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Media only: Gabriel Riera (202) 633-4765; rierag@si.edu
Erin Baysden (202) 633-0828; baysdene@si.edu

Media website: <http://www.hirshhorn.si.edu>

The Hirshhorn Receives Significant Funding for Digital Learning

The Museum Launches ARTLAB+

Digital Technology and Innovative Approaches Are Key

The Smithsonian's Hirshhorn Museum announces significant funding that supports technology-driven education for young people. The Hirshhorn is the recipient of a John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation grant of \$500,000 for the creation of a digital youth learning center. It has also received a technology grant of \$50,000 from the computer and video game industry's philanthropic arm, the Entertainment Software Association Foundation. In addition, the Hirshhorn is one of three Smithsonian museums named in a Pearson Foundation and Nokia gift awarded earlier this year to enhance education through the use of mobile and digital technologies at the Smithsonian.

The combined funding will assist the Hirshhorn in building a physical and intellectual environment—a “21st-century classroom”—that blends technology and curriculum in innovative ways. The Museum has launched an initiative called ARTLAB+ to house various free education programs. Applying MacArthur research on how the young people of today learn, the ARTLAB+ programs support a conversion from passive content consumption to active content production. Using the model of a professional design studio, students work with the Museum's exhibitions and collection as a way to explore art in the context of contemporary ideas about technology and culture. Some programs are already under way and more will be developed in the coming years. Registration is currently open for the spring workshop.

Ryan Hill, the Hirshhorn's director of digital learning programs, is developing the project. “This funding helps us build an immersive and engaging environment where young people can explore a variety of technologies, including digital artworks created by their peers and inspired by

film and video from our permanent collection,” he said. “It gives us an opportunity to create a hothouse culture where young people learn about art from each other.”

“The Hirshhorn’s commitment to learning ranks equally with its commitment to exhibitions, representing a dynamic new approach in which education is seen as a full partner with curatorial efforts,” said Milena Kalinovska, director of public programs at the Hirshhorn. “This is a departure from the standard museum model, which tends to regard educational programming as an adjunct to the exhibitions on view. Key to the Museum’s approach is the use of digital tools to teach young people about art.”

In partnership with the Pearson Foundation, the Hirshhorn spearheaded a pilot program of mobile learning workshops this summer where participants created games, blogs and videos that were shared on a social network set up especially for the curriculum. Hill developed the program with guidance from the Mobile Learning Institute, a Nokia/Pearson Foundation alliance.

The ARTLAB+ program currently under way draws inspiration from two Hirshhorn exhibitions that separately examine recent “ruins” and raise provocative questions about consumerism and the grand plans of today’s artists and architects—will they fare any better than those of previous generations? Working in teams, the students use digital technology to define and observe the “ruins” of the built environment in their surroundings in order to produce a thematically integrated video or photo series based on their insights. Their work will receive critical feedback from artists Ruth Jarman and Joe Gerhardt, known collectively as Semiconductor, currently in residence under a Smithsonian Artist Research Fellowship.

The Museum plans to redesign the lobby as a learning and social space that will include an area dedicated to ARTLAB+.

About the Hirshhorn

The Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, the Smithsonian Institution’s museum of international modern and contemporary art, has nearly 12,000 paintings, sculptures, photographs, mixed-media installations, works on paper and new media works in its collection. The Hirshhorn presents diverse exhibitions and an array of public programs that explore the art of our time.

The museum offers a range of interactive educational experiences designed to engage people of all interest levels in contemporary art. Friday Gallery Talks are weekly lunchtime chats with artists and scholars that focus on one work in depth. The museum’s ever-expanding library of podcasts

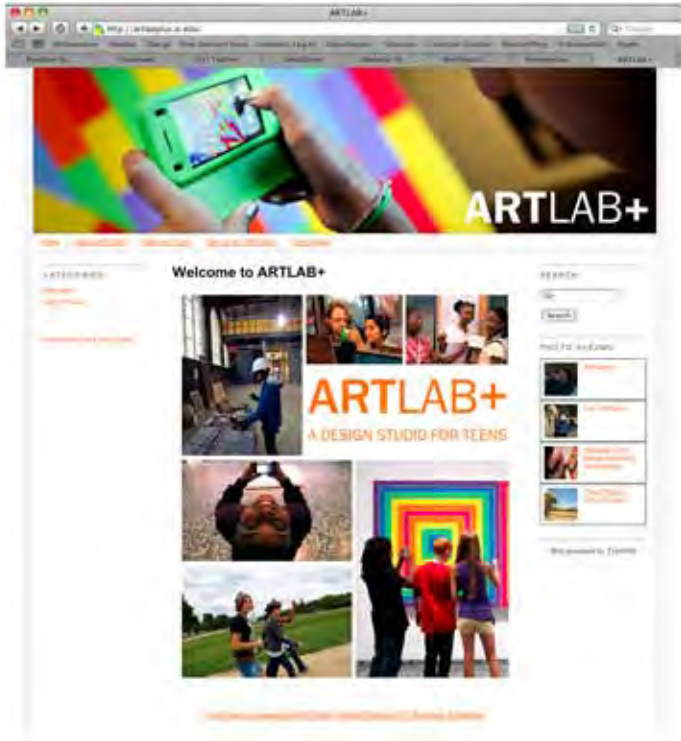
(featured on iTunes in the top 100 Arts and Entertainment podcasts) makes gallery walk-throughs and interviews with artists accessible internationally.

