

Supplies for the Creative Thursdays! Textile Makerspace

(Try to find a craft store that has both yarn AND fabric, for one stop shopping)

Quantities of materials will depend on how many you plan to allow for each workshop/project. Due to space and having only one instructor, for our makerspace, specific project sign-ups were limited to 10, but drop ins were welcome to see what was on offer and check out the machines on nights we didn't need them for the specific project. Choosing supplies was a combination of making sure we had enough on hand for everyone to complete the planned projects, while having materials of interest/use for drop-ins. Consider some beyond-the-basics supplies such as a serger or a yarn swift and ball winder to attract sewists and knitters with a little more experience. This can help build a community where those with more expertise can help newbies.

Knitting/Crochet Supplies:

- YARN! Nothing too precious for these starter projects. Acrylic reigned in our space. A good variety of colors and enough skeins of each to be able to complete a project. Because choice can be such a personal thing, it's nice to let people know projects and needs ahead of time if possible so they can purchase their own yarn if desired.
- Knitting Needles: Get a bunch in size appropriate for the bulk of the yarn you choose. We used size 8 needles for our garter stitch scarf. People could bring these home to finish their projects and bring them back on the honor system. Also get needles in other sizes and types besides straight needles, like circulars and double pointed needles.
- Tape Measures
- Scissors—nice and sharp to cut cleanly. Good idea to designate scissors for yarn and fabric use only. Have other scissors available for possible paper cutting needs
- Stitch Markers—get a variety of types: open, closed, etc. for experimentation and different needs
- Yarn needles—for sewing up projects if necessary
- Cable Needles—cables are magical—much more elaborate than they appear and a few cable needles can help make the magic happen
- Stitch Holders—you can buy these or use scrap yarn for times when you want to pause a project and use the needles for something else
- Row Counters
- Crochet Hooks—get bunch for crochet projects and some small ones for knitting rescues, like picking up stitches
- Yarn Swift and Ball Winder

Sewing Supplies:

- Fabric—a yard or two of a variety of cotton prints, from florals to plaids, none of our projects took more than a yard
- Scissors—both large shears and small snips, again, designate scissors used especially for fabric, never cut paper with these!
- Clear acrylic rulers—get ones large enough for your cutting mats. Some have a lip that fits against the edge and help with steadier cutting

- Cutting mats: consider the space you have and get as many as the larger ones that you can fit. Supplement with some smaller ones, too.
- Seam ripper—mistakes are welcome in the makerspace!
- Rotary cutter and replacement blades
- Pins: try to get glass head pins which your iron won't melt
- Pincushions: magnetic ones are particularly helpful with makerspace clean-up
- Hand sewing needles: get a couple of variety packs
- Iron: nothing fancy needed, just a basic iron
- Ironing Board: there are some sturdy table top ones that work well. It's good to have at least a couple—ironing is a big part of successful sewing and everyone always seems to need to iron at once
- Fabric marking pens and pencils: get a variety so people can experiment and discover their preference
- Thread: All- Purpose Polyester thread in a variety of neutrals and colors, if you have a serger, you will need to purchase your thread in cones.
- Buttons: good to have some on hand for freeplay, even if none of your projects require buttons
- Zippers: also good to have on hand to experiment with, even if your beginner projects don't require them

Storage: we were lucky and there were empty cabinets (a library miracle!) in the conference room where we ran our makerspace. If you don't have this luxury or designated space for supplies you may want to consider some toolboxes for supplier and perhaps a rolling trunk for convenience.

For programs with outside instructors (Civic Arts, Bedford Gallery, Go-Go Craft, etc.) materials were provided through the instructor or organization for 20-30 students (maximum capacity based on the instructors input. It worked best to have them include the price of supplies in their fee.