

TOOL

4

HOW DO WE WORK TOGETHER?

Determining partner interactions

How can you successfully engage with partners and audiences? As it turns out, there is no “one size fits all” recipe for success. With this tool, we can see partner and audience interactions on a continuum, getting a full picture of the many different ways partners can divide the programming workload. Using this can help you understand how you are interacting with partners and audiences, and decide upon the proper breakdown of resource and labor contributions.

KEY TAKEAWAYS

After using this tool, you should be able to identify:

A

What resources the library contributes to partner programming

B

What resources the library relies upon partners to supply for joint programming

C

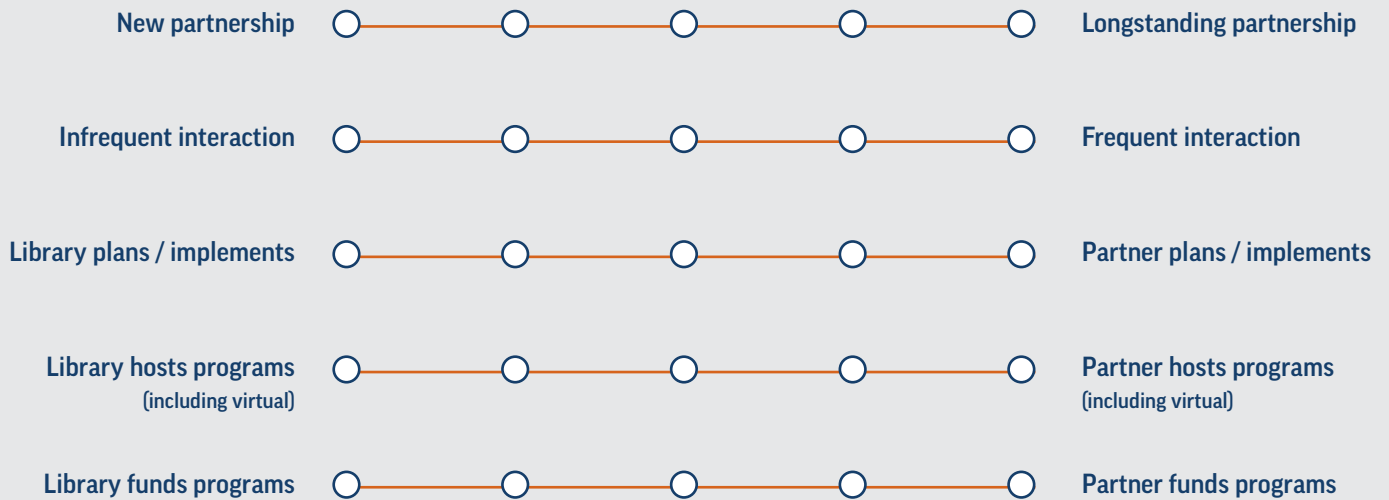
Any gaps or opportunities for re-alignment in resource allocation

Partner–Audience Interaction Scale

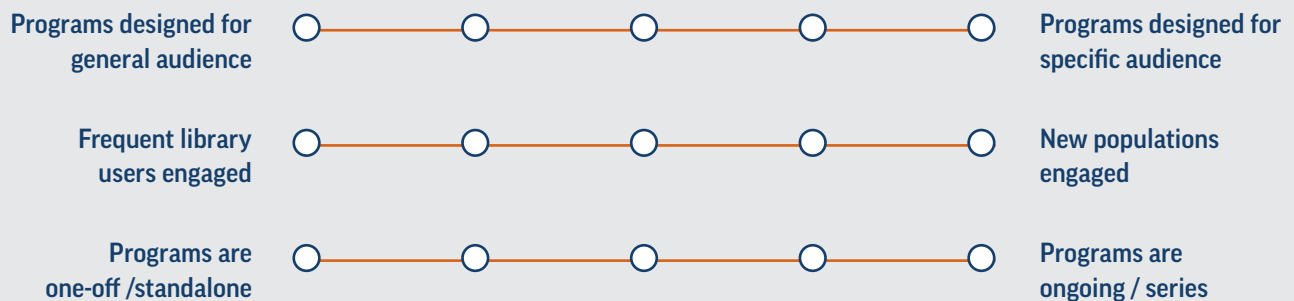
INSTRUCTIONS: For group discussion, each participant can shade the appropriate spot on each continuum. Once everyone has used the tool individually, compare responses, and discuss to achieve consensus and shared understanding.

Partner Name _____

How partners interact to create programs



How partnerships engage library populations





CREATING A NEW PARTNERSHIP?

Some questions to consider:

What distribution of tasks and responsibilities would make the partnership most effective?

How does this division of labor accommodate each partner's needs and play to each partner's strengths?

Is our proposed division achievable? If not, can adjustments be made, or would it be better to partner with someone else?



ASSESSING OR STRENGTHENING AN EXISTING PARTNERSHIP?

It might help to ask:

Is the distribution of tasks and responsibilities working well for us, and for our partner? If not, what adjustments need to be made?

Who is our intended program audience, and are we attracting them? If we're not reaching the right audiences, how can we adjust to ensure progress toward our desired community impacts?



PLANNING FOR YOUR LIBRARY'S FUTURE?

Ask yourself:

What kinds of contributions have we typically made in our partnerships? What contributions have our partners made? Have these worked for us? If not, what could we do to improve things?

How is the current division of labor working for our audiences? Are we sharing the workload with our partners in a way that helps us best meet our community's needs?

What's the ideal division of labor for our future partnerships? What strengths and resources can we bring to our partnerships? What kinds of contributions do we need from partners?