



# P2PU Teams:

A learning circle membership program for libraries



# Learn Better, Together

Born out of the 2008 Cape Town Open Education Declaration, P2PU is a US-based non-profit organization that cultivates peer-learning communities in public spaces around the world.

## Our vision:

- Knowledge should be freely shared
- Learning is best done with others
- Education is a social good

Since 2015, we have worked with libraries worldwide to realize our mission and vision through a methodology called **learning circles**.

# What are Learning Circles?

**Learning circles** are free, facilitated study groups for people who want to learn something together.

Learning circles don't require an expert or a teacher to create an effective learning environment. Instead, the **facilitator** draws on peer learning principles and open educational resources to help learners reach their goals.

P2PU coordinates a global network of facilitators alongside a community of practice, software tools, specialized open courses, and resources for the methodology. We offer it all to the public **for free**.



# 1,000 Learning Circles Later...

When our methodology, tools, courses, and community combine, amazing things happen:

- **Equitable adult education:** Grow program participation/retention (~80% / 6 weeks) and bring online learning to new audiences: nearly 50% of participants are first-time online learners.
- **Diverse public programming:** No experts required means no topic is off limits. From job skills to civic action to passion projects, choose from 125+ community-curated courses (or add your own!) to support your unique community's needs without specialized staff training.
- **Staff development:** Empower staff to connect with the community through their personal interests. ~95% of facilitators express interest in facilitating again.
- **Participants:** 90% of learners report meeting their learning goals as well as feeling more comfortable using their library, working with others, and navigating online learning resources.

# Learning Circle Testimonial

“ The very act of making education accessible, free, and learner-driven, where students become each other's mentors, is the heart of democracy and taps into the very best of society's possibilities. At least here in Chicago, I've seen learning circles be agents of social justice in that they have brought people of all races, ages, and social classes together in a city that is normally incredibly segregated, and helped them form bonds with one another that would otherwise never have happened. [...]

I think the very act of facilitating a learning circle is in itself radical, no matter the subject matter. Just as the public library as an institution is revolutionary, maybe this is our next step in creating a more engaged, empowered populace."

**Shelley Hughes**

Chicago Public Library

# Why Start a Team?

After working with dozens of libraries worldwide, we've found that building a thriving learning circle program uniquely suited to your community often requires extra support beyond P2PU's free tools and resources.

Team membership is designed to provide comprehensive guidance via:

- Staff Professional Development
- 1:1 Support
- Community-Powered OER Library
- Software for Teams
- Community of Practice
- Additional Discounted Services

# Staff Professional Development

Collaborate with the P2PU staff to deliver professional development tailored to your content and community needs:

- Learning-circle-style staff training focused on teaching the model and effective strategies for facilitating peer learning
- Quarterly consultations to set and pursue your organization's program goals
- Regular P2PU-facilitated virtual learning circles based on popular topics decided by member libraries

## Do/Make/Say/Think

*Suggested timing: 30 minutes*

### ✂ Create a P2PU account

In order to best utilize the resources in this course, please create a free P2PU account. Your P2PU account will allow you to perform a number of tasks including:

- Create learning circles
- Publicize learning circles
- Manage learning circle event details
- Communicate with learners via email and SMS
- Collect feedback from learners
- Add online courses to our database

Each of these tools is embedded within P2PU's global community of practice. For instance, when you share feedback about an online course you used or a learning circle, you aren't just sharing that with P2PU staff; it will be useful for other facilitators who are considering using the same course. To help enable these connections, P2PU accounts also provide access to:

- A group of mentors who can help you with questions when you start your learning circle
- A global community forum
- A network of events happening across the P2PU community
- A monthly call for professional development opportunities.

When you create a learning circle, learners can sign up with their email addresses and we'll send them to your learning circle.



# 1:1 Support

Receive comprehensive guidance from the P2PU team to ensure staff feel supported and learning circles run smoothly and effectively:

- Dedicated P2PU staff liaison (that's us! 🙋) and regular support hours for facilitators
- Guidance for facilitators developing learning circles in new topics
- Promotion and publicity for learning circles
- Platform for sharing practices from your library with the wider P2PU community







**Rebecca Ryan**

Organizer, Saint Paul Public Library

**What is the most compelling thing about working with P2PU as an ongoing service at your library?**

“ For SPPL, the [facilitator] training plus ongoing practical support is unique—I am sure we aren't the only library stretching staff and materials budgets very thinly, so support at the right moments really matters for us.”

