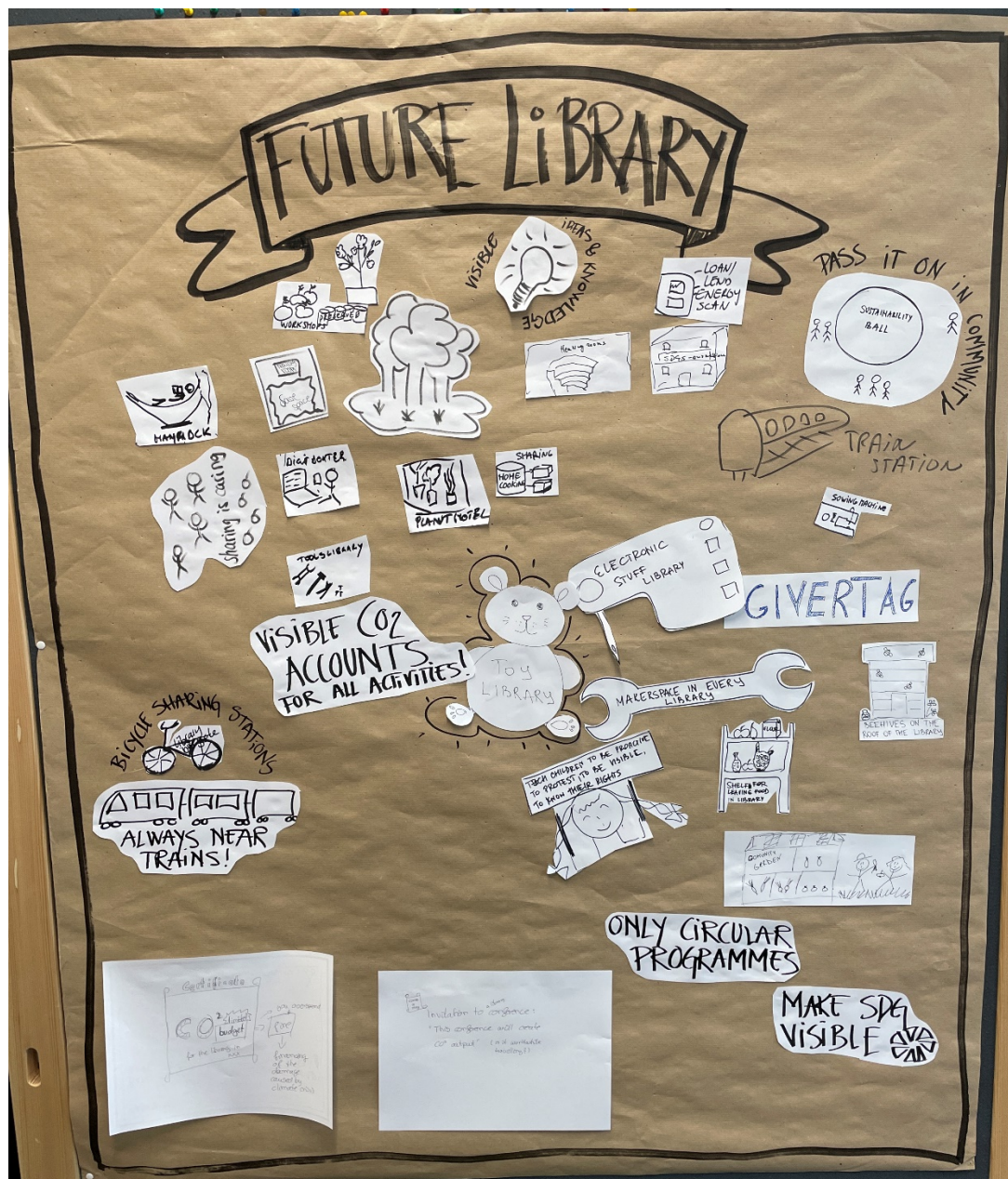


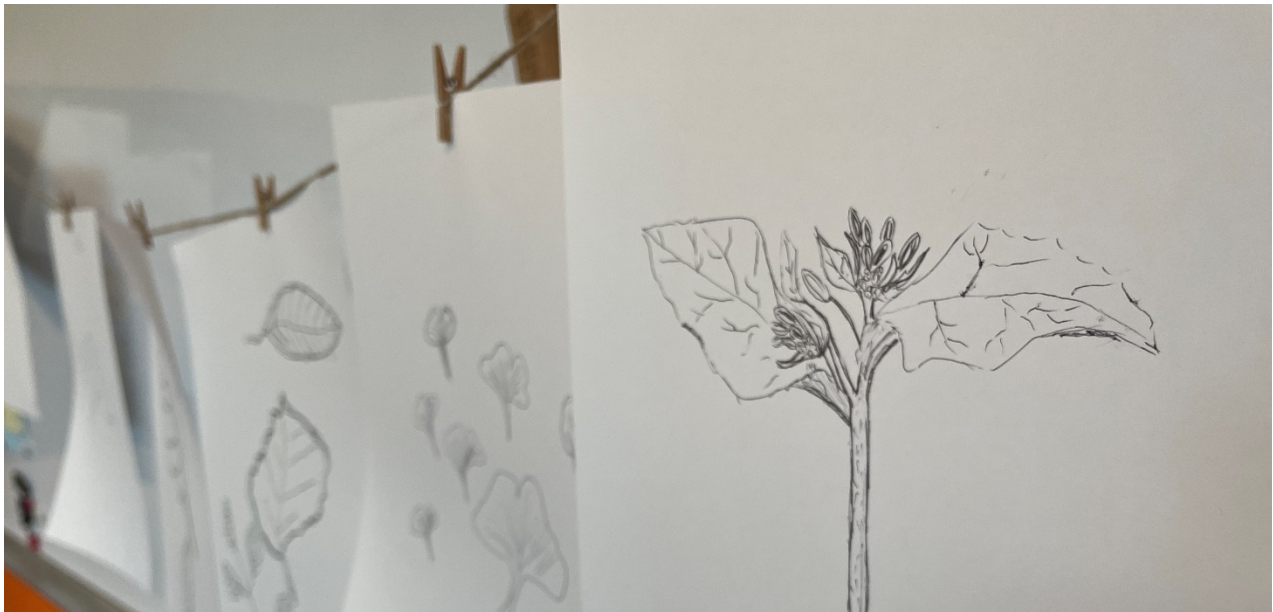
FUTURE Library workshop 09.11.2022 / Brussels



“If you name it, you know it – and if you know it, you care for it”

Insight from one of the participants in the climate workshop at the Lighthouse Libraries meeting. He made the comment when asked how he felt after the 15 minutes silent connecting with a plant through Croquis-drawing. It was obvious that he was surprised, that the at-first-quite-weird exercise “plant-croquis” actual felt so good. His experience was shared by all participants, and they discussed how rare it is, that we take the time to express ourselves creatively and even more rare that we take nature into our libraries and give it time and attention. This led to a talk

about nature connectedness as part of the transition to a sustainable future, and how Libraries might combine inviting in nature with a focus on mental health.



Best practice

Then stories about meaningful and good sustainability-activities were shared. Great examples of mapping biodiversity, making clean-waterfilters, co-creating outdoor areas of repurposed materials, beehives, naming of plants in library garden, trashhunters, community farming, clothes-swapping in coLab with homeless shelter. We listened, clustered and found themes and patterns like: **Make it simple, local, situated, emotional, relatable, useful, tangible. Invite for ways of participating, let go of control. Let communities create, give power to people, be openly imperfect. Take pride in recycling – show it! Be an example!**

A dystopic 2050 helped us think about what actions we should take

After listening with closed eyes to a voice from a disaster 2050 where nothing had been done and where everyone failed to take action – a brainstorm session led on a shower of ideas on how libraries could have acted to help prevent this.

Enter the Future Library:

Located right next to a train and surrounded by an orchard of shared fruit trees, used for sessions about pickling and making jam, you reach the community garden where people work and learn together. Some are growing things, some tending to the bees or the seed library – others are

fixing the shared bicycles or tidying up the Library of things, where you can borrow any sort of utensils, plants and tools.

Children come to borrow toys or learn how to demonstrate and participate. Families show up at swapping days to exchange clothes, to join home-cooking classes or to pick up leftovers on the share-the-food-shelf.

The makerspace is always open for fixing, recycling or inventing things and the listening space provides a calm break, surrounded by the plants indoor and tended to by the emotional librarian.

On the way out you can check the latest climate news and the board of ideas to see who's doing the next green initiative. You can also check your own, and the library's, Co2-account, as you highfive the community-librarian arriving on her bicycle.

Great energy for next steps

The workshop ended with abundant ideas, great energy for action – when we meet again a lot of them will probably already be happening. It felt clear that we are ready to act and learn together.