

About the Project

TechTales is a 3-year project funded by the National Science Foundation

Partnership between large urban library system, large science center, Native American-serving organizations, university

Bringing technology-based learning experiences to families from populations traditionally underrepresented in STEM

Centering family stories in learning e-textiles, robotics, and computer programming: connecting to family histories, cultural practices

Developing a model of decentralized informal science education: taking informal science education out of the science centers and into community settings

What we do

Professional development workshops: librarians, community youth educators, informal science educators develop ways to run family workshops

Family workshops: Multiple workshops/year: summer, fall, winter, spring with “booster days”

Backpacks: to check out from the library, Science Center, community settings

Research focused on:
Facilitator and family learning
How library systems & community organizations adapt this program into their settings



TECH TALES

MAKE. LEARN. SHARE.

Carrie Tzou, University of Washington Bothell

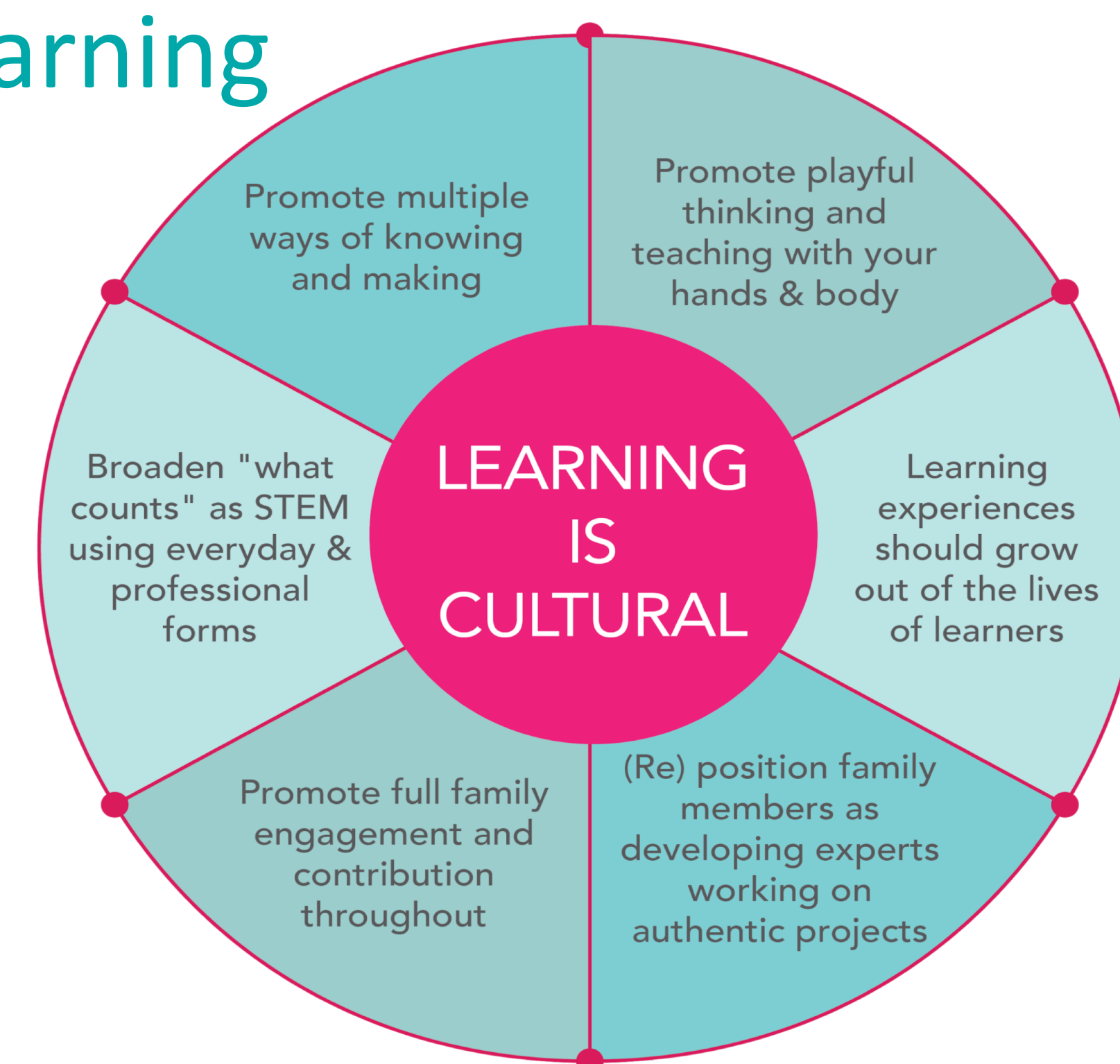
Megan Bang, Northwestern University

Philip Bell, University of Washington Seattle

Amy Twito, Seattle Public Library

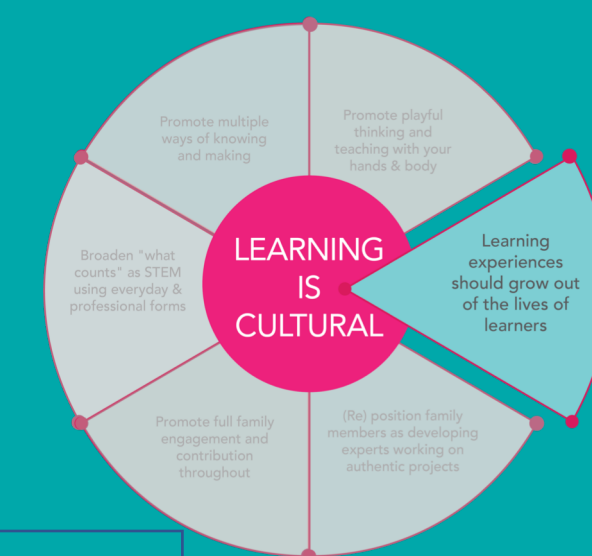
Daniel Rother, Pacific Science Center

Equity-focused family learning



Learning experiences should grow out of the lives of learners

- Families drive their work with technology
- Stories, memories, and shared visions for the future connect with STEM learning
- Families are innovators and creators with technology, not only consumers



Why family learning?

Typically, we see makerspaces and STEAM learning settings that are youth-only or age-segregated
With a Family Learning program, all family members are invited to learn together

