



CITY OF SAINT PAUL

Mayor Christopher B. Coleman

390 City Hall
15 West Kellogg Boulevard
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55102

Telephone: 651-266-8510
Facsimile: 651-228-8521

August 12, 2011

Erin Downey Howerton
Learning Labs Program Manager
Urban Libraries Council (ULC)
Margaret Glass
Partnerships and Alliances
Association of Science-Technology Centers (ASTC)

Dear Ms. Howerton and Ms. Glass,

I am writing to support the application of the Saint Paul Public Library for \$100,000 from the Learning Labs in Libraries and Museums program.

From my first campaign for Mayor in 2005 to our launch earlier this year of Sprockets, Saint Paul's out-of-school-time network, I have been intent on transforming the role that city government plays in education and learning. One of my goals is to ensure that all youth will be ready for college and career by strengthening out-of-school learning in Saint Paul. In recognition of our progress, we are among a group of finalists for the second generation of funding from the Wallace Foundation to help cities establish out-of-school-time systems.

The Saint Paul Public Library is key to our mission. The Library was an early leader among its colleagues in establishing homework centers and reading tutoring programs and is now leading our efforts to promote 21st century skill building among teens, including those competencies developed through media creation and literacy. Our Library Director co-leads the City's role in Sprockets, and is active on my Education Leadership Team, a partnership with our school system, county, and the Wilder Foundation. The Library is helping us envision and create the digital space for our out-of-school system.

Finally, in recognition of her leadership, Kit Hadley, our Library Director, was recently tapped to chair the Board of Directors of Youthprise, a new statewide intermediary created by the McKnight Foundation to champion learning beyond the classroom and promote access, quality and equity in out-of-school-time opportunities for all youth.

The grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services will accomplish planning for one place-based learning lab, one suite of resources comprising a mobile learning lab, and further citywide collaboration between youth stakeholders, from youth service providers such as the Library to corporate organizations such as 3M.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Christopher B. Coleman". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline.

Christopher B. Coleman
Mayor