within a makerspace environment.

For more information on available tools/experiences and the internal MCCC CD partnership between the Maricopa Center for Learning and Innovation (MCLI) and Phoenix Forge (makerspace powered by GateWay Community College), please contact:

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