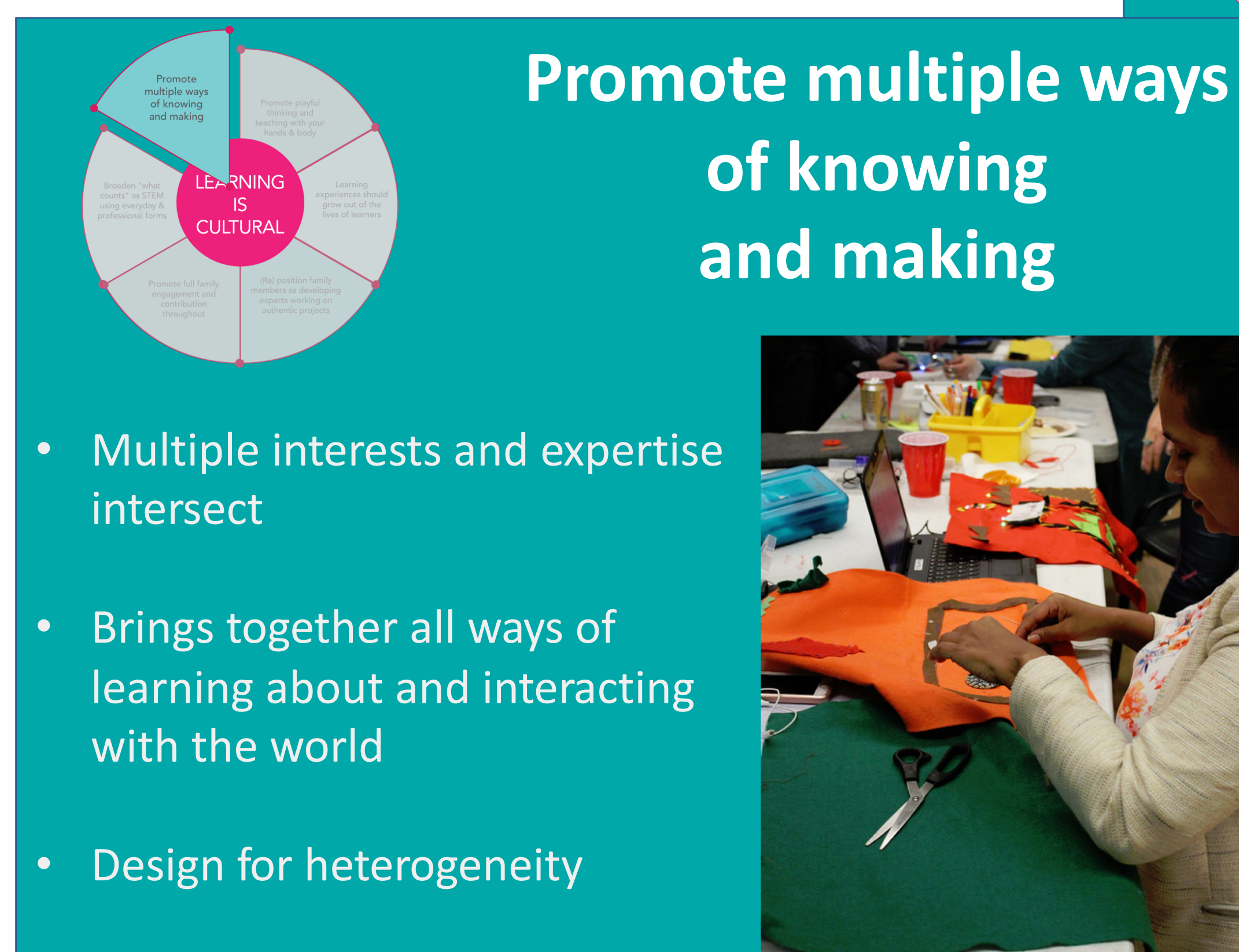
Research shows that families learn in rich and varied ways

When families learn together, different routines, histories, identities, cultural practices enter the learning space:

