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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 9, 2015

TEENS AT MEMPHIS PUBLIC LIBRARIES ARE ON CLOUD901

Ribbon-cutting Ceremony for Teen Learning Lab September 16 at Central Library

MEMPHIS, TN – Memphis teens will have a free place to hang out and geek out – unlike any other in the country – starting **Wednesday, September 16, 2015, 11 am** at the **Benjamin L. Hooks Central Library** (3030 Poplar Avenue). [#CLOUD901](#) is an 8,300-square-foot creative production space for teens ages 13 to 18 offering state-of-the-art equipment and programs to develop twenty-first century skills such as collaboration, innovation, creativity, problem solving, and critical thinking.

“CLOUD901 will present an extraordinary opportunity for teens in Memphis to connect, learn, and grow,” noted Director of Libraries Keenon McCloy. “There is no other place where teens can go free of charge to take advantage of such a wide range of hi-tech offerings.”

The Lab will house a sound mixing lab and isolation booths, video production lab, Brainstorming Center, Homework Central, technology gallery, Play Café and lounge, lockers, a tool checkout desk, an art studio, projection screen, Dream catcher, Hi-tech Treehouse, performance stage, creation stations, gaming zone, Makerspace, Dream Store, Collaboration Zone, and a loft. CLOUD901 will offer teen library cardholders free access to audio and video equipment, in addition to 3-D printers, X-Boxes, PlayStation 4s, MacBook Pros and Airs, monitors, keyboards, microphones, headsets, and more.

“We did a lot of research and looked at learning labs across the country,” McCloy continued. “We found that our Lab is larger in comparison, and it marries all the best things we discovered in our research. The goal is to invest in our youth and to retain Memphis talent in Memphis!”

“We want CLOUD901 to be teens’ venue of choice and a beacon of hope to satisfy their need to know,” added Central Library Public Services Manager Stacey Smith. “We are constantly re-inventing ourselves to meet the needs of the community we serve.”

The Memphis Library Foundation corralled support from community members and other donors to make the \$2-million project possible. Foundation Executive Director Diane Jalfon said, “CLOUD901 is a great example of a dynamic public / private partnership. We are truly grateful for the support of all our generous donors who helped to make this dream a reality!”

Teen library cardholders can visit CLOUD901 Mondays – Thursdays, 3 pm – 8 pm; Saturdays, 10 am – 5 pm; and Sundays 1 pm – 5 pm. During these hours, teens can engage in individual learning opportunities or expert-led workshops, projects, scheduled performances, and more.

For more information about CLOUD901 or the official ribbon-cutting ceremony, call (901) 415-2834 or (901) 415-2831.

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ABOUT THE MEMPHIS PUBLIC LIBRARY & INFORMATION CENTER:

The Memphis Public Library & Information Center (MPLIC) is committed to satisfying the customer's need to know. With 18 Library locations throughout the Greater Memphis area, MPLIC offers an array of programs, services, and resources for citizens and visitors to enjoy. They include JobLINC mobile career services, LINC/2-1-1 telephone referral services, a TV and radio station (WYPL TV-18, WYPL FM 89.3), a small business center, laptops for checkout and free Wi-Fi access, in addition to books, e-books, DVDs, records, compact discs, and educational programs for children, teens, and adults. Customers can find age-appropriate services and a list of Library locations at www.memphislibrary.org.

Memphis Public Libraries are publicly and privately funded. Approximately three million people visit the Memphis Public Library & Information Center each year.

ABOUT THE CITY OF MEMPHIS:

Under the leadership of Mayor A C Wharton Jr. since 2009, Memphis is becoming a City of Choice by focusing on creating safe and vibrant neighborhoods, investing in young people, creating economic opportunities for all, and delivering excellence in government. Memphis is famous around the world for the convergence of creativity and innovation that produced its most famous exports – legendary music; the company that invented modern world commerce – FedEx, and the international leader in curing catastrophic childhood illnesses – St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. It has a celebrated entrepreneurial history, more Fortune 500 companies than any other Tennessee city, and it has been named one of the best cities in the U.S. for startups. It is famous as home for Elvis Presley's Graceland, Sun Studios, Stax Museum of American Soul Music, Beale Street, the National Civil Rights Museum, and the most unspoiled riverfront on the Mississippi River. City of Memphis, which employs more than 6,000 people with an annual budget of approximately \$650 million, has developed and led programs that have dramatically reduced crime, increased jobs, improved Memphis' quality of life, and attracted national attention and investments in the city. For more information, visit www.memphistn.gov.

ABOUT THE MEMPHIS LIBRARY FOUNDATION:

The Memphis Library Foundation is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization, established to enhance the Memphis Public Library through private support. Since its inception, the Foundation has raised nearly \$30M for the important work of the Memphis Public Library & Information Center. For more information, visit www.memphislibraryfoundation.org.