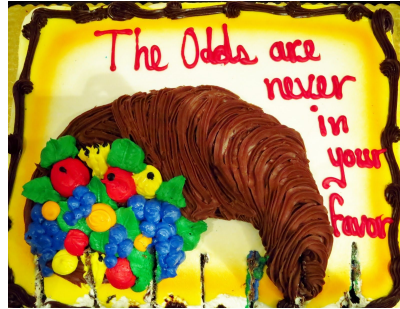


Failures, Flops, & F*ck-Ups 2017 OLA Presentation



- **Failure** - A failure is where you planned everything, but something along the way got messed up.
- **Flop** - A flop is where you planned everything, were well prepared, and no one showed up (or very few).
- **F*ck-Up** - A f*ck-up is where maybe you made plans, but things weren't tested as well as they should've been.

What We've Learned

Yeli Boots - yeli@hoodriverlibrary.org

- About 5 years later and everything in between here I am. I want to share with you something that has always stuck with me, something our previous director said: "We're like scientists, we experiment, if that doesn't work we try again".
- To put it another way the cycle of **action, reflection, and consultation** ensures progress. It is a foolproof formula. Try something, reflect on it. Consult with each other on what works and what could be improved and you will no doubt progress. THEN DO IT AGAIN.

Margaret Harmon Myers - margaret.harmonmyers@ci.eugene.or.us

- (Failure) - We can't control the ever-changing internet and its websites, just remember that it DOES change, and check your sites and services the day of the class/program in case there is some new wrinkle in the process since the last time you used it.
- (Flop) - Do some research on what's offered in the community so you are not duplicating classes or information, or offering things to the same audience as another organization is at the same time.
- (F*ck-Up) - When doing a presentation at an unfamiliar venue, try to get into the room ahead of time to test the equipment and familiarize yourself with the layout. If working with a partner, communicate clearly ahead of time so you can make the physical space suit your style and hers and you are not "vying" for the same space.

Cheryl Hill - chill@westlinnoregon.gov

- It's impossible to predict what will succeed and what will fail, so you have to learn to go just go with the flow and learn from your mistakes and failures.
- Weather is a good scapegoat for poor program attendance.
- What works for other libraries may not work for yours. But it might!

- Create checklists for things you do regularly - such as booking presenters - so you don't forget important details.
- "Life is trying things to see if they work." -- Ray Bradbury

Aimee Meuchel - ameuchel@ci.tualatin.or.us

- Luckily, I don't perform brain surgery.
- Since I work with teens, you can turn most losses into wins with humor and then make them a tradition (see cakes).
- Form a teen council and get their ideas for programs. You'll have a guaranteed attendance by just doing this.
- Except when that idea is a glow-in-the-dark party. Then don't listen to them.
- *You can break a teen and you won't get sued by the parents.

Kate Schwab - kates@multco.us

- Really, really know your audience.
- If you're going to do the same (failed) thing over and over, at least tweak it.
- Keep an *informed* staff presence in the room during programs.

Lauren Simon - lsimon@ci.tualatin.or.us

- Have a sense of humor
- Double-check/triple-check your supplies
- Call / email performers the day of...or don't rehire the ones who don't remember what time the event starts
- Keep trying new things

Kathy Street - otlddirector@centurylink.net

- Always have a plan B
- Keep trying, don't give up
- Trust your instincts
- Clubs work best if started by interested participants
- Stay Calm
- Take notes for next time

What We've Learned - Group Wisdom

- Double-check / triple-check the technology.
- Communication is key (with community, performers, coworkers).
- Trial and error - You can try again!
- Sometimes things go wrong and you can't control everything.
- You can't experience success unless you've experienced failure.

