

In 1992, the Carnegie Council on Adolescent Development published *A Matter of Time*, a galvanizing report that summarized, among other things, what focus groups of young people said they most wanted during their non-school hours. Not surprisingly, they did not answer in terms of programs — they talked about places. And interestingly, the places they talked about are not necessarily front and center in current conversations about out-of-school time. They pointed to “Safe parks and recreation centers; exciting science museums; libraries with all the latest books, videos and records...”

“Parks, libraries, museums and other cultural organizations represent an array of assets and share a broad mission to serve the community. In not explicit, within most of their institutional missions is a mandate

These commonalities serve as our starting point for exploring the roles that museums, parks and libraries can and do play in supporting young people during out-of-school time. To gain insight into the realities and the pos-

TABLE 1: MUSEUMS, PARKS AND LIBRARIES DURING OUT-OF-SCHOOL TIME

A SPECTRUM OF PROMISING EXAMPLES

Specific Programs

The Youth Mentorship Program at Henry Ford Museum and Greenfield Village in Dearborn, Michigan offers high school students at risk of not graduating the opportunity to develop meaningful life and work skills while fostering positive relationships with adult role models. Through a partnership with a local school district, participating students receive a combination of job training, community service and mentoring. Students spend the second half of each school day and after-school hours working with a full-time museum employee who serves as a mentor to the teen. Students earn school credit while learning marketable skills. The award-winning program's impacts include student gains in school attendance and significantly increased grade point averages.
<http://www.hfmgv.org/explore/ymp/default.asp/>

Garfield Park Conservatory Alliance's most innovative community-oriented program is its Empowering Youth

Community Partnerships

Expanded Access and Outreach

