

PLAINFIELD PUBLIC LIBRARY

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New Jersey library officials have announced the selection of 15 libraries across the state to be funded under a program entitled “*New Jersey Library Makerspaces – The Leading Edge.*” Sponsored by the New Jersey State Library and LibraryLinkNJ, the new initiative combines technology with community-driven innovation.

The Plainfield Public Library was the only library selected in Union County. Their project, *The Enterprise Zone*, will feature a digital drawing tablet and professional design software that will enable artists to explore new techniques. The equipment is expected to appeal to designers, craftsmen, hobbyists, and graphic arts students. A large-format scanner/printer will allow users to generate prints up to 36” wide for patternmaking, portfolios, art projects and advertising.

The library’s Executive Director Joe Da Rold notes that the library has a strong history of supporting artists. *The Enterprise Zone* will be especially helpful to students during summers when they cannot access school facilities. Plainfield has three art schools: duCret School of Art, the Plainfield Academy for the Arts (PAAAS), and Central Jersey Arts Charter School.

The library’s timeframe calls for installing the equipment over the next few months, training staff, and launching the project on a trial basis during this summer. According to Da Rold, *The Enterprise Zone* is the latest in a long line of innovations for the Plainfield Public Library, which is committed to lifelong learning.

A complete list of the 15 grant recipients can be found at <http://www.njstatelib.org/NJLibraryMakerspaces>.

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