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STEM Will Define Tomorrow's Workforce: New ULC Resources Equip Libraries as 21st-Century Education Leaders

ULC's STEM Strategic Playbook and Quickstart Toolkit provide action strategies and tools to help libraries build partnerships, programs and skills to reach and engage underserved youth.

WASHINGTON – The Urban Libraries Council has published two robust new resources to empower all public libraries as STEM education leaders. ULC's new [*Partners for Middle School STEM Strategic Playbook*](#) guides library teams in building successful programs and cross-sector partnerships to advance inclusive and robust STEM learning environments for low-income middle school youth. Complementing the *Strategic Playbook*, ULC's [*Building the STEM Workforce: Quickstart Toolkit*](#) is designed to orient libraries who are new to this work with strategies for short-term, sustainable progress, as well as resources for deeper exploration.

"From education, to careers, to the economy – STEM is already a driving force for the future of 21st-century communities, and it won't be slowing down any time soon. Yet, education institutions, including public libraries, have not kept up with the STEM needs of today's youth," said ULC President & CEO Susan Benton. "ULC's new *Strategic Playbook* and *Quickstart Toolkit* are launchpads for helping libraries of all sizes step up as intentional and active STEM education leaders in order to build a more equitable future for everyone."

These new resources expand on ULC's [*Partners for Middle School STEM*](#) initiative, which launched in 2019 to identify new models for how libraries and other community leaders can better collaborate to strengthen STEM learning opportunities and engagement for local youth. Run in partnership with the National Center for Interactive Learning at the Space Sciences Institute and funded by the Institute for Museum and Library Services, this initiative focuses on reaching and engaging low-income "tweens" — who not only face disproportionate education barriers but are also at an age when establishing fundamental STEM skills is especially critical.

The *Strategic Playbook*, *Quickstart Toolkit* and Partners for Middle School STEM project were made possible in part by the Institute of Museum and Library Services grant LG-95-18-0025-18. For additional information, visit urbanlibraries.org.

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About the Urban Libraries Council

The Urban Libraries Council is an innovation and action tank of North America's leading public library systems. ULC drives cutting-edge research and strategic partnerships to elevate the power of libraries as essential, transformative institutions for the 21st century. More than 150 urban member libraries in the U.S. and Canada rely on ULC to identify significant challenges facing today's communities and provide new tools and techniques to help libraries achieve stronger outcomes in education, digital equity, workforce and economic development, and race and social equity.



About the Institute of Museum and Library Services

The Institute of Museum and Library Services is the primary source of federal support for the nation's libraries and museums. We advance, support, and empower America's museums, libraries, and related organizations through grantmaking, research, and policy development. Our vision is a nation where museums and libraries work together to transform the lives of individuals and communities. To learn more, visit www.ims.gov and follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).