

By the Numbers

- Annual number of public library programs for young adults: **334,000***
- Annual attendance at young adult programs in public libraries: **5.3 million***
- Young adult programs as a percentage of all public library programs: **8.8%***
- Percentage of 16-17 year olds that used the library in the past year (Source: Pew): **72%**

*Source: 2011 Public Library Survey



Teens in the Chicago Public Library's YOUmedia space.

How Library Programs Benefit Teens

- Libraries provide organized activities and safe places for teens to go after school.
- Libraries develop strong partnerships with community organizations to reach at-risk teens.
- Through innovative programs such as learning labs and makerspaces, libraries offer teens the opportunity to develop 21st century skills.
- Libraries provide community service outlets for teens by engaging them in the development of young adult programs and teen advisory boards.
- Libraries help teens explore and pursue their educational goals by offering information about higher education institutions as well as access to online applications and student financial aid forms.

IMLS Initiatives Targeted to Teens

- **Learning Labs in Libraries and Museums:** Grant-funded spaces intended to engage middle and high school youth in mentor-led, collaborative learning using digital and traditional media.

- **Let's Move! Museums & Gardens:** Part of the *Let's Move!* national initiative to get kids moving and eating healthy food using interactive exhibits, outdoor spaces, gardens, and programs.
- **Museums, Libraries, and 21st Century Skills:** Initiative that underscores museums' and libraries' role in helping citizens build such 21st century skills as critical thinking, problem solving, and creativity.
- **National Arts and Humanities Youth Program Awards:** Annual awards program that recognizes and supports outstanding community arts and humanities programs for youth.
- **National Student Poets Program:** Each year, the five National Student Poets will be chosen from a pool of outstanding writers, grades 9-11, who have received a national Scholastic Art & Writing Award for poetry.
- **National STEM Video Game Challenge:** Annual competition for students in grades 5-12 to develop videogames for prizes and national recognition.

Recent IMLS Grant Activities

- The American Library Association's **Young Adult Library Services Association (YALSA)** was awarded a 2012 **National Leadership Grant** of \$99,937 to bring together key stakeholders as part of a yearlong series of national forum activities to dialog about teens and the future of teen library services. A report from the project, [Future of Library Services for and with Teens](#), is available online.
- Eight libraries in 2012 and seven libraries in 2013 received **Learning Labs in Libraries** grants totaling more than \$1.4 million. Awarded to institutions in Billings (MT), Columbia (MD), Columbus (OH), Kansas City (MO), Las Vegas (NV), Lynn (MA), Nashville (TN), Philadelphia (PA), Pittsburgh (PA), Poughkeepsie (NY), Rochester (NY), San Francisco (CA), St. Paul (MN), Thornton (CO), and Tucson (AZ), the grants will provide prototypes for the field, based on research about digital media and youth learning.
- A 2014 **Laura Bush 21st Century Librarians Program** grant to the **School of Library and Information Studies, University of Oklahoma** in the amount of \$354,367 builds on the results of IMLS-funded Learning Labs by investigating how 24 middle school students engaged in project-based STEM learning to create information in a school library Learning Lab/Makerspace.
- A 2012 **Laura Bush 21st Century Librarians Program** grant to **Rutgers University's Library and Information Department** in the amount of \$399,995 funded research to investigate the impact of gaming on learning among disadvantaged middle and high school students in three states.
- The **Brooklyn Public Library** was awarded a 2009 **Laura Bush 21st Century Librarians Program** grant of \$497,179 to establish a three-year Multicultural Intern Program to introduce 170 diverse local high school students to the library profession through paid internships.
- **Palo Alto City Library** (CA) received \$77,745 in **LSTA Grants to States** funds to involve 22 local teens in the development of a mobile third space that would serve middle and high school age teens through self-directed and mentored creative expression. Participating teens interviewed peers, built prototypes, and created guidelines for the space.
- **Gadsden County Public Library System** (FL) received \$47,256 in **LSTA Grants to States** funds to provide science-themed programs for tweens and teens in schools, outreach locations, and libraries. The project incorporated student volunteers who learned more about science principles and how to teach them .
- **Saint Paul Public Library** (MN) received \$26,237 in **LSTA Grants to States** funds to create a system of badges together with Saint Paul Parks and Recreation to certify work readiness for Youth Job Corps Workers hired by the two city departments. This "gamification" of skills acquisition provided youth with credentials in areas such as writing resumes and time management.
- **Multnomah County Library** (OR) received \$118,354 in **LSTA Grants to States** funds as part of a two-year project to design a homework help tool for middle and high school students. The project included interviews and focus groups and incorporated new features such as chat, infographics, and videos.

About the Institute of Museum and Library Services

The Institute of Museum and Library Services is the primary source of federal support for the nation's 123,000 libraries and 35,000 museums. Through grant making, policy development, and research, we help communities and individuals thrive through broad public access to knowledge, cultural heritage, and lifelong learning. To learn more about IMLS, please visit www.imls.gov.