Teen Creative Challenges

DISCOVER YOUR COMMUNITY AND ITS HISTORY

No two NYC communities are the same. The city is a beautiful collage of unique places, people, stories, and experiences. From the bodega to the random statue in the park to the people on the bench feeding the birds—everything has a story that deserves to be told. We invite you to get to know your community and its history better or share the story of your favorite parts of it.

Get Creative!

- Tell the story of your community through writing or art. What makes it special? What does it look like? Sound like? What should people know? Take inspiration from Romare Bearden’s *Black Manhattan collage* in the Library’s collection.
- Find historical photos of your neighborhood using NYPL’s [OldNYC database](https://www.nypl.org/oldnyc) and then take comparative photos of those locations today. Write about your reaction to these changes. What changes would you like to see in your neighborhood?
- Explore NYPL’s [digital collections about New York City](https://www.nypl.org/digitalcollections). Many of the items in these collections are photographs that illuminate the people, buildings, and daily life of NYC. Take a photograph (or a series of photographs) of your New York City.

Submit What You Create to Our Teen Magazine Contest!

Our new teen magazine will include writing and art by and for teens. 25 pieces selected for publication will be awarded a $100 gift card. Submit between Thursday, June 9th and Friday, August 19. You must be between the ages of 13 and 19 and live, work, or go to school in New York City to enter. Read our [full submission guidelines](https://www.nypl.org/summer), and submit at this link.
Read About It!

Check out the titles below in the Library’s collection about the unique histories of and experiences in New York City communities, both fictional and real.

Explore More!

Visit your local branch to:

- Attend programs and events
- Talk with a library staff member about what you’re reading and creating
- Get book recommendations based on your interests!