

# CODE CRAFTERS:

Fostering Public Engagement in Computational Thinking by Leveraging Quilting Communities and Practices

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## QUILTERS' PERCEPTIONS OF COMPUTING VS QUILTING

### INNATE VS. LEARNED SKILLS

STEM skills are innate, quilting skills are learned.

### COMPUTING AS PERSONAL EXPRESSION

Motivation to learn is increased when computing is an aid to personal expression through quilting.

### AVOIDING COMPUTING

Some older quilters still avoid technology unless absolutely necessary.

### TIME INVESTMENT/TANGIBLE REWARD

STEM workshops are worth their time if it results in something tangible.

### COMMUNITY INFLUENCE ON MOTIVATION AND LEARNING

Community is a motivator for learning STEM, both in person and online.

### SYSTEMATIC PREJUDICE AND EFFECTS

Identity is a barrier when it comes to learning and receiving recognition in STEM fields.



I hadn't really thought about **how quilting and computer science were alike**, because, you know, they're not. But it's probably because **[computer science is] not typically associated with quilting**.

But once I started thinking about it, I was like oh my god it's like this and oh my god it's like that...I have an algorithm or a rule that I set, or I'm doing something over and over again the same way. **[Quilting is] very much like programming and computer science**.



- Code Crafters Workshop Participant  
post-workshop interview

## CODE CRAFTERS WORKSHOPS

### FOSTERING LEARNING

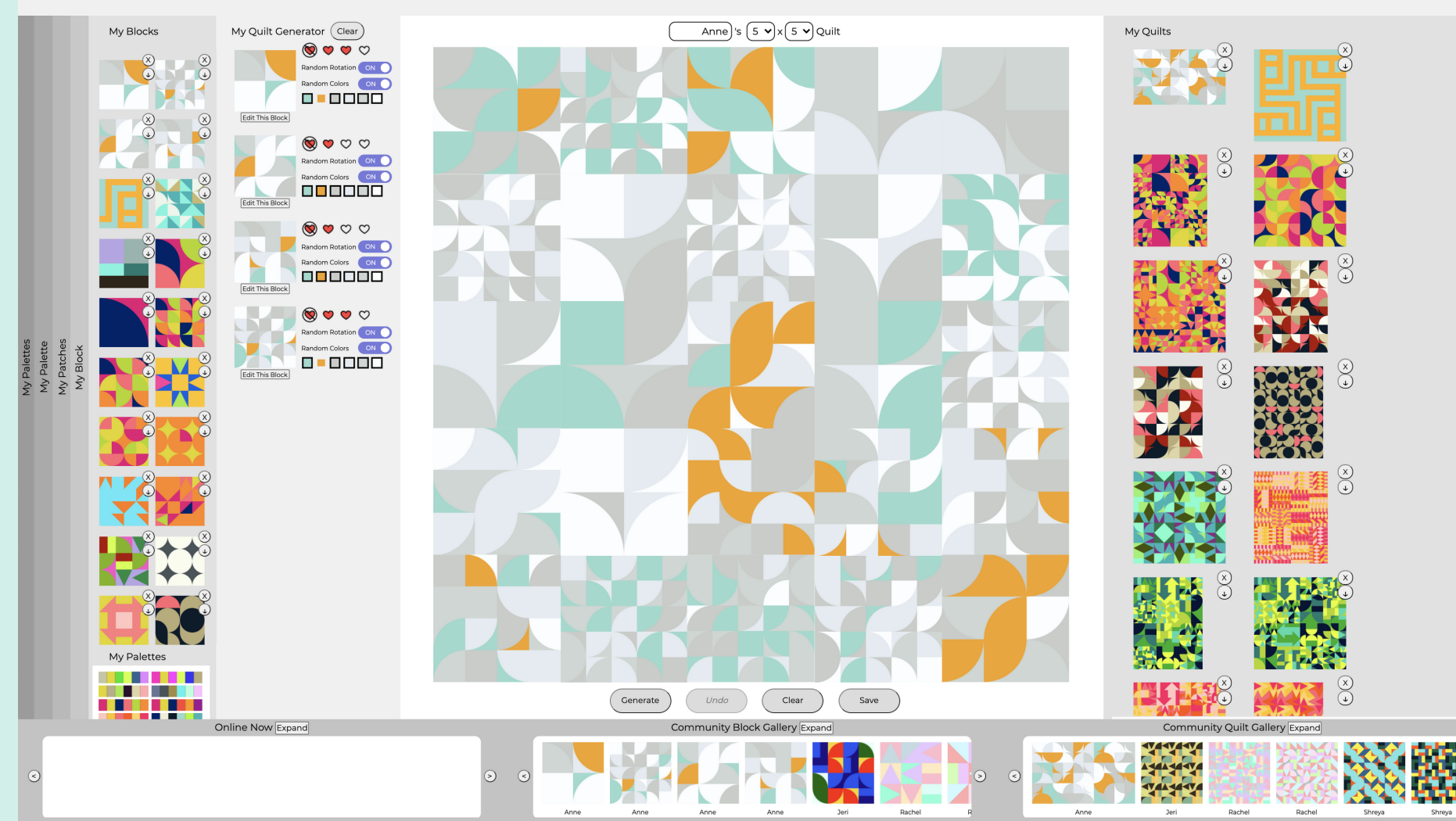
Workshop activities include participant-led discussions around computing and quilting. Workshops designed to celebrate what participants know and draw parallels around their existing knowledge.

### BROADENING CREATIVITY

Software designed to generate quilt designs, but allow the quilter to provide constraints to the software.

### COMMUNITY BUILDING

Software provides shared galleries and active view of what others are designing creates potential for social connections.



**CODE CRAFTERS QUILT DESIGN SOFTWARE CREATED FOR USE IN WORKSHOPS**

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