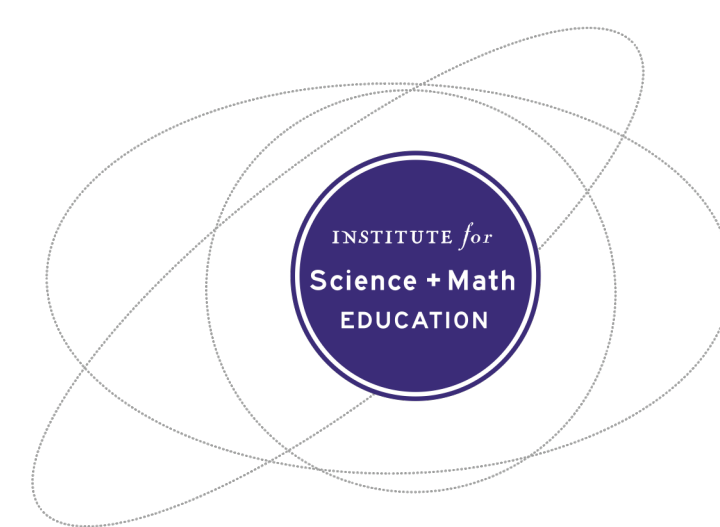
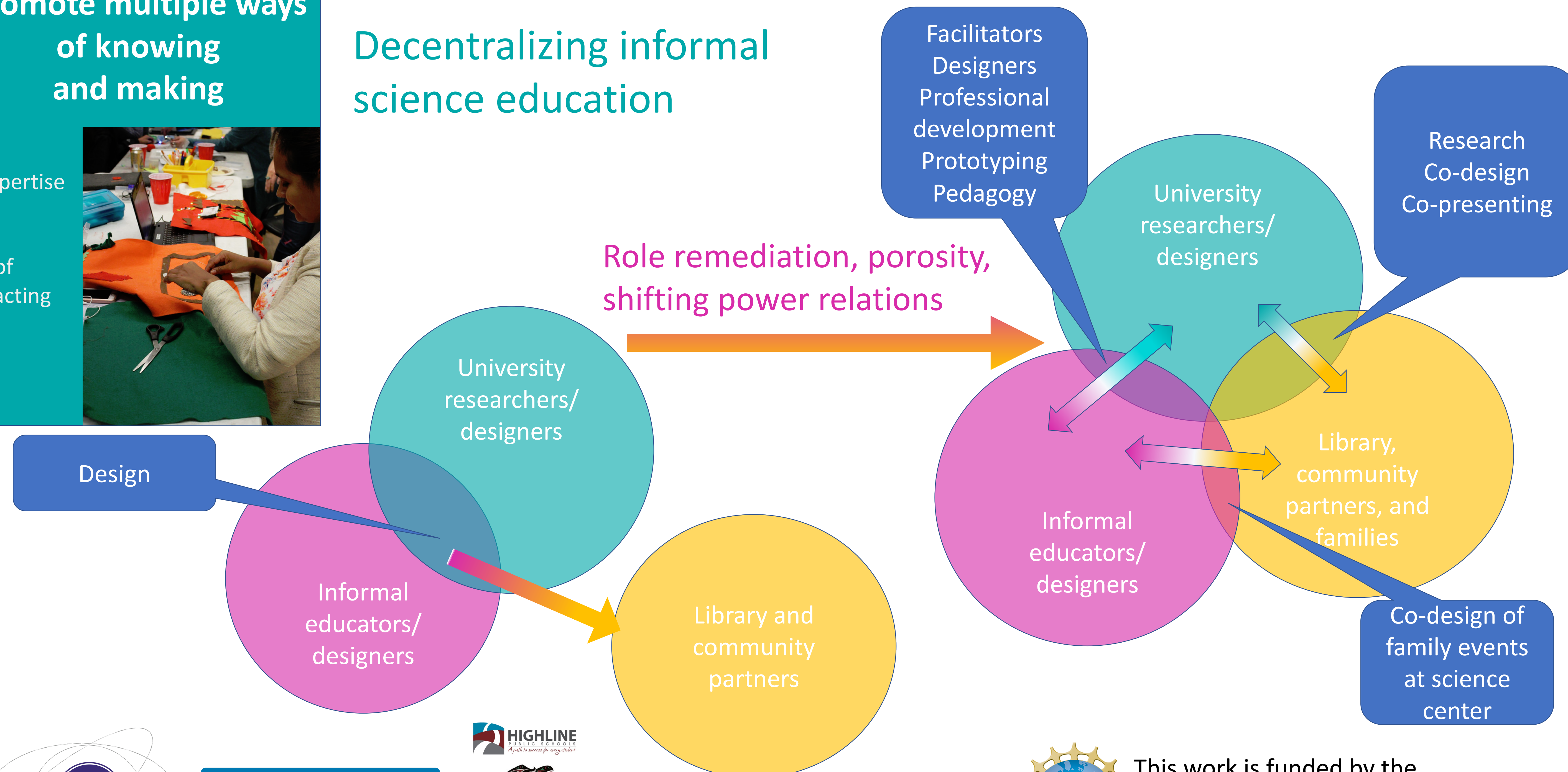
Centering family stories

Tell a story about...

- an important experience in your family's past
- how your family and/or the world will change in 10 years
- a place that is important to your family.



Decentralizing informal science education



The Seattle Public Library



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