

Economic Opportunity at SPPL



Mission

To welcome all people to connect, learn, participate, and grow.



A free place to **do life**



- Reading support and homework assistance
- Meet with friends or space to sit by yourself
- Play and read with kids in your life
- Get help applying for jobs
- Fax important paperwork
- Get questions answered and find information
- Be in community

A **free** place to do life

- Books, ebooks, magazines
- Free faxing
- Free scanning
- Free wi-fi
- Low-cost printing and notary
- Computers and public phones
- Charging stations
- Use a meeting room
- Tools for virtual appointments
- Borrow the Internet (2-week hotspots checkout)



Family budget level



- Job & Career Help
- Digital Connectivity
- Civic Engagement
- Education Support
- Financial Empowerment
- Entrepreneurship

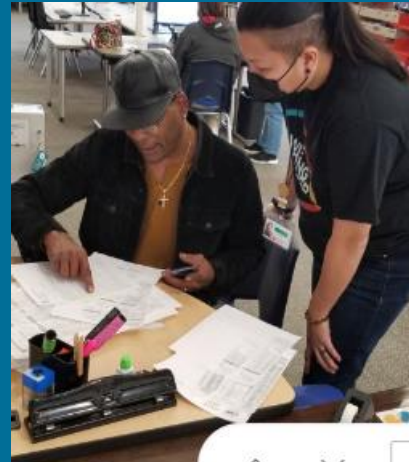
Open Labs

- Weekly, drop in hours
- 1:1 help
 - Job search
 - Resumes
 - Navigating online tools and resources
- Welcoming & supportive environment




701

Open Lab help
sessions in 2023



“You guys do great work here,
thank you so much for the help,
this job will really benefit me.”

-Chris, Sun Ray Open Lab user



**7 days a
week, 1-11
p.m.**

JobNow free
resume
reviews and
interview
coaching

City & Community Partnerships

- Rondo Open Lab hosted help sessions for the Open Road Fund from Nexus Community Partners. Assisted 22 community members.
- Community Specialists and Open Lab from all sites staff received training from PED to support Cultural STAR and Neighborhood STAR program applicants.



City & Community Partnerships

- Arlington Hills weekly citizenship class with Literacy Minnesota and the Immigrant Law Center of Minnesota.
 - 1 graduate ever 5 weeks becomes a US Citizen
- Citizenship Fairs with City Attorney's Office- Immigrant and Refugee Program and the City of Minneapolis Office of Immigrant & Refugee Affairs. April 27- Hayden Heights



Chromebooks & Hotspots

- **Get connected, stay connected, and know how to use the connection**
- 2023 Emergency Connectivity Funds
- 603 hotspots and 315 Chromebook
- Staff from every branch attended training
- Increased family access to computers



100

**Jan/Feb 2024, distributed
100 hotspots at pop-ups
with 6 months of internet
service.**



This [hotspot] will be very helpful. I can finally get things done.

-Rondo Community Library user

Video Call Kits

- Coming soon 2024
- Tools for important virtual appointments
 - Job interview
 - Telehealth
- Walk in, get connected, and start your call



Cell-Ed

- Adults on the go have access to ELL, Citizenship, GED, and Work Skills learning on their cellphones
- About 75 licenses each year
- 2024, Q1 onboarded 31 new learners, 1,441 lessons completed





5,216

**Cell-ed lessons
completed in 2023. Top
classes:**

- English level 1, 2
- English for communicating at work
- Managing money for business and life



109

**Northstar industry-
recognized certifications
earned in 2023 in:**

- Basic Computer Skills
- Internet Basics
- Microsoft Office
- Google Docs
- Social Media Safety

Business Consultations



- Drop-in consultations provided by Open to Business
- Help with business plan, marketing, licensing, and financing support
- Monthly at Hayden Heights, Highland Park, and Rondo Community Library

Innovation Lab

- Entrepreneurs and creatives
- Access to specialty equipment, software, and classes for creative or business pursuits.
- Artist-in-residence, culturally-affirming experiences



Young adults use their time wisely [in the Lab] because they don't have access anywhere else. They feel like they are in a professional space. They say it feels entrepreneurial, artistic, and like somewhere they can turn their dream into reality.

-Jenny Ayechit, K'Nyaw Community Specialist

Tech Month

- May 11, iSpy an AI
- May 18, Innovation Day at the Innovation Lab, George Latimer Central Library
 - Please invite the young people in your life that are interested in tech careers or creative pathways.

tech⁴all Innovation Day

Innovation Day opens the Innovation Lab to all ages! Come check out the space and find out what we have to offer budding techies.



Tour the Lab and check out the equipment

Take a peek at the recording studio, media lab, 3D printers, laser engraver, sewing machines, and learn the basics of circuits while creating works of art!

Take part in fun tech activities

Try out demos of green screen photography (bring your own camera/phone), laser equipment, 3D printers, digitization tools, and paper circuits.

Learn about Level Up at the Library!

Come to Level Up every Wednesday from 3-5 p.m. when anyone age 12-18 can try 3D printing, play video games, and check out more tech tools.

Saturday, May 18, from 1-4 p.m.

Innovation Lab | George Latimer Central Library | 90 West 4th Street | 3rd Floor

stpaul.gov/tech4all



Questions?

