

From: [Langara | Applied Research Center](#)
To: [Philip Robbins](#)
Cc: [Applied Research](#); [Kelly Sveinson](#)
Subject: Thank you for submitting your ARC Engage Final Report-Philip Robbins
Date: Monday, June 16, 2025 9:58:33 AM

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Thank you for submitting

ARC Engage Final Report

Our team may reach out to you with follow-up requests for clarification regarding your submission.

Review your submission responses below:

Researcher First Name: Philip

Researcher Last Name: Robbins

Department: Makerspace

Other Department:

Department Head's Email: ksveinso@langara.ca

Project Title: THingery - Plastics Press

Start semester: 9/1/2024

End Semester: 11/29/2024

Introduction - Please introduce yourself and include pertinent background information as it relates to your project's research area. Philip Robbins - Langara's Makerspace coordinator and faculty within Fine Arts (Design)

Please discuss your educational background and your work experience as it relates to this project. If possible, include a quote that helps define your interest in the project. I have a masters degree in Fine Arts and an extensive making practice ranging from Public Art and restaurant interiors to props production for film and television.

Please summarize your project in plain language that others not in your field could understand. The Thingery (lending library of things) was interested in developing a process to take waste plastic on reprocess it into sheet material. This sheet material would become the basis of custom designed storage cabinetry able to securely house a Thingery lending library in outdoor and publicly accessible locations. This first stage of our research collaboration was to reconfigure and custom build a large electrical/hydraulic press for processing waste plastic into sheets.

Identify the project goals and objectives. Explain how the results may be used to solve a problem or inform further research in the field. Our task was to reconfigure an existing plastics press, redesigning it to fit the specific needs of the Thingery and to custom build that bespoke press.

Briefly explain the steps taken (methods used) to conduct the research, and describe the key findings. The plastics press is to be pick up and commissioned by the Thingery. Retirement!

Who was involved in this project (eg. faculty, students, community partners)? How did their involvement contribute to the project's success? Were there any challenges to overcome? Students from a broad range of disciplines (Data Analytics, Web & Mobile, Biology, Engineering) were involved with Fine Art faculty and the community partner. As always with working with a range of students time management and availability is a fluid dynamic. It is important on these projects to have a student team larger than initially anticipated as students have academic demands places on them that can restrict there availability at random times. a larger team smooths out these inconsistencies.

Please share any personal stories that made this research experience memorable/valuable.

It is a great pleasure working with students (both domestic and international) from a range of different disciplines as this provides us with a unique opportunity to learn from each other, share different perspectives, and build new skills. It is very satisfying to enable a team of students to explore new terrain and extend themselves, working with materials and processes they many not initially be completely familiar with but building confidence and rising to the challenge. From the research projects I have been involved with some of the greatest achievements - besides successfully achieving the project goals- is seeing the students grow in knowledge and confidence in what they are able to achieve.

What are the next steps for this project and for you as a researcher?

Market research (existing presses and their characteristics), Materials research (plastics recycleability and thermal fomability characteristics), Design Research (Form factor [size, transportability, repairability, structural integrity], Ergonomics (User interface, ideal operating height, ideal process workflow)

Please upload any images that will help to showcase your project.

By submitting, I consent to uploading my ARC Fund final report to the Langara Institutional Repository (The LalR). [True](#)

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