



THE LEARNING LAB

WINTER NEWS

WHYY CONSTRUCTS NEW HOME FOR THE LEARNING LAB

Construction continues on the new Learning Lab at WHYY. An addition to the current WHYY studios in Philadelphia, the Learning Lab will be a place where community members learn to create their own media.

With two production classrooms, editing suites, and the Lincoln Financial Digital Education Studio, the new facility will house all of the Learning Lab's current programs plus new initiatives for teachers, seniors, and WHYY members.

Construction is scheduled for completion in May. Pilot projects and summer programs will test drive the new space ahead of a September grand opening.



RECRUITMENT BEGINS FOR SPRING SESSION OF WHYY AFTERSCHOOL

The spring session of WHYY Afterschool begins February 8th. WHYY Afterschool is a documentary workshop for 10th-12th grade students. Participants work in groups to create short documentaries on topics that concern them or their communities.

Concurrent sessions of the program meet 4-6pm on Monday/Wednesday and Tuesday/Thursday. Interested applicants can sign up at WHYY.org/learninglab.



Independence Mall West
150 N. Sixth Street
Philadelphia, PA 19106

P: 215.351.3318

E: csantoro@whyy.org

Hours:
M-F: 9am to 5pm



The Learning Lab at WHYY is made possible through the extraordinary support of the following donors:

- + Dorrance Hamilton
- + Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
- + Lincoln Financial Foundation
- + Delaware River Port Authority
- + The ARAMARK Charitable Fund at the Vanguard Charitable Endowment Program
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- + Bank of America Foundation
- + Priscilla Brown
- + Kyra McGrath
- + Campbell Soup Foundation
- + Wachovia Foundation



Clockwise from left to right: Learning Lab construction began in May 2009 and is scheduled for completion in May 2010; The Learning Lab's entrance will face 7th street; Learning Lab students sign steel beam before it becomes part of new building.

WHYY Afterschool

During construction, the Learning Lab's popular documentary workshop for teens has been held at the Charter High School for Architecture and Design. The Monday/Wednesday and Tuesday/Thursday sessions are producing a total of four short documentaries.

The first film focuses on the resurgence of Michel Jackson-inspired hip-hop dance. The students in the movie, who dance in public space, discuss how their dance moves "breakdown walls culturally and artistically." Another movie tackles Philadelphia's trash problems. The students are interviewing local trash/recycling organizations to come up with creative ways that teenagers can help recycle and eliminate pollution. A third group of students are creating a project on the Philadelphia zoo, focusing its status as the first zoo in the U.S. The final movie deals with student reactions to Northeast High School's recently acquired uniform policy.

The documentaries will be screened for the public and available on WHYY's website in February.

Episcopal Community Services

It's the Learning Lab's second year working with Episcopal Community Services of Philadelphia. Learning Lab instructor Reid Cohen has been working with ten teens from ECS to finish a documentary that has been in the works for almost a year. The documentary is a tribute to the Philadelphia's teens that have persevered despite living in neighborhoods plagued by violence, poverty, and drugs. The teens in the film stress the importance of teen programming.

Boys and Girls Club

The Learning Lab and the Boys and Girls Club of Camden County have teamed up once again to teach the next generation of filmmakers. In our third year of partnership, instructor Steve Dixon, has been teaching middle school students to shoot, edit, and conduct interviews. For their first project the students are creating a video about

the opportunities the club provides for the residents of Camden County. This project is funded by a generous grant from the Campbell Soup Foundation.

Parkway Center City

Six students studying African American history at Parkway Center City High School are working with the Lab to learn elements of video production and create a five- to seven-minute video relating to African American culture. This year the students chose the role of stepping within Historically African American fraternities and sororities. They will visit several universities around the city and speak with scholars on the subject. Their movie will be screened in late May..

Learning Lab Pilot Projects

The Learning Lab building will be the home of production experiences for learners of all ages. This spring, the Lab is piloting hands-on training for teachers, WHYY members, and seniors. Participants will learn to shoot and edit video, conduct interviews, make digital scrapbooks, and more. If you or someone you know is interested in participating in a Learning Lab pilot, please contact Craig Santoro at 215-351-3318 or csantoro@whyy.org.

BRING YOUR STUDENTS ON FIELD TRIP TO WHYY

Take a tour of our TV and Radio studios, and work with staff from WHYY's Learning Lab. Your students will have the opportunity to use WHYY's equipment to conduct person on the street interviews on Independence Mall.

Call 215-928-2421 for details.

Matt Liggeons

WHYY Afterschool student, Matt Liggeons, a senior at CHAD has been working on a film that follows a hip-hop dance club. In his second year with the program, Matt has really emerged as an artist and a leader. "I have the freedom to take the camera to the source. My friends are all about it, and I am all about it... This whole project has been awesome"

Katie Johnson:

Before attending the Learning Lab's after-school documentary program, Katie Johnson had never even picked up a video camera. She certainly never thought video production would bring so much joy to her life. Katie is producing a documentary on the Philadelphia zoo, and is quick to praise her work with the Lab. "I have learned so much by doing this program and I am very pleased to say I'd do it again."

