

EARLY WINS AND LESSONS LEARNED: HOW THE BAY AREA STEM ECOSYSTEM ENGAGES FAMILIES

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As part of the STEM Next Opportunity Fund's Family Engagement Project, this case study features the Bay Area STEM Ecosystem, a collaborative effort to increase equity and access to STEM learning opportunities in underserved communities.

The study begins by identifying barriers that families may face in finding STEM opportunities for their children. Lack of physical or virtual connections to networks, cost, transportation and real concerns about how welcoming a program might be for a Black or Latinx child are among the barriers listed in the study.

The Bay Area STEM Ecosystem is part of a growing global initiative, the STEM Learning Ecosystems Community of Practice, and takes a cross-sector partnership approach to their work to make STEM more accessible for all Bay Area families. The collaborative model allows the Bay Area STEM Ecosystem to leverage the local expertise and networks of each partner to better serve families.

This case study points out several strengths of the Ecosystem's work, including their ability to listen to families, provide free programming and flexibility in age group offerings while simultaneously maintaining a consistent location for families. The study concludes with a list of challenges and lessons learned by the Ecosystem.

Kekeis, Linda and Sammet, Kara. 2019 "Early Wins and Lessons Learned: How the Bay Area STEM Ecosystem Engages Families." STEM Next Opportunity Fund Family Engagement Project.

<https://43ot971vwwe7okplr1iw2ql1-wpengine.netdna-ssl.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/Case-Study-Bay-Area-STEM-Ecosystem-Engages-Families.pdf>



Thanks to generous support from the Carnegie Corporation of New York, *Our Neighborhood*, is a compilation of stories and research from the family engagement field. It is intended to be a living repository and guide for STEM Learning Ecosystems and other communities interested in cultivating strong community partnerships to prepare the next generation.

This annotated bibliography was compiled by TIES for *Our Neighborhood*.