ESCAPING EXPECTATIONS
Unlocking immersive escape rooms on a shoestring budget

THE BASICS
CONTENT
THE UNEXPECTED
WORKSHOP

Elizabeth Bernhardt
Brandon Forman
Steven Kelly
Kristin Servoss
Julie Stephens
Tessy Walker

Aurora Public Library
What do you need to plan a successful escape room?
What space is available in your library?
How to choose a space

Security

Availability

Convenience

COST RATIO
What is your budget used for?

PLANNING

PUZZLES

DECOR

IMMERSION
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Station</th>
<th>Idea</th>
<th>Prop</th>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Cost</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Cup Stack Throw Challenge</td>
<td>Foam Ball</td>
<td><a href="https://www.dollarstore.com/Colorful-Rubber-Balls-3-ct-Packs/c064777/index.cfm">Website</a></td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Guess Your Weight</td>
<td>Sand to weight limbs</td>
<td><a href="https://www.amazon.com/Novelties-1330-FM6420-Party-Count/dp/B008BAVU0H/ref=sr_1_12?">Website</a></td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Test Your Strength</td>
<td>Wooden mallet? Hammer? That comes apart</td>
<td><a href="https://www.dollarstore.com/Mini-Basketball-Set/c0356233/index.cfm">Website</a></td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Basketball with Heads</td>
<td>Basketball Hoop</td>
<td><a href="https://www.dollarstore.com/Colorful-Rubber-Balls-3-ct-Packs/c064777/index.cfm">Website</a></td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total:** 40
What is your target demographic?

- puzzle complexity
- success rates
- staffing
Who will create and manage the escape room?

RUNNING THE ROOM

CREATE
TEAMWORK

DELEGATE BASED OFF OF STRENGTHS

PLANNING PERIOD
STAFFING YOUR ESCAPE ROOM

HINT SYSTEM

VOLUNTEERS

STAFF INTENSIVE
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CREATING AN ESCAPE ROOM FROM SCRATCH
What is your story?

KEEP IT SIMPLE

COHESION AND MOTIVATION

Know your FINAL SOLUTION

STORY STRUCTURE
How do you create the puzzles?

QUALITY OVER QUANTITY
A CLEAR ENDING
WORK WITH YOUR DECOR TEAM
HINT SYSTEM
PLANNING YOUR PUZZLE STRUCTURE

Linear VS Nonlinear

PUZZLE TYPES
IF
A + A = B
B + B = D
A + D = E
THEN
B + D + E = ?
How will you design the escape room?

PUZZLES

BUDGET

IMMERSION
PUZZLES
Needs

budget

Wants

IMMERSION

BORROW, MAKE, BUY CHEAP
The Study of:
- Wolf
- Otter
- Lion
- Zebra

Portability:
All of these clue fit into the trunks

- Scrabble $14.95
- Trunk
- Dictionary
The Bone Garden

Planning
Really, it's all about perspective. ...

- bones - $30
- moss/leaves
- tablecloth
- fence

Letter E!

immersion
bloody bandages
spiders!
Guess Your Weight
immersion
writing in other languages
bloody hands!

Letter E!

- booth
- weights
- scale
- bones - $30
- sand - $7

It's so hard to find good bodies these days.....
WHAT DO YOU NEED TO CONVEY YOUR STORY?
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BRAINSTORM AN ESCAPE ROOM

CHALLENGES

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