

"Imagine what it would look like if all our schools were set up to help youth discover and pursue their passions instead of guiding them along a predictable path."

—John Legend, Artist and Musician

THE CHALLENGE

In today's connected age, the possibilities for learning are endless. However, many of today's youth are struggling to harness that opportunity.

- 60% of high school students are not engaged in school, and 1 in 5 will drop out by the time they reach 12th grade.¹
- 5.6 million young adults nationwide are adrift, disconnected from both school and work, costing taxpayers \$93 billion annually.
- 40% of U.S. companies cannot find qualified workers.
- Nearly 1 in 4 young people ages 18–29 are “civically alienated,” or disengaged from civic and political life.

And yet, learning opportunities are everywhere. The nearby clothing design shop is looking for an intern, volunteers are converting an abandoned warehouse into a space for street art, and the local library is offering a free online workshop on game design and coding. In this unprecedented time of learning abundance, what if all opportunities connected?

LRNG: Where Experience Meets Opportunity

LRNG (<https://www.lrng.org/>) offers an ecosystem of learning and career opportunities that combine in-school, out-of-school, work-based, civic, and online learning opportunities that are visible and accessible to all.

LRNG comprises a platform, professional services, and a growing community of cities, organizations and individuals seeking to close the equity gap by connecting local network of learning and career opportunities. It empowers cities to curate, connect, and track an ecosystem of experiences where learning and opportunity happen within in their communities, engaging youth with high-quality digital and local experiences in the way they are accustomed to in their connected lives. Since LRNG launched in 2015, a core set of products and services have been delivered to more than 30,000 youth and hundreds of organizations across 12 cities.

LRNG, the initial endeavor of the non-profit organization Collective Shift, draws on research and evidence from over ten years of grantmaking funded by the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation. This research reveals that the most robust learning begins where youth are, and connects them to the three most meaningful spheres of their lives: passions, people, and paths to real-world opportunities.

How To Get Connected

- **Cities** | Assemble a community-wide network of organizations to make learning and career opportunities across your city visible, accessible, and inviting to all youth.

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- **Program Providers** | Use data analytics to personalize your learning opportunities and measure impact, while also making your program more widely available
 - **Schools** | Connect your students to new out-of-school learning experiences and accept their badges as evidence of learning.
 - **Teachers** | Join LRNG Innovators and design deeper learning experiences that imagine learning beyond school walls and bells.
 - **Employers** | Partner with LRNG to open new paths to internships and employment – with competency mapping, development of National Playlists, endorsement of digital badges, and relevant internship and job opportunities.
 - **Youth** | Create an LRNG account. Start earning badges, connecting with peers, and unlocking the opportunities that await you.

[1] Gallup Student Poll, 2014

Want to connect? Sign up at lrng.org

If you have just joined LRNG, get started here: <http://intercom.help/lrng/faqs/quick-guide>