

Theory of Change & Proposed Outcomes in Pittsburgh

The Hive Learning Network in Pittsburgh works with participants in its target audiences to implement activities that each accomplish several short-, medium-, and long-term outcomes. See Program Logic Model.

Catalytic Support & Project Assistance

In the short-term, Catalytic Support & Project Assistance activities directly influence the Hive's ability to provide opportunities that improve the caliber and increase the number of projects and initiatives being led by members of the Hive network.

By providing grants, awards, and RFPs through the Fund for Connected Learning and matching innovators with funders and investors, the Hive increases the quantity of financial resources available to support innovative projects. By providing project assistance in the form of fiscal sponsorship for unincorporated project teams and experienced advisors to enhance the capacity of new project managers, the Hive increases the amount of non-financial support available to nurture and scale projects.

These supportive activities bolster greater collaboration among formal and informal educators, university researchers, private-sector innovators, and cultural institutions to address opportunities and challenges for youth. Collaboration among these parties allows innovations in informal learning to migrate to formal settings and contributes to the creation of more engaging and relevant experiences that provide multiple entry points and pathways to learning. Simultaneously, these projects create and use new technologies and tools to enable the development of a youth-centered learning system. Within this context, learning, interests, and achievements are connected in and out of schools, among peer groups and families, uniting the three spheres most important to youth: their interests, their academic achievement, and their peer culture.

Over the medium-term, the frequent recurrence of these short-term outcomes indirectly influences the degree to which youth are engaged in formal schools and their ability to achieve greater levels of academic success, as well as their access to and agency within learner-centered pathways outside of school. These Connected Learning projects also nurture their capacities for analytical problem solving, other 21st century skills, and digital literacies. These improvements together then enable youth to explore, examine, question, create, and re-shape the world.

Ultimately, the achievement of these medium-term outcomes build toward the realization of one of the Hive's long-term community impacts: Preparing youth to thrive in college, the workforce, and as democratic citizens.

Program Development & Field Building

In the short-term, Program Development & Field Building activities directly influence Hive's ability to enhance the individual and collective capacities of network members, increase the likelihood of individual project success, and import/export pertinent knowledge and information from national

leaders.

To incentivize research and planning projects with the potential to contribute to building the field locally, Working Capital provides financial support to spur collaboration and innovation.

Program design support activities such as curriculum development, formative evaluation, and youth needs assessments also improve the quality of projects by providing feedback to aid an idea during its development, implementation, and reporting.

Along with these activities, the Hive offers fellowships to build and further the development of thought leaders, honoraria to bring in national speakers, and actively imports the innovations developed by other Hive network locations to increase the number of project ideas and collaborations that emerge from generative thinking and incorporate applied research and best practices.

Meanwhile, offering stipends to send Hive members to conferences helps to establish a Hive presence at national events and meetings, contributing to greater awareness among network members of emerging national trends in Connected Learning and other issues pertinent to youth. Over time, this increased presence results in more global practitioner awareness of Hive people, projects, ideas, and collaborations.

These short-term outcomes create an environment in which Hive network members engage in the active exchange of information about new tools, methods, and successful strategies. Sustaining that open exchange will result in the emergence of a critical mass of organizations and practitioners with the capacity to re-imagine learning.

Over the medium-term, network members will be better able to work together across disciplines in mutual support of shared goals and objectives—over time leading to the creation of a robust ecosystem capable of supporting an openly-networked, city-wide learning platform that can transform the landscape for youth education and achievement. Moreover, with increased expertise in the field, educators, caring adults, and youth mentors will make more informed choices about learning experience that will guide youth achievement in a Connected Learning community.

Sustaining this ecosystem over time will contribute to achieving the Hive's two long-term goals: preparing youth to thrive in college, the workforce, and as democratic citizens, and placing the Hive Learning Network at the fore of a growing international movement advancing learning, digital media, technology, and creativity for youth.

Knowledge Sharing, Communications & Outreach

In the short-term, Knowledge Sharing, Communications & Outreach activities directly influence Hive's ability to improve internal communication and coordination, and raise greater public awareness, understanding, and interest in Connected Learning among the media, educators, parents, caring adults, and youth Hive participants.

Hive hosts a variety of meetings and events to create greater internal awareness and understanding of national trends in Connected Learning. These activities also increase connections among members and

further the development of a critical mass of organizations and practitioners with the capacity and skills to re-imagine learning.

To provide network members and practitioners with easier access and more connections to information about people, projects, partnerships, events, resources, and opportunities, Hive maintains robust online platforms including a network directory, calendar events and opportunities, and resource library.

To attract greater media attention for network people, projects, ideas, and collaborations, Hive engages in public relations efforts to increase editorial coverage and establishes media partnerships with local and national outlets.

Increased media attention coupled with easier access to information for practitioners, and public programming in the form of event sponsorship and tabling at events that showcase Hive people, projects, ideas, and collaborations, results in more public and practitioner awareness of the Hive.

Increasing awareness of Hive people, projects, ideas, and collaborations makes it more likely that educators, caring adults, and youth mentors will utilize new information to make informed choices guiding youth learning, while at the same time driving greater recognition for the Hive's innovative and collaborative approaches to enabling learning.

Repeated short-term success contributes to the general public placing more value on learning that takes place in and out of schools, through peer culture, and driven by interests. Over time, Hive people and projects will help to set a strategy for this emerging field and facilitate the adoption of Hive's approaches to Connected Learning, DML, youth, and creativity in other metropolitan regions.

Achieving this new position of influence—and leveraging broader public understanding of and value for Connected Learning—will contribute to the fulfillment of one of Hive's long-term community impacts: Placing the Hive at the fore of a growing international movement advancing learning, digital media, technology, and creativity for children and youth.

Documentation, Measurement & Assessment

In the short-term, Documentation, Measurement & Assessment activities directly influence Hive's ability to evaluate the effectiveness of network approaches to Connected Learning, tell the story of Hive people, projects, and ideas, and spread the adoption of multiple definitions of achievement.

To create more visibility of Connected Learning at work in and out of schools, Hive engages in multimedia documentation, conducts annual Learning Activation Surveys, and participates in ongoing Hive Global Data Collection and research dissemination. This increased visibility helps build more public awareness of Hive people, projects, ideas, and collaborations.

Simultaneously, by deploying the Open Badges Framework to track progress, development, and skills mastery, Hive will hasten the acceptance of multiple ways of defining and certifying learning achievement.

Together, greater public awareness of the Hive and wider acceptance of non-traditional achievement

tools, will help gain recognition for the Hive's innovative and collaborative approaches to enabling and measuring learning.

Achieving the short-term outcomes of the Hive's documentation, measurement, and assessment activities causes the public to value the learning that takes place in and out of schools, through peer culture, and driven by interests as a mid-term outcome. They also allow research to improve local infrastructure for learning and education, which further contributes to the development of a robust ecosystem that supports a city-wide learning platform.

Over time, greater practitioner and public value for Connected Learning enables Hive people and projects develop successful strategies for this emerging field and facilitates the adoption of Hive's approaches to Connected Learning, DML, youth, and creativity in other metropolitan regions

Through this chain of mid-term outcomes, this set of activities advances the Hive toward achieving both of its long-term community impact outcomes: preparing youth to thrive in college, the workforce, and as democratic citizens; and placing the Hive at the fore of a growing international movement advancing learning, digital media, technology, and creativity for youth.