Createch and the Teen Tech Crew

From Hanging Out to Messing Around
Digital learning takes place informally.

Because of (a lack of) access, the digital divide is increasing.

Libraries, Parks, and Museums can play an important role in bridging the accessibility gap during out of school time.
We need to foster learning through media, engaging teens in ways that interest them.
It’s not about programming - it’s about youth development
Mentors

- build relationships
- create and maintain a safe space
- guide teens to discover possibilities, spark curiosity, and learn new media
- celebrate and direct teens’ passions
- grow new mentors (train teens who have aged out of the programs to be mentors)
Mimi Ito is a cultural anthropologist studying new media use, focusing on how to support socially connected learning experiences for young people.

- Hanging Out
- Messing Around
- Geeking Out
Hanging Out (HO*MA*GO)

- friendship driven, how teens make connections:
  - video games
  - comfy seating
  - teen collection
  - laptop checkout
  - loud & busy
Messing Around (HO*MA*GO)

- interest-driven, how teens explore their interests:
  - sound equipment
  - video production software
  - cameras
  - graphic design software
  - scanners
Geeking Out (HO*MA*GO)

Interest-driven, how teens take the next step toward their passions with guided instruction:

- Producing and marketing films
- Creating literary magazines
- Recording albums
- Making podcasts

(Not the end goal for all teens; this is not a linear process)
Library, Parks, and Museum staff as Youth Workers

- Our current model: kids ask us for help with their interests
- Problem: Kids can’t articulate what their interests are or know how to pursue them.
- Future model: Staff help kids articulate their interests and how to pursue them
How?

- If you do youth development well, it’s messy.

  - Approach youth development with questions, not solutions
  - Everyone as both teacher and a learner
  - Key ingredient for positive and strong relationships with teens is trust
  - Strong mentorship component is essential
It’s all about connections...

If we teach today’s students as we taught yesterday’s, we rob them of tomorrow.

John Dewey
Janos will talk about fostering ‘hanging out’ in Libraries/Parks

Peter will talk about fostering a ‘messing around’ culture with the Teen Tech Crew
http://tmblr.co/ZtdAGwe7UT8B

Marika will talk about potential for ‘geeking out’ in the future

A Q&A will follow - but please interrupt with questions at any point!