



## A teen workforce development center and more!

**X Studio is a place where teens have opportunities to learn and grow, question and experiment, succeed and fail, and journey along pathways to STEAM careers.**

X Studio takes an inclusive, holistic approach to STEAM learning, in order to improve educational and economic opportunities for youth in our community, particularly low-income teens and teens of color.

X Studio provides:

- A safe, culturally-reflective space that celebrates teens' diverse skill-sets, cultural identities, and lived experiences
- Creative, social, relevant learning experiences that compel teens to go deeper and develop critical skills
- Co-created activities that bring teens and their dreams together with cutting-edge tools, technologies, and mentors to expand ideas about STEAM career pathways

**X Studio will prepare and connect young adults for future careers in STEAM.**

### Learning Outcomes

- 15,000 teens and young adults experience X Studio each year with access to professional-grade equipment, tools, and people
- 30 career-focused programs each month and 20 exhibits co-created with teens and STEAM employers
- 40+ high school and college interns receive intensive work and learning experiences, both at Explora and off-site at partner organizations
- 30 trained role models and mentors each year

### Ways to Engage

X Studio offers a diverse set of activities that bring young adults and partner organizations together. These include:

- Work experiences, like the Career Pathways Internship at Explora or an external placement with a partner organization
- STEAM learning experiences in the X Studio Makerspace, Digital Lab, Teen Lounge, or classrooms that emphasize developing workforce skills and expand ideas and opportunities for careers
- Interactions with mentors and leaders in the field
- Life skills support, including financial literacy, discussions around mental health, scholarship sessions, and much more



# What Happens at X Studio?



## STEAM Content



## Workforce Skills



## Support Services



## Relationships



## Programs and Workshops

Teens are the future, and X Studio is their one-stop shop to explore, hang out, and discover pathways to cool jobs that solve big problems and pay well. X Studio programs build creativity, innovation, and applied problem-solving skills through a project-based, solutions-focused approach. In addition, many programs implement opportunities to work and learn from community role models and mentors.

Topic areas for our programs are co-developed with teens and community partners and include:

Maker-Centered Learning • Water Resource Management, Alternative Energy, Bioengineering, Physics, and Chemistry • Design, Fabrication, and Vocational Trades • Digital Media and Traditional Arts • Physical Computing • Entrepreneurship and Design Thinking

## Partnership Opportunities

X Studio offers a variety of ways to connect with teen audiences. Explora staff work with community partners and teens to support, brainstorm, co-create, prepare, and implement programs that contribute to improved educational and economic outcomes for youth. These activities and events might include:

- **STEM Future Saturdays:** Co-created presentations, demonstrations, or meet-and-greet events led by community partners
- **Meet a Scientist events:** Table-top activities and demonstrations that showcase the work of local STEAM professionals
- **Teen Science Cafés:** Informal, activity-based evenings full of conversation with STEAM professionals
- **Role Models Matter events:** Career explorations that focus on career pathways and connecting youth to STEAM mentors
- **Maker in Residence:** A workshop-based residency to increase interest in the arts and Making
- **Science Communication Fellowship:** A series of communication workshops that help STEAM professionals effectively communicate science to public audiences
- **Classroom Connections:** Short, virtual “visits” to New Mexico classrooms, focusing on STEAM stories and career pathways
- **Teen Nights:** Free, teen-only nights at Explora and X Studio, with fun activities, food, and music
- **NM Science Fiesta:** STEM-NM’s annual celebration of science, technology, engineering, art, and math
- **Weekly STEAM programs:** A variety of STEAM experiences co-created with partner organizations, both at X Studio and embedded in the community
- **Thinking About Mental Health:** Opportunities to connect with local mental health professionals and other support services
- **Life Skills & Support Services:** Financial literacy classes, help completing the FAFSA, 1:1 meetings with mentors