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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Chabot Space And Science Center Has Been Awarded $247,000 From The Institute Of Museum And Library Services To Fund Oakland Connected Learning Partnership Program.

THROUGH THE OAKLAND CONNECTED LEARNING PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM, STUDENTS FROM SKYLINE HIGH SCHOOL WILL LEAD STEM WORKSHOPS AND COMMUNITY EVENTS FOR UNDERSERVED OAKLAND RESIDENTS, STUDENTS AND COMMUNITY MEMBERS.**
Oakland, CA, September 30, 2019— Chabot Space and Science Center has been awarded $247,000 from the Institute of Museum and Library Services to train local high school students to lead STEM workshops in Oakland community-based organizations.

The Museums for America program is intended to support projects that strengthen the ability of an individual museum to serve its public, reflected in Chabot’s plans to transcend typical outreach through providing programming that is relevant, accessible and inclusive to underserved populations in Oakland.

“As centers of learning and catalysts of community change, libraries and museums connect people with programs, services, collections, information, and new ideas in the arts, sciences, and humanities. They serve as vital spaces where people can connect with each other,” said IMLS Director Dr. Kathryn K. Matthew. “IMLS is proud to support their work through our grant making as they inform and inspire all in their communities.”

The Oakland Connected Learning Partnership Program includes hiring a new, specialized cohort of paid teen educators from Skyline High School’s Education and Community Health Pathway to join Chabot’s existing Galaxy Explorers (GE) youth development program and ignite outreach efforts by offering new teen-lead workshops and outreach activities in partnership with community-based organizations in Oakland.

For the last 21 years, Chabot’s Galaxy Explorer program has provided high school students with an opportunity for hands-on, fun community service work while giving them a chance to develop their job skills, increase their STEM knowledge, and enhance public speaking. The goal of this program is to expand on this success and develop a new cohort of youth from Skyline High School, training them to lead workshops and become active mentors to younger students

“We are thrilled to dive into this work and collaborate with the young people at Skyline High School, tapping into their strengths and insights to co-create meaningful and impactful STEM programming for the Oakland community,” said Natalie Mann, Chabot’s Camps and Community Programs Manager.

The new Oakland Connected Learning Partnership Program will launch in October of 2019. This project is designed to inspire and engage new populations of underserved Oakland youth through professional development, mentorship, and the creation of new culturally relevant programming, encouraging students of all backgrounds and abilities to develop skills, interest in, and a passion for science and technology. Programming will incorporate the voices, concerns, and assets of these local populations to create a program that is meaningful, culturally relevant, and valuable to children, youth, and their families.

The Skyline GEs are a key component, in that the youth the program serves will see themselves reflected in the teens who are leading the workshops, fostering a stronger connection to the content. The underserved youth in Oakland will see themselves directly reflected in the teens who are leading the workshops, resulting in a stronger connection to the content. If they see themselves in the facilitator, they might one day see themselves as the facilitator, and eventually as scientists and engineers. The ultimate goal is for the youth participants to walk away with an interest in STEM and a sense of agency to pursue that interest in the future.

Through after school workshops and community science events, roughly 5,500 community members, including youth, staff, and families at all of our partner sites in Oakland will experience hands-on science learning that will improve science literacy and 21st century skills, and nurture an interest in and build capacity for future community engagement with science. Additionally, 24 Skyline GEs will benefit from deep dive learning and professional development that focuses intensely on personal, professional, and academic growth.

***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.imls.gov](https://www.imls.gov/) and follow us on [Facebook](http://www.facebook.com/USIMLS) and [Twitter](http://www.twitter.com/us_imls).

***ABOUT CHABOT SPACE & SCIENCE CENTER***

Chabot Space & Science Center is open Wed.- Sun. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. with First Fridays the first Friday of every month 5-9 p.m. Admission is Adults: $18 • children 3-12 $14 (under 3 free) • Students/Seniors $15 • Memberships available.