**Library Match first steps**

As a first step we strongly suggest setting up an initial meeting where you can have a conversation. Phone, skype, teleconference equipment, and Google hang-outs are all ways you can cover ground swiftly and not have to rely on the delay of written correspondence. These communication tools will also be implemented as part of whatever programming you may decide to undertake. Think about what you want to get out of your match interaction, and what you may have to offer. Starting the conversation with what you want to accomplish creates tangible expectations.

Possible topics for this conversation:

* A new service you would like to create for your community.
* A challenge you would like an unbiased opinion on.
* What role do you want to your library to play in the community? (Write down a single sentence.)
* Who are allies you would like to partner with in the community?

If staff are involved at this point, an agreement of whom will be at this meeting should be done in advance, let them make introductions as well. Connect on one another’s social media platforms so you, your staff, and your local communities can interact with one another.

As every library and community are unique, each match pair will be as well. You may be simply looking for a peer-learning partner. However, if you want more staff and volunteers involved here are some programming ideas:

* Joint Youth Advisory Council meeting
* **Young Artists and Authors Showcase**
* **A joint staff meeting**
* Share professional development between the libraries. Staff from one library may be an expert and able to share.
* Seed exchange
* Poetry reading
* Book discussion

A suggestion for a first program or project is pick something small and with a short lifespan, something you can accomplish quickly and point to as a success. Remember, these programs and projects can be good PR for your library and an opportunity to get into your local media.

We are very interested in the success of your partnership and happy to share with the library community whatever programs and projects you develop. Keep in touch with us regarding your projects. If you would like to write a blog article about what you are doing with your match we will be happy to post that.

A year after being paired we will send you a questionnaire on the status of your match.