



Progress Report, July 2013

Teen Underground's second year saw more partnerships, more volunteers, and more teens. The TU is becoming the place for Anchorage youth to gather, create, learn, and socialize. Outreach efforts and added programming this past year created a need for volunteers to sustain the increased activity and maintain program quality. Many adults eagerly signed up to mentor teens in the TU. Now in its third year, teens and adults are struck by the energy and diversity in the space. The TU has grown into a true cooperative venture: thanks to library staff, community partners, volunteers, and the teens who loyally attend. The Teen Underground is a place to return weekly to see friendly faces and create meaningful experiences.

Teen Writing Society

What started as a pilot project in November is now a full-fledged writing group that gathers every Wednesday night to discuss ideas and develop their craft. The TWS is made possible by a core of adult volunteers with a passion for writing and mentoring the young poets and novelists who call Anchorage home. In April, the group in collaboration with 49 Writers produced its first magazine, *Words from the Underground*.

Video Club

Every Tuesday, creative teens arrive in Teen Underground to learn about video production. The club is made possible through a partnership with Alaska Teen Media Institute. ATMI staff bring their expertise to teach club members filming and editing skills. To view the films, check out Video Club's Vimeo page: <http://tinyurl.com/TUVideo>

Homework Help

University students from UAA and community professionals served as Homework Help Mentors every Monday and Thursday afterschool during the spring semester, volunteering their time to help middle and high school students with a range of academic subjects. Homework Help will resume in September.



Teens work on cooperative projects from computing to crafting in a space of their own



Led by Alaska Teen Media Institute, TU's Video Club members review their latest production



The Arts!

Last Thursday Art Show

On the last Thursday of every month, Teen Underground transforms into an art gallery to showcase the work of young artists. Past shows included photography from West High School, recycled art from Alaska Youth for Environmental Action, and most recently, LGBTQ art and history from Identity.

Open Mic Nite

In May, young poets, musicians, singers, and comedians transformed Teen Underground into a performance venue and wowed the audience with their talent.

Q-Club

A new club started in June, and will serve as a safe and welcoming gathering place for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Questioning teens, and their allies. Teens discuss issues that they struggle with on a daily basis. Sponsored by Identity, Inc., Q-Club is perhaps the best example of how community sponsorship can serve teens.

Teen Underground Task Force

Teens are invited to get involved with shaping the future of Teen Underground and supporting the library by joining the TUTF. This group is for students looking for an opportunity to gain community service experience and have their voice heard in library related issues.

Gaming and Technology

It's not all artsy and serious at Teen Underground, we also make plenty of time for gaming and hanging out! From our HD SMART board, Xbox and PS3, to our Macbooks and iPads, take your pick at your preferred gaming device.

Looking Forward

The success of TU this past year is due largely to the leadership and creativity of our AmeriCorps VISTA Volunteer, Candace Blas, who will finish her year of service in August. Our new Teen Librarian, Jim Curran, will continue to develop and create programs, and strengthen TU's role as a vital community center for teens.

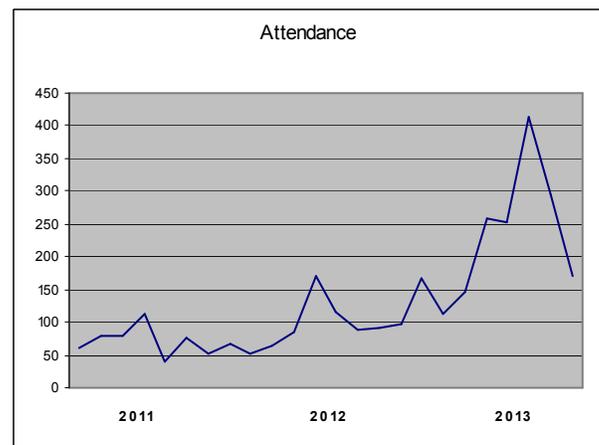
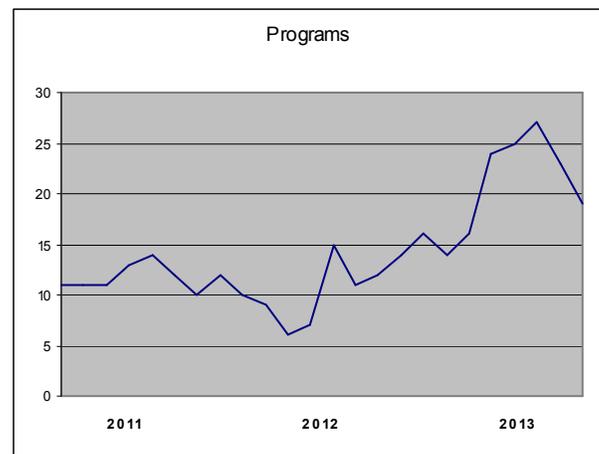
Want to become more involved?

Contact Jim: teenunderground@muni.org.



Candace Blas, AmeriCorps VISTA Volunteer, helps a student at the Teen Writing Society

Teen Underground Statistics



A huge thanks to ALL of our donors! This project would not have been possible without a high-level of community involvement. Private donations ranged from \$5 to over \$25,000. We thank each and every one of you for your support! A full list can be found at: <http://tinyurl.com/LibFoundation>.