# Community-Powered OER Library

Work with the P2PU staff to develop Open Educational Resources (OER), guided by your local community's needs and shared with a global commons of learning circle facilitators:

- 6+ P2PU facilitation guides each year (topics nominated by members)
- Curated list of ready-to-use courses that align with your team's and patrons' preferences (2022)
- Early access to new courses designed for learning circles

**How to be an LGBTQ+ Ally**  
3 RATINGS | USED IN 1 LEARNING CIRCLE  
This webinar covers foundational information related to serving LGBTQ youth and families. Topics include key terminology and concepts, an overview of the barriers faced by LGBTQ youth and families in child welfare, and the steps all service providers can take to overcome these barriers in order to create a welcoming environment.  
Topics: [lgbtq+](#), [ally](#)  
Provider: All Children, All Families  
Platform: Human Rights Campaign  
Access: Always available

**Martin Luther King's Letter from Birmingham Jail**  
2 RATINGS | USED IN 4 LEARNING CIRCLES  
A conversation about justice, extremism and activism  
Topics: [social justice](#), [activism](#)  
Provider: Acumen  
Access: Always available

**Learn To Write Fiction**  
34 RATINGS | USED IN 13 LEARNING CIRCLES  
In this course you will learn about writing the genres, character development, setting & basic world building, plot & structure, description, dialogue & action, and

**Learning about Learning Circles**  
13 RATINGS | USED IN 13 LEARNING CIRCLES  
This is a openly licensed online course about learning circles, created by Peer 2 Peer University. The course is divided into six modules, which can be explored in between 20-80 minutes each.  
Topics: [p2pu](#), [learning](#), [education](#), [learningcircles](#)  
Provider: P2PU  
Platform: P2PU  
Access: Always available

**How to Cook Healthy Meals**  
2 RATINGS | USED IN 19 LEARNING CIRCLES  
Learn how to eat healthy, save money and cook easy, tasty recipes with the EatFresh.org Mini Course. Available in English and Spanish. Use referral code P2PU when you create an account.  
Topics: [food](#), [cooking](#)  
Provider: eatFresh.org  
Access: Always available

**Fundamentals of Public Speaking**

**Basic Computer Skills**  
76 RATINGS | USED IN 60 LEARNING CIRCLES  
This course offers a variety of sections which covers different basic computer skills  
Topics: [computer](#), [digital literacy](#)  
Provider: wisc-online  
Access: Always available

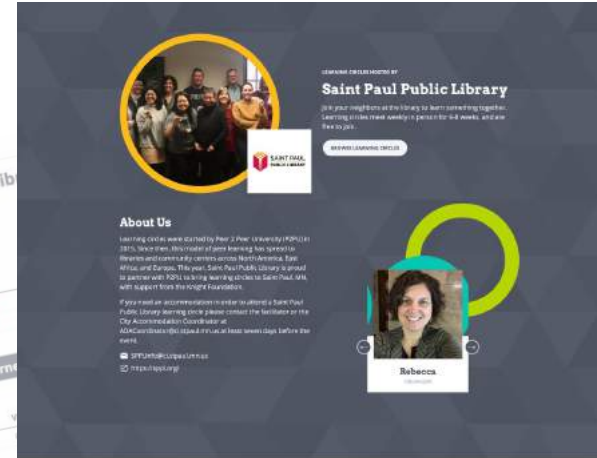
**21 Day Racial Equity & Social Justice**  
15 RATINGS | USED IN 8 LEARNING CIRCLES  
This 21-Day Racial Equity and Social Justice Challenge asks participants to make daily time to build more effective social justice habits—particularly those dealing with issues of race, power, privilege and leadership—for 21 days. The challenge will help us discover how racial inequity and social injustice impact our community, to connect with one another and identify ways to dismantle racism and other forms of discrimination.  
Topics: [antiracism](#), [social justice](#), [discrimination](#)  
Provider: YWCA Greater Cleveland  
Access: Always available

**3D Design Basics**  
5 RATINGS | USED IN 5 LEARNING CIRCLES  
Learn basic 3D modeling skills using the free tool Tinkercad. We will create a simple 3D object from scratch.

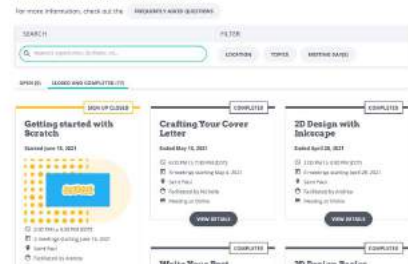
# Software for Teams

Access a suite of tools to help you promote, manage, and evaluate your learning circle program:

- Dedicated P2PU team page (right) with active/archived learning circles, facilitator profiles, and info about your organization
- Customizable participant surveys (2022)
- Aggregated signup and exit survey data
- Weekly insights on program activity
- Collaborate with P2PU staff to shape the software development roadmap



## Find a learning circle near you





**Nicole James**

Organizer, Stadtbibliothek Köln

## How does P2PU advance your organization's strategic plan and/or departmental goals?

“ [Our] goals include being future-oriented and flexible, as well as welcoming change and new ideas. P2PU helps support this with a very flexible and adaptable model [that] promotes our online databases, supports efforts to promote lifelong learning, increases program variety for adults, and increases the participation factor for patrons.”

