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**For immediate release**

### **Explora officially opens its innovative new teen center, X Studio, on Saturday, Feb 11:**

**Albuquerque, NM**—Come out and join Explora on Saturday, February 11, 2023, celebrating the official opening of X Studio, our 8,000-square-foot building expansion. X Studio is Explora’s new teen center: a place to hang out, experiment, create, learn, and grow. X Studio unites teens and their dreams with cutting-edge tools, technologies, and mentors—all with a focus on STEAM (science, technology, engineering, art and math). On February 11 at 9:00 am, Explora will open its doors for an exclusive preview of X Studio for members and donors. At 10 am, the entire community is invited to explore the innovative new space, with all of Explora open and available for your enjoyment. 93.3 the Q’s own J Belle will perform a live broadcast specifically for the event.

X Studio is defined by unique collaboration among teens, community members, STEM educators, and STEM employers—all working together to co-develop and build the new teen center and the *STEM in the Burque* exhibition featured in its main gallery.

*STEM in the Burque* highlights important STEM skills, local careers, and community solutions: learn how vaccines and antibodies work in the system, determine water resource management on an interactive game station, experiment with laser control and output, create a digital 3D dental model, harness solar energy, and more! Read *STEM Pro* stories of professionals in our community who focused their dreams into career successes. *STEM in the Burque* exhibits were co-developed with key community partnerships including the Albuquerque Bernalillo County Water Utility Authority, the Institute for Museum and Library Services, AFRL-NM, Sandia National Laboratories, UNM EPSCoR, Positive Energy Solar, Delta Dental, the NM Optometry Association, and others.

X Studio also provides a wide range of programs, events, and services to support local teens. Its Trades Yard will facilitate opportunities for students to engage in hands-on workshops led by community trades professionals in vital industries. The Makerspace and Tech Lab enable woodworking and metal crafting; screen printing, 3D printing, laser cutting; electronics; robotics; molding and composites; fabric arts; cinematography; A/V editing, and so much more! Teens can enjoy the teen lounge, get homework help, relax and game, and help direct the future of this valuable program.

Most X Studio programs are free to teens and their families, and some even *pay* teens to participate. Visit [explora.us/x-studio](http://explora.us/x-studio) for more information and membership. X Studio is Phase One of Explora’s *Cradle through Career STEAM Learning Campus* expansion. It was funded by a combination of private and public funding.

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**About Explora:** Explora is a science center and children’s museum in Albuquerque, with a mission of creating opportunities for inspirational discovery and the joy of lifelong learning through interactive experiences in science, technology, engineering, art, and math (STEAM). Explora serves thousands of people of all backgrounds each year and is dedicated to improving New Mexico’s educational and economic outcomes.