New Funding Opportunity: FamLAB Spark Grants Program

The Joan Ganz Cooney Center (JGCC) at Sesame Workshop invites proposals for the Families Learning Across Boundaries (FamLAB) Spark Grants Program. The goal of the grants program is to identify, support, and promote innovative approaches to help children and youth ages 3 through 12 learn more deeply across home, community, and school settings. We encourage you to share this request for proposals widely with your own networks as well. To learn more, visit: bit.ly/famlab

Podcasts for Families: NPR's Wow in the World!

In the second installment of Podcasts for Families, meet Mindy Thomas, co-host of Wow in the World, an NPR podcast for kids (and grown-ups!) packed with fascinating science and tech stories.

Family Coding with English-Language Learning Families

Learn how BlockStudio, a free coding system from the University of Washington's Center for Game Science and Information School, is making introductory programming more inclusive and accessible for dual language families.

How Ready to Learn Boosts Young Children's Literacy

Researcher Lisa Hurwitz explores 20+ years of research to understand the significant impact of Ready to Learn grant funding on children's media and early literacy efforts.

Podcast Transcript: The App Fairy Talks to Originator

Enjoy highlights from the App Fairy’s recent conversation with Originator's Rex Ishibashi. Plus, Carissa shares her go-to app recommendation for parents seeking digital tools to help kids who are learning to read!

Cooney Center Updates

Michael Levine Promoted to Chief Knowledge Officer

We are very proud of our founding Executive Director who has moved to a newly created role at Sesame Workshop. Michael Levine will be the Chief Knowledge Officer, where he will lead initiatives to enhance staff learning and
professional development and cultivate new and existing relationships with educational partners, policymakers, think tanks, and academic groups to facilitate the exchange of knowledge and to promote best practices.

Please join us in congratulating Lori Takeuchi, who has stepped in as Acting Executive Director. Lori has been with the Cooney Center since 2008, and has led many of the Center’s distinguishing initiatives including Print Books vs. E-books, The New Coviewing, Aprendiendo Juntos, the Families and Media Project, and the Families Learning Across Boundaries initiative.

The Cooney Center team is delighted to continue working with Michael in his new role and excited to announce some new projects in the near future. Stay tuned!

In Memoriam: Peter G. Peterson

The Joan Ganz Cooney Center mourns the passing of Peter G. Peterson, an extraordinary international business and civic leader who was a founder and long-time supporter of the Center. Pete and his wife Joan Ganz Cooney have left an indelible imprint on the world through their contributions. He will be greatly missed.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Joan and her family during this time. Learn more about Pete’s legacy in the Washington Post and the New York Times.

Upcoming Events

- **2018 International Communication Association Conference | May 25**
  Against a backdrop of evolving technologies and shifting sociocultural and political dynamics, the 2018 ICA conference theme, Voices, encourages scholars to delve more deeply into a concept inextricably linked with communication. For those attending, join Cooney Center Acting Executive Director Lori Takeuchi for a panel discussion on Designing Media to Encourage Tolerance and Empathy in Youth on Friday, May 25.

- **15th Annual Games For Change Festival | June 28-30**
  Join a community of game experts, developers, technologists, funders and social innovators to share groundbreaking ideas and interact with new impact games and immersive media. Attendees will also engage in three days of thought-provoking conversations, workshops, and networking events.

  View more events on the Cooney Center Events Calendar.

What We’re Reading

- Fostering Family Learning with Video Games
- Virtual Reality 101: What You Need to Know About Kids and VR
- A Diversity & Cultural Literacy Toolkit for Students of All Ages
- Why Do Girls Lose Interest in STEM? New Research Has Some Answers—and Ideas for What We Can Do About It

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