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TU= Teen Underground campaign.

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## Celebrating 25 Years of Loussac Library Enriching our community for generations

As the Z.J. Loussac Library celebrates its 25th Anniversary this September, the Library will embark upon a once-in-a-generation renewal of this vital and beloved Anchorage institution. The Loussac renewal is a large, multi-year project that will be completed in multiple phases. A facility master plan will begin this summer and will set the scope of the renovation. The state legislature set aside \$5M to launch the renewal as part of the ‘Project 80s’ package in the capital budget that is currently before the Governor.

The Loussac Renewal is one of the leading community recommendations of the Library Community Plan. A consistent message from the 6,000 participants was that a transformational renovation of the Loussac is critical to ensuring that the Library can remain relevant and competitive in the 21st century. As we gather community input for the facility master plan, we will keep you posted on how you can help.

In the meantime, we hope you will join us for the 25th Anniversary celebrations this fall. Activities include a picnic on September 10th, an author speaker series, a book art competition, Love Your Library Day at the Anchorage Museum, a yarn-bombing, and more. To see a calendar of events (and find out what a ‘yarn-bombing’ is) visit [www.AnchorageLibraryFoundation.org](http://www.AnchorageLibraryFoundation.org).



## Teen Underground Open for Business

The high-tech, vibrant *Teen Underground* opened June 10 in the Loussac Library. The space for teens aged 12-18 includes a Smart Board, iPads, a MacBook learning lab and new teen books. *Teen Underground*, named by local teens, is a joint project of the Anchorage (Downtown) Rotary Club and the Anchorage Public Library, with support from the Anchorage Library Foundation.

“*Teen Underground* has a way of lifting the spirits of youth across Anchorage as we explore the possibilities our community holds and look forward to a place of our own to read, connect, learn, and enjoy. I cannot be more thrilled to see this collective dream come to life,” says Library Teen Advisory Board member, Lauren Heyano.

*continued on page 2, Teen Underground*

## from page 1, Teen Underground

Launched in fall 2010, *Teen Underground* is part of a national initiative to create “teen centers” in libraries as supplemental learning venues. The project was inspired by YOUmedia at the Harold Washington Public Library in Chicago. YOUmedia is a nationally-recognized teen center which opened in July 2009, with major support from the MacArthur Foundation.

Prior to *Teen Underground*, teen resources at Loussac were combined on the second floor with the section for pre-school and grade school aged children.

The project was made possible by Anchorage Rotary Club project leaders Cheryl Myers and Carol Butler and a team of more than 40 volunteers and construction, design and technology firms. The School District Student and Library Teen Advisory Boards worked alongside the Rotary team to provide input and support. Close to \$200,000 in private support was raised in three months to make this project possible. A full donor list can be found at [www.AnchorageLibraryFoundation.org/supporters.html](http://www.AnchorageLibraryFoundation.org/supporters.html).

Alaska Teen Media Institute will hold technology and media workshops in the space from 2 to 5 p.m. on Thursdays, June 16 to August 11. A schedule can be found at [www.AnchorageLibrary.org](http://www.AnchorageLibrary.org)

**Teen Underground:** <http://teenuground.org>

**YOUmedia:** <http://youmediachicago.org>



*Teens test out the new technology at the grand opening (above). Rotarians Cheryl Myers and Carol Butler and APL's Youth Services Coordinator Sherri Douglas were instrumental in the success of the project.*

## A letter from Mountain View

I am the manager of the new Mountain View Neighborhood Library, and the months since we've opened have been some of the most rewarding and exciting of my life.

Everyday after school, our library becomes a Mecca for students from the nearby schools. The kids play games on the computers or check out one of the library's board games. I don't think we can ever have enough decks of cards for the demand. They read, study, and just hang out in a very safe environment.

Our neighborhood has its challenges, but there are also opportunities. Families in our neighborhoods often have parents working multiple jobs while teenage daughters help run the household. Teens as young as 13 use our computers to search for apartments because their parents do not have the time and/or the English language skills. I am glad we are here for them.

The Mountain View community is embracing and celebrating having a library of their own. While it is not being used in exactly the way I initially imagined, the community is taking an active role in shaping the library to meet their needs. The community's use of the library is better than what we could have imagined when we started. I can't wait to see what happens as we continue to grow with our community.

On behalf of myself, my staff, and the community of Mountain View, I thank you for making this possible.



—Elizabeth Moreau, Manager, Mountain View Neighborhood Library



*Youth work together on the computers (above). Teresa Churchel, library staff, is a Clark Middle School grad and patron of the original Mountain View Library.*

## From the President

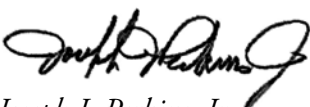
Earlier this month, *Teen Underground* opened to a crowd of hundreds of excited teens and the visionary adults who helped to make it happen. Meanwhile, across town the new Mountain View Neighborhood Library is thriving and making a true difference in the lives of its patrons. These successes would not be possible without your support.

If you would like to learn more about how your gift has touched lives, I encourage you to visit the “I love my library” section of our website to read library success stories and perhaps add one of your own.

The completion of these projects marks the end of phase one of the Anchorage Library Renewal Initiative. *Teen Underground* and the neighborhood library renovations have renewed community support for our Library and have laid the groundwork for the second phase of the Renewal.

This September, we will celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Z.J. Loussac Library and launch the campaign for the Loussac Renewal. Recognizing that the Loussac is a transformational force in our community—and has played a significant role for generations of Alaskans—it is critical that we maintain and sustain this great resource. Your continued support of the Library is critical to its future.

Every day, our libraries are filled with people introducing their children to the joys of books, doing homework, accessing the Internet, searching and applying for jobs, and enriching their lives. Your support makes this possible. On behalf of the Anchorage Library Foundation, I thank you for your gift to our community.



—Joseph J. Perkins, Jr.

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P.O. Box 244714  
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## I love my Anchorage Public Library!

“I just love libraries... I remember growing up in Anchor Point, my library card was # 86, and I could check out four books every Wednesday, the only day it was open. Most kids only checked out two, but I always got four! In my mind, the Mountain View Library is kind of like the library of my youth—a really important resource for children and families.”

—MaryAnn Hanson, Marketing Coordinator, ML&P



“I am strongly supportive of the Z. J. Loussac *Teen Underground* project for the young people of Anchorage. Our students need a place that is designed to accommodate their interests and needs in the 21st century library. *Teen Underground* will be a gathering place for students to study, to have forums and discussions on topics of interest, and a centralized location that fosters literacy in all of its forms. I applaud all of the community groups and agencies, and our Student Advisory Board, for their strong support of this project.”

—Carol Comeau, Superintendent, Anchorage School District

**Do you love your library? Has the library transformed your life?**

Share your story and read more at [www.AnchorageLibraryFoundation.org/librarylove.html](http://www.AnchorageLibraryFoundation.org/librarylove.html)