All About Coffee: Latte Art Demo

Chillicothe & Ross County Public Library

Adults

All About Coffee: Latte Art Demo

May 15, 2025

$1-50

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Byline

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All About Coffee: Latte Art Demo was an engaging and educational evening about coffee, helping to celebrate National Latte Day and National Library Lovers Month in February, because *we love the library a latte!*

Advanced Planning

The program's goal was to create a cozy and educational event about coffee and love for libraries to coincide with February's National Latte Day and National Library Lovers Month. The learning outcomes were to increase patrons' knowledge of coffee's origins and brewing techniques by offering a live late art demonstration and providing a hands-on takeaway with DIY instant latte mix. The event was aimed at coffee lovers of all levels while reinforcing the library as a welcoming and community-centered space.

Planning began about four weeks in advance. One of our staff members is a former barista, so I utilized her expertise for planning. While it's important to note that homemade (library-made) lattes and art cannot rival commercial-grade equipment found in a coffee shop, we did make good lattes.

I created a coffee-themed book display for the month to garner interest and created a book list to share on our curated reading lists online. I gathered ingredients for the drink mix and reached out to a local coffee shop for some unroasted (green) beans to show our patrons. They provided these for free.

Two weeks out, I created the PowerPoint presentation and labels for the DIY drink mix. The staff member and I began testing latte art with our equipment. We used a small espresso machine with a steam wand and also an electric frother to compare.

Marketing

This was advertised in our quarterly brochure and a social media post was made.

We had a very engaged group of adults attend, more than half had never attended one of my programs before, and several patrons requested more coffee and tea programs.

Budgeting

For the drink mix:

- Instant Dry Milk $8.43

- Powered Vanilla Creamer $3.48
- Instant Coffee Granules $7.24
- Sugar 1lb $2.12
- 2 Packs Instant Vanilla Pudding Mix $.98 ea
- 3"x3" resealable mylar food bags 45.99

For the demo:

- Milk $2.62
- Nescaf Instant Espresso $7.47

For demo back up:

- Cinnamon $2.77
- Latte Art Stencils $8

Day-of-event Activity

I set up a table near an electrical outlet with the supplies for making coffee. Our top-down webcam with projector setup did not work, so I played a close-up latte art video on loop (from YouTube).

The packaged drink mixes proved to be messy, so we opted to have them ready to go instead of prepping them. A curated selection of books with coffee themes was displayed on a table, and coffee-themed stickers and coloring pages were placed on the patron tables.

Program Execution

At the beginning, we played a short YouTube video of the journey from bean to cup. Then, our resident barista demonstrated making a simple latte art heart while a close-up video played behind them. They demonstrated a few times. Then, patrons were able to wander the display or have a latte made. The foam for the lattes gave us trouble, so I had backup stencils and cinnamon so that patrons could still have pretty drinks regardless. This worked really well!

Advice

Test the foam very well and way ahead of time. Have stencils as a backup and have the mixes premade for ease.

Did you try this program at your library? Share your experience using this form.

Supporting Materials

Download this Program as a PDF

- Programming Librarian Facebook Group

More Programs

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Intergenerational+ | $
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Audiences:

Intergenerational
Jun 18, 2024
Adults (21 and up)+ | $$
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Tea Blend Workshop

Audiences:

Adults (21 and up)
May 24, 2024
Adults (21 and up)+ | $
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Beginner Sourdough Class

Audiences:

Adults (21 and up)