

Workshop 1A:

Creating open-ended design thinking experiences in a walk-up public maker/tinker space

Tuesday 3 September, 9.00am – 12.30pm

Presenters: Dylan Barker, Queensland Museum and *SparkLab* Learning Officers, Queensland Museum

Dylan Barker:

Dylan Barker is the Programming Coordinator at *SparkLab*, Queensland Museum, developing and implementing Sciencentre program and activity elements. With a background in Science Communication, Dylan has over 7 years' experience working and coordinating learning programs, working for much of his career with Questacon Outreach programs, servicing both metropolitan and regional areas of Australia.

Workshop overview:

How do you encourage visitors to practice design thinking in a Maker or Tinker Space?

If you run a walk-up style workshop in your Centre, you would understand some of the challenges to providing a rich open-ended STEM experience that encourages visitors to practice iterative design; no age restrictions, noisy distractions and a free-for-all for materials. All of these test your theoretical vision in achieving the higher-order learning outcomes of design thinking. So how do we best work with these constraints to increase the levels of iterative design with our visitors and take our experiences beyond a step-by-step instructional?

SparkLab, the flagship Sciencentre experience of the Queensland Museum Network, is pursuing an approach with its Maker Space that looks to empower the visitor to practice design in a welcoming and creative environment; from providing a real-world focussed challenge, through to generating continued engagement.

In this interactive workshop you will participate in a series of design thinking exercises that underpin *SparkLab's* approach: identification of great candidate ideas; structuring visitor learning outcomes; and the operations of facilitating the activity on the ground with high throughput. Group reflection and brainstorm will feature throughout. *SparkLab* activity documentation will be available for participants to build on for their own Centres.