

Underground Learning Scene

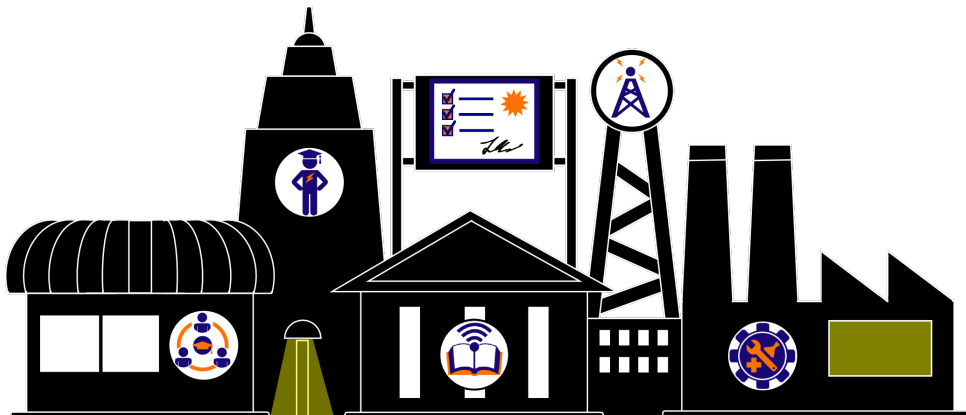
Today's global, technology-driven world is more learning-intensive than ever before, requiring adults to learn in real-time in order to be successful. This learning includes, but goes far beyond, formal schooling. It requires them to develop mastery by intergrating book and real world knowledge. It is a whole life learning process that is not visible in diplomas, and thus, comprises an Underground Learning Scene (ULS).

An Underground Learning Scene is made up of the people, places and tools that make learning possible. These include **Learning Activists**, **Learning Co-ops**, **Learning Hubs**, **Making Hubs**, **Competence Hubs**, and **Community-building Tools**. (See list to the right.)

ULSs are organic, dynamic, and web/place-based. Silicon Valley is an Underground Learning Scene for IT and entrepreneurship. The Wu-Tang Clan is a Learning Co-op for the rap music industry. 99U is a Learning Hub for the creative industry ULS. BioCurious is a Making Hub for the biotech ULS. MakerFaire is a Community-Building Tool for the independent manufacturing ULS.

A sustainable Underground Learning Scene is also a learning economy in which learning and doing are a medium of exchange between individuals and Learning Co-ops.

To create whole life learning experiences, individuals must intentionally chart the elements of the ULSs to which they belong. The chart helps them to know, and navigate, the ULS in ways that accumulate learning toward the goal of success in life, work and community.



Learning Activists



These individuals act as catalysts for the ULS. They build the social and financial capital that facilitates connections between Learning Co-ops, Learning Hubs, Making Hubs and Community-building Tools.

Learning Co-ops



These are self-organizing teams of individuals who connect to work on projects and share resources that help them to develop knowledge and skills. Learning Co-ops consist of at least 5-7 individuals that support group and individual learning goals.

Learning Hubs



Learning Hubs are places where Learning Co-ops go to access knowledge that they do not have and get guidance to navigate the learning scene. Learning Hubs can be physical locations as well as web-based and include: colleges, libraries, union halls, Wikipedia and MOOCs.

Making Hubs



Making Hubs are places where Learning Co-ops go to apply their knowledge and make things. They include companies, colleges, and community based organizations that provide space, facilities, and resources. These can be for a fee or free of charge.

Competence Hubs



Competence Hubs are places where Co-ops go to get external validation for what they know and are able to do whether it be a college credit, certificate or digital badge. These include colleges, Making Hubs, testing centers and non-profit organizations.

Community-building Tools



Community awareness and trust are necessary for Learning Activists and Learning Co-ops to form and access other elements of the scene. Community-building Tools are both hi-tech and hi-touch and include: social media, local radio shows, campus and workplace based meet-ups.