PLACES OF INVENTION AFFILIATES PROJECT

POI has been made possible by a grant from the National Science Foundation
Places of Invention Affiliates Project

- Who We Are: The Lemelson Center for the Study of Invention & Innovation
- Context: Places of Invention Exhibition
- Phase I: Affiliate Pilot Project
- Phase II: Affiliate Project Expansion

View of Illinois River and Murray Baker Bridge from downtown Peoria
Case Study: Museum of History and Industry
  - *Places of Invention: Documenting Gaming in Seattle*
    - Julia Swan, Adult Public Programs Manager

Case Study: Senator John Heinz History Center
  - *Places of Invention: Inventing the Pittsburgh Sound*
    - Kate Lukaszewicz, Lead Educator
Dedicated to:
Places of Invention Affiliates Project
Who We Are: The Lemelson Center for the Study of Invention & Innovation

Smithsonian Institution

National Museum of American History

Lemelson Center for the Study of Invention and Innovation
**Places of Invention Affiliates Project**

Who We Are: The Lemelson Center for the Study of Invention & Innovation

- Founded in 1995 by inventor Jerome Lemelson and his wife, Dorothy

![Image of The Lemelsons](image.jpg)

**Mission is to:**

- **document, interpret, and disseminate** information about invention and innovation
- **explore** the role of invention and innovation in American history
- **encourage** inventive creativity in young people
Our approach to invention:

- invention is any new or improved way of doing things
- invention is interdisciplinary
- invention is a process
- everyone is inventive
Places of Invention Affiliates Project

Context: Places of Invention Exhibition

Opening in 2015 at the National Museum of American History
Visitors will explore the stories of people who lived, worked, played, collaborated, adapted, took risks, solved problems, and sometimes failed—all in the pursuit of something new.
Collaboration was essential to the technological advances behind the birth of the personal computer and Silicon Valley’s enduring reputation.
Adaptability and flexibility characterized early hip-hop pioneers and their technical innovations.
Risk-taking and collaboration between heart surgeons and engineers helped the Twin Cities earn their reputation as a major center for medical innovations.
Networks and knowledge-sharing led to improvements in precision manufacturing, from guns to bicycles to sewing machines.
Critical thinking and problem-solving skills are being applied to sustainable clean energy innovations.
Places of Invention exhibition “Hub,” including the interactive map and Build Your Place of Invention activity
Places of Invention Affiliates Project

Phase I: Affiliate Pilot Project

- “Taking it to the Nation” and populating the interactive map
  - over the past year, several Affiliates and their community partners have been working to use the ideas behind Places of Invention to document local invention and innovation
  - through the creation of multiple deliverables:
    - ORAL HISTORIES
    - PUBLIC PROGRAMS
    - VIDEOS

teams have had the opportunity to share the exhibition’s central message: that invention is everywhere and sparked by unique combinations of creative people, ready resources, and inspiring surroundings
Places of Invention Affiliates Project
Phase I: Affiliate Pilot Project

- Teams will create short videos synthesizing their local invention story
- These video modules (at least one) will be featured on the signature piece of the exhibition—a dynamic, large-scale, interactive map accessible from both the exhibition and web
- Map content will grow exponentially as visitors read, tag, and comment on featured stories and add their own text, images, and videos from the exhibition, Affiliate museums, or even their own homes
Places of Invention Affiliates Project
Phase I: Affiliate Pilot Project

Lowell Telecommunications Corporation
E-line Media
Young Preservationist Association in Pittsburgh
MCG Jazz
USDA–NCAUR
Owens Corning
Places of Invention Affiliates Project

Phase I: Affiliate Pilot Project

Architectural innovation in Lowell, MA, and its continuous impact on local invention

Fiberglass innovation in Newark, OH

Gaming innovation in Greater Seattle

Jazz Innovation: Inventing the Pittsburgh Sound

The mass production of penicillin at the USDA’s Ag Lab in Peoria, IL
Affiliate Pilot Project kick-off

- June 2012 at the National Museum of American History
- Representatives from each team attended a Washington, DC workshop led by Public Historian Dr. Lorraine McConaghy on researching and documenting local invention

Dr. Lorraine McConaghy, Seattle’s Museum of History and industry, leading a Places of Invention workshop
We're looking for up to 20 Affiliates to receive $10,000 and training to research and document innovation where THEY live.

WITH YOUR PARTICIPATION, we hope to have videos representing all regions of the United States when the *Places of Invention* exhibition opens in 2015. Current stories include:

- The Bronx, NY
- Fort Collins, CO
- Hartford, CT
- Hollywood, CA
- Lowell, MA
- Medical Alley, MN
- Newark, OH
- Peoria, IL
- Pittsburgh, PA
- Seattle, WA
- Silicon Valley, CA
Places of Invention Affiliates Project
Phase II: Affiliate Project Expansion

- **What kinds of invention? All kinds?**
- **We’re interested in any new or improved way of doing things:**
  - in green energy, medicine, education, transportation, and robotics;
  - in the ways that art and music can intersect with technology, as with the electric guitar;
  - in civil engineering, architecture, and construction;
  - in agriculture—from seed cultivation to harvesting processes;
  - in business and advertising;
  - in biotechnology that changed the way we eat, treat disease, and create alternative fuels;
  - in communications and fiber-optics;
  - in computers, software engineering, web technology, and social media;
  - in aeronautics, military production, and urban planning;
  - in fabric technology and the mass production of any kind of goods;
**Places of Invention Affiliates Project**

**Phase II: Affiliate Project Expansion**

- **How to apply**
  - contact Anna Karvellas (karvellasa@si.edu) or your Affiliation outreach manager for proposal questions and project requirements
  - assemble your institutional team, including a least one member from the archives, curatorial, and education divisions (or a comparable group)
  - hone your topic, making sure that it is centered around a local invention that came about because of a unique combination of people, resources, and geography at an historic or contemporary time in your community history.
  - identify and secure the commitment of a community partner with compatible resources and goals
  - email a proposal (under 2,000 words) to Anna Karvellas by September 1, 2013
Places of Invention Affiliates Project

Phase II: Affiliate Project Expansion

Important Dates

- Proposal Deadline: September 1, 2013
- Selection Notification: October 4, 2013
- DC Training: December 6, 2013
- Final Deliverables Due: December 8, 2014
- Places of Invention opens at the National Museum of American History: May 2015
Thank You!

Anna Karvellas
Places of Invention Affiliates Project Coordinator

karvellasa@si.edu
202-633-4722