# Community of Practice

Join a global community of educators committed to P2PU's innovative peer learning practices:

- Two free tickets to our yearly community Gatherings (in-person, pandemic willing!)
- Co-host a monthly public community call to share your program with the global learning circle community
- Collaborate and connect with other P2PU Teams on projects of mutual interest, grant opportunities, and governance of the membership program.



# Additional Discounted Services

**Course Creation:** Develop and launch online courses about topics you care about, specifically designed for learning circles



**Workshops:** Co-host in-person and virtual events for your community with P2PU (karaoke optional)



**Software Solutions:** Redesign your team site or integrate P2PU's software in your org's website with our API





**Sara Dixon**

Organizer, Wichita Public Library

**What is the most compelling thing about working with P2PU as an ongoing service at your library?**

“Simply being part of an international community to spread easy access to knowledge is very rewarding. P2PU brought us all together and helps to facilitate our learning with each other.”

## We asked our library partners what values and practices they feel they are endorsing when they participate in P2PU:

“Endorsing freedom of information, fostering community support/engagement, and valuing education and curiosity.” – Marsha, San Jose

“Noncommercial, collaborative, interest-based social learning that is rooted in social justice and equity.” – Dan, Pittsburgh

“Open source content, access to education through an alternative learning format, and building community over the course of each learning circle.” - Wendy, Kansas City

“Open access and high quality learning; better persistence with online and distance learning; inclusion.” - Sherry, Providence

“Community building, continuing adult education, community dialogue, free programming for underfunded library branches.” - Randall, Los Angeles

“Learning opportunities are for everyone, and making free online learning accessible makes it more equitable for the communities that we serve.” - Gwendolyn, Spokane



# Teams Pricing

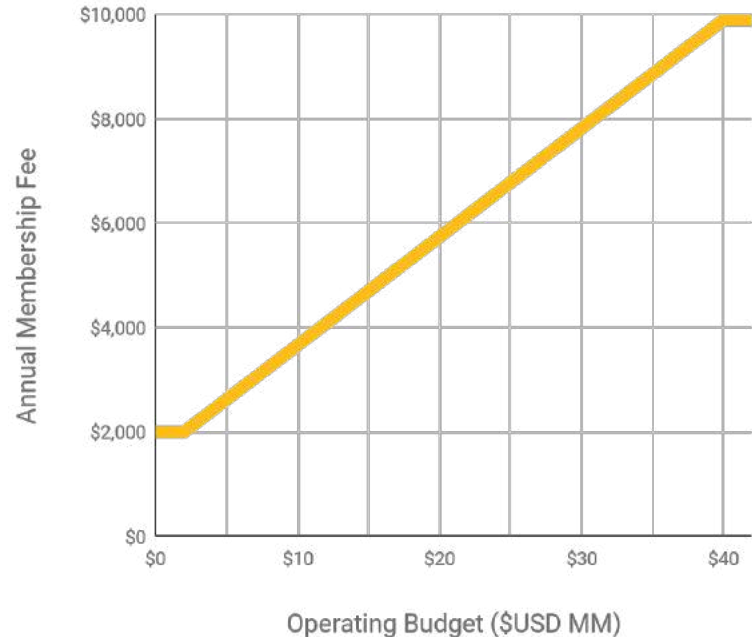
Team membership is offered on a sliding scale between \$2,000 - \$10,000 per year. We calculate this fee based on your organization's annual operating budget.

$\leq \$2\text{MM} = \$2\text{k/year}$

$\geq \$40\text{MM} = \$10\text{k/year}$

Ready to start a team or want to learn more?

Reach out to [thepeople@p2pu.org](mailto:thepeople@p2pu.org)!



# Who were those people I just saw?



Athanasia (Miami), Sharon (Toronto), Alexis (Kansas City), and Kalela (Philadelphia) at P2PU's 2018 Gathering in Kansas City, USA.



Jordan (front-center) with their fiction writing learning circle at Boston Public Library (Boston, USA).



Juliana (Nairobi), Kaltuma (Nairobi), and Purity (Nakuru) at a P2PU 2016 facilitator training workshop in Nakuru, Kenya.



Andrea (Chicago), Purity (Nakuru), Grif (Boston), and Chris (Seattle) running a workshop at the Next Library conference in Aarhus, Denmark in 2017.



A learning circle at Chicago Public Library with Cristiane (front right), who wrote her PhD dissertation about learning circles.



A group of Kenyan facilitators: Ether, Raymond, Bethsheba, Kaltuma, Yusef, and Mary.