

## CASE STUDIES: REAL-WORLD EXAMPLES OF HOW LIBRARIES ARE RE-ENVISIONING TEEN SERVICES

# Kentucky Youth Film Festival

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### What Did You Want to Achieve?

At the Louisville Free Public Library we want to give teens a venue to show their creativity to the broader Louisville community. By partnering with the Louisville International Festival of Films on the Kentucky Youth Film Festival, we provide teens of all filmmaking levels-- from those shooting on phone cameras to those at magnet schools working with high-end video equipment- the chance to be a part of a city-wide event that celebrates their talents and skills.

### Overview of the Program/Project

In the fall we co-sponsor, with the Louisville International Festival of Films, the Kentucky Youth Film Festival. High school students are encouraged to submit their films, which are judged by a group of librarians, teachers, and film industry professionals. Selected films are awarded prizes. Teens in 9th through 12th grade are invited to submit in one of three categories: Public Service Announcement, Documentary, or Short Film. Also, writer/ producer Matt Berman adds a special category for youth entries. In 2015 Berman's theme was bullying. In 2016 Berman's category focused on teens creating a film inspired by an original piece of music (pre-selected by Berman). The awards ceremony is held at the Main Branch of the Louisville Free Public Library. The top three films in each category are shown and awards presented. Louisville-born actor Conrad Bachman (Louisville International Film Festival founder) is on hand to assist in the awards ceremony.

### What Challenges Did You Face and How Did You Overcome Them?

We struggle with making sure that teens who would be interested in this program know that it's available to them. In 2016 we collaborated with Beargrass Media and held a week-long film camp at the Main Library. Patrick Fitzgerald, the owner of Beargrass Media, planned and presented the week-long event. Almost 20 teens came to learn and experience filmmaking. Many professionals came to teach sessions about acting, cameras, public speaking, field audio, and post-production. The teens also took tours around Louisville, visiting a radio station, a news station, and the local newspaper.

In an effort to inform more library staff, as entries in the Festival don't have to be from Louisville teens, I presented on the program at the Kentucky Library Association Conference. My goal in this presentation was to get word out state-wide about the program so that more teens would learn what was available to them.

### What Did You Learn?

I am continually inspired by how teens rise to the Youth Film Festival challenge and demonstrate their great talents.



### How Does This Work Connect to YALSA's Futures Report and Vision?

The YALSA "Future of Library Services for and with Teens: A Call to Action" report speaks to the need for libraries to support connected learning by providing opportunities for teens to connect to their passions and interests through library activities. By giving teens in Louisville (and Kentucky) an entry into film world, we are doing just that.

We also connect to the Futures Report by collaborating with other city organizations. Our partnership with the Film Festival helps demonstrate that the Library is a city agency interested in supporting teen needs inside and outside of our library buildings.