

Schaumburg Township District Library Teen Place

After months of hammering, sawing, wiring, and painting, the 6,000-square-foot Teen Place at the Schaumburg Township District Library (STDL) opened for business on Saturday, November 24, 2012. With local and state officials, library board members, student advisory trustees and patrons of all ages in attendance, the celebration kicked off with a ribbon cutting and capped off the library's fiftieth anniversary "jubilee" year. Staff demonstrated the advanced digital technology and welcomed visitors with gifts and guided tours.

Nearly ten times larger than the former teen area, Teen Place was created with design input from the library's Teen Corps and serves the 11,000 junior and senior high school-aged students in the township. Boasting comfortable, high-tech collaboration areas, the space includes a seventy-eight-inch Smart Board; a bank of twenty-seven-inch MacBook Pros, iMacs, and iPads; along with a 3D printer and 3D scanner. A large multipurpose program room with a stage, four gaming stations with forty-eight-inch monitors, a ceiling-mounted projector and screen, and a soundproof glass wall that unfolds from the ceiling when needed, rounds out the space. At the gaming stations, teens have access to PS3, X-Box 360 Kinect, and Wii consoles.

The *pièce de résistance* is the Digital Production Studio. Inside there are three professional quality cameras, a Tricaster, and a green screen for students to use in producing music and videos, which can be edited on the MacBook Pros. Two "smart" discussion rooms each offer tables and seating for eight, along with a twelve-foot dry-erase white board and monitor. The silent reading room provides four comfortable chairs in which young people can read without distractions. All this and more is available to library visitors ages twelve to nineteen during the library's open hours, and occasionally after hours for "lock-ins" and other special programs. The discussion and reading rooms are also open to adults from 9:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. on weekdays.

"Quite simply, STDL is setting a new national standard for library service to teens," said library director Stephanie Sarnoff. "This space incorporates state-of-the-art technology and abundant print resources in a comfortable and attractive environment for both academic and recreational activities. The success of Teen Place is a direct result of the vision and support of library staff, the library board, and the teen community,"





Teen Place was carved out of repurposed staff space, with no new space added and no reductions in public space. With all its technology, Teen Place is still a great resource for the printed word — young people can find areas dedicated to graphic novels, magazines, school textbooks, career help, fiction and nonfiction books. Vibrant colors, a welcome atmosphere, valuable resources, creative lighting, and technology in abundance have succeeded in making it a popular destination.

Fast Facts

Teen Place:	6,000 square feet
Project Costs:	\$1.2 million
Seating:	110
Collections:	12,000
Computers:	35
Hours:	81 per week
Staff:	Full-time: 3; Part-time 14
Architect:	Denelle Wrightson, Dewberry
Engineers:	Dewberry
Construction:	FBG
Web site:	www.teen.schaumburglibrary.org

