



# HIVE

## THE HIVE LEARNING NETWORK

### Frequently Asked Questions



#### WHAT IS THE HIVE LEARNING NETWORK?

The Hive Learning Network is connected learning in action. It is a community of organizations that serve youth in the out-of-school space. Together, they are working to create connected learning experiences to not only engage youth and promote learning that aligns with their interests, but to support them as they develop necessary 21st century skills.



#### WHAT IS CONNECTED LEARNING?

Connected Learning is a framework for thinking about learning that, while drawing from successful approaches of the past, is also based on evidence of what works best in the contemporary context and in the digital age. It is a set of educational and design values and principles that can be adapted and applied to any context. It re-imagines the learning experience of young people to connect the three spheres of their life that matter most to them—peer culture, interests, and academics. It ensures that young people learn the traditional reading, writing, and numeracy skills, while inspiring them to be creative, analytical problem solvers. It provides for more engaging, relevant, and enduring learning experiences that prepare youth for college, the workforce, and citizenship in a democracy.

#### WHAT IS THE GOAL?

With the ultimate goal of connecting the learning that takes place across three important spheres of a young person's life—peer culture, interests, and academics—the Hive experience should:

- Transform the city or metropolitan area into a learning platform for young people, making “anytime, anywhere” learning possible;
- Value and make visible the learning that takes place out of school and connect it to formal learning experiences;
- Be a catalyst for more engaging learning experiences in schools and other formal learning spaces;
- Create multiple ways for young people to learn and redefine achievement to increase the number of youth who thrive.



## WHO CAN JOIN?

Participants in Hive Learning Networks in Chicago and New York City include civic, cultural, and youth development organizations, schools, city agencies, artists, technologists, and game developers. The Networks welcome organizations that are committed to collaboration in order to create connected learning experiences for youth.

## HOW DID THE HIVE LEARNING NETWORK ORIGINATE?

The idea for a Hive Learning Network began with the MacArthur Foundation's digital media and learning initiative as it explored how digital media are changing how young people learn and what that means for education. Launched in New York City in 2007, the New York Hive is hosted by the Mozilla Foundation. The Chicago Hive Learning Network was created in 2009 and is hosted by DePaul University. Other Hive Learning Network locations are in development.

## HOW DO I START A HIVE IN MY CITY?

Every location will implement a Hive Learning Network in a way that makes sense in its own community. There is a set of principles and practices that provides a flexible framework for all Hive locations. It includes guidelines for membership, governance, financing, and program development.

## HOW IS THE HIVE LEARNING NETWORK SUPPORTED?

Funding for Hive Learning Networks comes from creative public/private partnerships, and support from the philanthropic community. The MacArthur Foundation provided seed money to establish Networks in Chicago and New York. Annual operating and project fund costs depend on location and size of the Network.

## HOW HAVE HIVE LEARNING NETWORKS AFFECTED YOUNG PEOPLE'S LEARNING?

The Hive Learning Networks are relatively young, and findings will emerge over time. All locations are part of a research effort to understand how the activities of the Hive influence student performance in school.

## WHERE DO I FIND MORE INFORMATION?

<http://www.hivelearningnetwork.org/>  
[www.explorecreateshare.org](http://www.explorecreateshare.org)