Located at Independence Avenue and Seventh Street S.W., the museum is open daily from 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. (except Dec. 25). Admission to the galleries and special programs is free. For more information about exhibitions and events, visit hirshhorn.si.edu. To request accessibility services, contact Kristy Maruca at marucak@si.edu or (202) 633-2796, preferably two weeks in advance.



Click the image above to watch a video about the Mobile Learning Institute at the Smithsonian. Adobe Flash Player is required. To view this video on YouTube, [click here](#).

LINKS



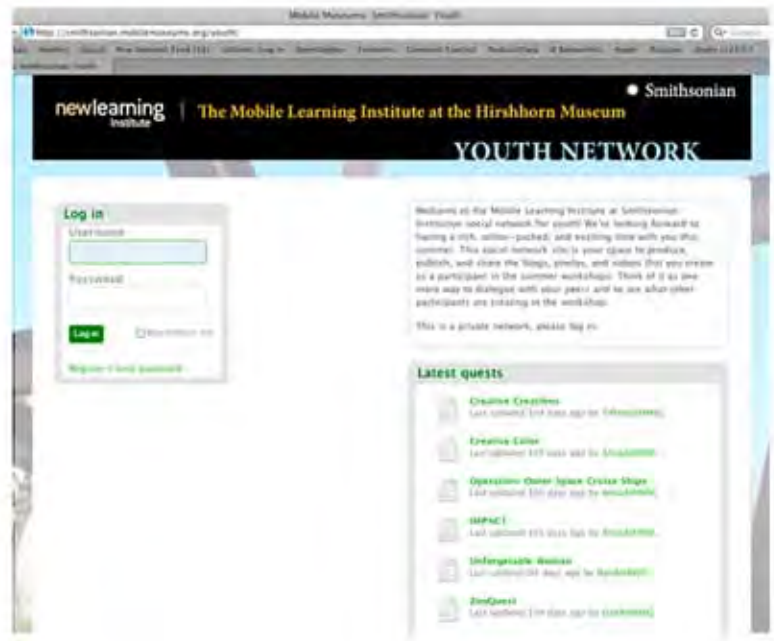
ArtLAB+ Blog



MacArthur Foundation Research



Mobile Learning Institute at the Smithsonian



MLI-SI Youth Network

ARTLAB+ *A DESIGN STUDIO FOR TEENS*

ARTLAB+ video

Have you dreamed of being a video director or producer? What about seeing your name in lights? Join the design team to scout locations around DC, make a creative video series, and have your own screening at the Hirshhorn. Recommended for ages 15+.

- **Session 1:** Jan 24–Mar 16, Mon and Wed, 4:30–6:30 pm
- **Session 2:** Mar 28–May 25, Mon and Wed, 4:30–6:30 pm

ARTLAB+ web

Become a webmaster. Capture the world. You'll document art on signs, in the street, at home, and around school. Next you'll transform a website and add your photos to it—as teens from around the country join in! For ages 13+.

- **Session 1:** Jan 25–Feb 17, Tue and Thu, 4:30–6:30 pm
- **Session 2:** Feb 22–Mar 17, Tue and Thu, 4:30–6:30 pm
- **Session 3:** Mar 29–Apr 28, Tue and Thu, 4:30–6:30 pm, excluding Apr 19 and 21
- **Session 4:** May 3–May 26, Tue and Thu, 4:30–6:30 pm

ARTLAB+ podcast

Fame, fame, doin' it for the fame. Come to the museum for a day, learn to interpret the art, and make a podcast anyone can listen to! Future visitors will take your tours and share their thoughts with you online. For ages 13+.

- **One-day sessions:** First Saturday of every month, Feb–May, 10 am–3 pm (lunch provided)

ARTLAB+ animation

Work it in the Art Lab. Use Flash, Illustrator, photography, and video to craft an original animated world. In one hardcore week, you'll work with a professional animator, create a short film, and screen your work in the Hirshhorn. For ages 13+.

- **One-week session:** Apr 18–22, Mon–Fri, 10 am–4 pm (lunch provided)

ARTLAB+ creative consulting

Now it's time to run the show. Join our team to make teen voices heard. You'll work with museum staff to plan events and create programs for you and your friends. Tell us what's cool and make it happen. For ages 13+.

- **First and last Fridays of every month:** Feb 4–May 27, 4:30–6:30 pm



Smithsonian
Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden

