

John F. Kennedy Public Library
Operational Plan
Young Adult Services
2009-2010



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Introduction

The John F. Kennedy Public Library services a very diverse community. Some of its users include senior citizens, kids at risk, high school and middle school aged kids, young families, businessmen and business women, and children who are just learning to read. What the Library has attempted to do by creating this Operational Plan is to provide the Young Adult users (and this includes mostly high school aged and new college attendees) with more up-to-date and effective services and tools for learning. The Library wants to promote its commitment to quality and meaningful learning, and we want to reach out to the community and provide support for those looking for it. We want the community to develop a newfound appreciation for learning, and learning inspired by the self. Not only does the Library want to make an impact on the individual lives of young adults, but we want to create a connection with the community as a whole. We want to inspire a new commitment and understanding of civic responsibility by encouraging volunteerism and community service in a variety of ways.



Purpose of the YA Services Operational Plan

The purpose of this operational plan is to re-think, re-organize, and re-vamp the Young Adult Services at the John F. Kennedy Public Library. This particular plan is target for implementation during the 2009-2010 fiscal year, and will hopefully jumpstart programming for future operational plans within the library. The planning committee also hopes that the implementation of this plan will energize and inspire the planning and implementation of operational plans for all other departments in the library that need to be re-vamped. The major purpose of this particular plan is to connect with Young Adult users in a way that is new and interactive and that will get the community's teens involved with the library in ways they have never been. The planning committee hopes this operational plan will bring teens closer together and begin to share an understanding of what it truly means to be part of a community.



John F. Kennedy Public Library Mission Statement

The John F. Kennedy Public Library will provide its users with the best possible resources and conditions for lifelong learning and research, and create a working environment dedicated to equity and mutual respect. It will cooperate with city government and businesses, as well as with

the general community, to create new knowledge, prepare its youth and young adults for fulfilling careers, and improve the quality of life through leading-edge services.

The Library's Vision for YA Services

The John F. Kennedy Public Library will be a vital community center that provides support for the YA user population interested in expanding their horizons. The library will achieve this goal by (1) creating a safe and welcoming environment for YA users and (2) by providing the most current and relevant resources that represent the information and knowledge seeking needs of the community's Young Adults.



YA Services Core Values

1. Providing a safe and educational environment for teens that they feel is their center for learning and personal growth.
2. Connecting teens with each other, their families and their community.
3. Tolerance and patience.
4. Volunteerism and Civic Awareness.
5. Collaboration and creativity.

YA Library Culture

This operational plan will attempt to establish a specific Young Adult culture within the library space designated to YA users. This culture will compliment the efforts of librarians and teens alike who will be working together to carry out the functions of this plan. The YA Culture will resemble:

1. Casual encounters between navigators (librarians) and seekers (YA users).
 - By meeting users at their level and helping them reach the next.
2. Conversations that reinforce learning and understanding.
 - By teaching instead of underestimating; by being hands on instead of appearing disconnected and uninterested.



Where's the Library Now?

- Summer Reading Program: The John F. Kennedy Public Library 2008 Summer Reading Program reached out to 200 teens.
- Volunteerism: Current YA volunteers are zero.
- Homework Help: Currently, the library's Live Homework Help program is on hold due to limited funds available for staffing.

- Computer Services: YA Services currently has five computer work stations and one computer designated for catalog searches.
- Community Activities and Outreach: The library currently offers a variety of programs that are sporadic in availability and minimally promoted by the library.

Where we Want to Be

The John F. Kennedy Public Library wants to create a YA user space that facilitates collaboration amongst librarians and teens in the most effective and encouraging manner. We want teens and their families to build renewed relationships and educational connections. We want teens and their families to value their community and community service and understand the values and purpose of their library.

- Summer Reading Program: Our goal is to grow the Summer Reading Program to service 500 teens during summer 2009.
- Volunteerism: Bring in YA volunteers from the community and high schools to assist with Children's Services and Story Time, and have at least one scheduled each day of the week.
- Homework Help: Re-organize the current program and develop a working schedule to assist teens with their homework. The program will most likely not be available 24 hours, and we will adhere to a reasonable schedule that is flexible and centered around staff availability.
- Computer Services: Increase YA Services computer work stations to fifteen and add one more catalog designated computer.

- Community Services and Outreach: We are striving for a YA user community that is aware of their civic potential. Our programming will be downsized to reflect this goal, and all programming that is stagnant and out of budget will be eliminated.



How do we Get There?

Library Management

- Maximize YA workspaces to reflect a more inviting environment conducive to learning and collaboration.
- Focus programming to incorporate independent learning.
- Support a “Nooks for Knowledge” type of atmosphere within the YA library space that will promote group study.

Library Staff

- Attend training workshops to learn and understand how to connect with teens at their level of understanding.
- Create a teen blog and get the YA user population involved in its creation and life.
- Facilitate workshops centered around teens and their computer literacy needs.
- Create a structured volunteer program for YA users who want to get involved with volunteering and reaching out to their communities.

Programming

- Create a volunteer recruiting program.
 - o Recruit at high schools.
 - o Send mailers to the community to promote interest and awareness for the need of volunteers.
 - o Actively recruit within the library.
 - o Promote teen volunteering on the library website.

Facility

- Re-model the YA service area.
 - o Paint the walls in neutral colors that promote calmness.
 - o Add vibrant colors to the area with signage and bulletin boards to inspire creativity.
 - o Re-name the area to Teen Center to give the segment of users more of a specific identity.

- Replace old, used chairs with cozy, durable chairs.



Conclusion

John F. Kennedy Public Library hopes to begin setting this operational plan in motion on January 5, 2009. The planning committee has designated the volunteer program, community outreach efforts, and Teen Summer Reading program as top priorities and each program will have its own Take Action Committee. The operational planning committee will monitor the progress and success or failure of each program by surveying and analyzing specific plan action points monthly. The planning committee will reach out to the community for input and feedback on the success of the programs and will conduct at least two community open house sessions to allow community members to voice their concerns about the success or failure of the plan in action. The JFK Public Library has confidence in this plan and we believe that the YA user population will increase and be more vibrant and buzzing than ever before. There will be a new sense of knowledge seeking and community pride throughout the YA user population that will serve as a model for future generations.

