



MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

January 2012

Hive Learning Network Mission

The Hive Learning Network New York City is a community of learning organizations dedicated to transforming the learning landscape, and to creating opportunities for youth to explore their interests, develop new skills and follow their passions through the educational application of digital media and technology in adult-supported environments.

Created as part of The MacArthur Foundation's Digital Media & Learning initiative in 2009, The Hive Learning Network currently operates in NYC and Chicago. Hive NYC is also a project of the Mozilla Foundation.

Hive Core Beliefs

- School is not the sole provider in a community's educational system
- Learning should be driven by youth's interests
- Digital is the glue and amplifier for connected learning experiences
- Out-of-school time spaces are fertile grounds for learning innovation
- Organizations must collaborate to thrive
- Youth need to be both sophisticated consumers and active producers of digital media

How To Join

A select cohort of non-profit educational and cultural organizations joined together as founding members of Hive NYC, which has since expanded its membership to 38 organizations. Additional groups may join the network via the Hive Digital Media Learning Fund in the New York Community Trust (see "Funding" below). Groups

receiving grants through this Fund automatically become members of Hive NYC and are required to be active participants in Network activities.

Membership Benefits

Members become part of a collaborative network of museums, libraries, universities and other youth programs that offer out-of-school learning opportunities for teens in NYC. Hive NYC projects are all interest-driven, often times digital, and always innovative.

Membership in the Hive Learning Network NYC offers:

Funding

- Funding for Network members is available through the Hive Digital Media Learning Fund in the New York Community Trust. Grants ranging in size from \$25,000-\$250,000 are available twice yearly.
- Hive NYC may also offer fee-for-service funding through its operating budget for participation in events and other programs as opportunities arise

Collaboration

- Participate in an educational community seeking lasting systemic transformation
- Build and develop experimental and/or sustainable partnerships with other members
- Leverage expertise of Network members to learn new skills, tools, methods and pedagogies as they align with 21st Century skills and practices
- Engage in knowledge exchange regarding shared models, ideas, content, tools, best-practices
- Gain exclusive opportunities to play test, partner, and co-develop new software and other digital tools for learning (Mozilla and other technical partners)
- Lead and participate in organized Professional Development sessions that develop staff through network peer mentoring, modeling and sharing
- Increase opportunities for youth to work with and learn from others
- Participate in events like World Maker Faire, Bring to Light, Hive London Pop-Up, hack jams, etc.
- Network in-person at regular member meet-ups
- Share ideas, solicit feedback, promote events and more via private, online forum
- Expand audience for youth and volunteer recruitment
- Engage in cross-network projects and programs with Hive Chicago members
- Visit Network members' home base to learn more about their programs, successes, failures

Affiliations

- The MacArthur Foundation Digital Media & Learning Initiative
 - Access to the latest research, theoretical models and innovations framing the educational potential of digital media
 - Increased visibility for successful programs and practices

- Receive guidance and feedback on current/potential projects
- The New York Community Trust
 - Access to additional funding opportunities
 - Connections with broader New York City cultural initiatives
 - Receive guidance and feedback on current/potential projects
- Mozilla
 - Become part of a learning lab aimed at helping teens become web makers
 - Help prototype and develop new, open source digital tools
 - Provide input to shape Mozilla's efforts in learning
 - Receive guidance and feedback on current/potential projects
- Hive Learning Network Chicago
 - Utilize cross-network expertise to expand professional development opportunities
 - Extend relationships with like-minded learning organizations in Chicago
 - Collaborate to build and grow the Hive Learning Network brand

Hive NYC Resources and Support

- Broker new member connections based on shared ideas/potential programs
- Expertise in strategy, programming, public relations, event planning, etc.
- Promote organizations/programs/events through Hive NYC communications channels (blog, Facebook, Twitter, etc.)
- Make introductions to potential partners, new digital tools, etc.
- Conceptualize, plan and manage Hive NYC events

Membership Responsibilities

As part of this network, members commit to:

Be participative

- Be active in the Network
- Attend and take part in meetings, events, workshops, committees and online forums
 - Host member meet-ups and present org/program overviews
 - Participate in and lead PD sessions
- Stay active in Network communication efforts
 - Share content for social and traditional media channels (i.e., blog, website, photos, etc.)

Be collaborative

- Partner with other Network members to develop and enhance programs
- Share and solicit expertise, ideas, resources, feedback and opportunities with the Network
- Embrace an open source mentality
- Help drive Hive NYC thinking around technology, pedagogy, leadership, program

- framework and other relevant topics
- Build cross-network efforts on behalf of Hive Learning Network

Be innovative

- Develop youth-centered learning programs that use digital media and technology
- Advance and experiment with these tools, as well as with new teaching/learning strategies

Be advocates

- Be a champion for youth and their intellectual and creative interests
- Help youth find pathways and opportunities for learning

Be ambassadors

- Represent Hive NYC through project identity, outreach, research, conferences, etc.

Document

- Grantees of the Hive Digital Media Learning Fund report to the Trust directly on grant activities, and may be asked to report on program outcomes to additional funders and their designated researchers
- Report on lessons learned during development and implementation, as well as successes and failures
- Utilize the technology framework set up by the Network to present programs and connect to youth
- Participate in Network-conducted research and evaluation of outcomes and impacts