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TechNook on Stream

In what seems like years ago, but was really only last October, I told you that the Murrysville Community Library (MCL) was building an open, children-friendly “theater” or TechNook within the library featuring large-screen video display. Its reason to be was that the MCL wanted to take advantage of a wealth of live and archived streaming content that is available in our modern society.

I said that “Streamed content is available, for example, from NASA, professional societies such as the American Chemical Society, other libraries locally and nationally, museums locally and globally, musical venues, and theaters, all of which are resources for high quality, free content that is educational and fun. It is not that patrons cannot stream that content on their own: it is that they need guidance to find it amidst the Internet maelstrom.”

Here, I am so happy to say, is the finished TechNook space that was promised:



On July 24, the program “Crinoids: Lilies of the Sea” was the inaugural program live-streamed into the TechNook theater; a few others had previously been staged live in the space. Here is MCL’s slightly modified content description:

Crinoids, commonly known as sea lilies or feather stars, are animals of which most people are not aware. They are echinoderms, related to starfish, sea urchins, and sand dollars. They have a five-sided symmetry and regenerate missing limbs. They are not

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common in today's oceans but were once so abundant, that there are rocks made up of only their skeletal bits. Join Dr. Elizabeth Rhenberg of the West Virginia Geological & Economic Survey and learn about these fascinating and enigmatic creatures. Why are they important to science? What can they tell us about evolution and extinction? We will answer these questions and more as we dive into depths of both ocean and time. For Teens and Adults.

How fitting that the first was a STEM program!

We thank the Chet and Anita Smolenski family again for making this possible by its very generous and thoughtful memorial contribution to the MCL Foundation, in honor of daughter Kathleen.

Charles B. Greenberg
Board Director, Murrysville Community Library Foundation