DR. LOU LAHANA.ED.D

Lou (Lewis) Lahana, Ed.D
Lou.Lahana@gmail.com
www.Techbrarian.com

Profile

I believe that *powerful learning outcomes result from students **Making** projects driven by social action.* Within my Makerspace, students work as documentarians, ceramicists, rappers, embroiderers, wood workers, engineers, jewelry designers, and painters. In these roles they have combatted homelessness, battled against catcalling, invented solutions for people with visual impairments, advocated for edible insects, and created music to raise awareness of domestic violence. Such student projects were passion-based, with a deep-felt commitment to creating positive change in their communities. By design, their activism reaches beyond classroom walls and can be viewed at: bit.ly/social_action and instagram.com/TheIslandSchool188. As an active Teach For America alumnus, my efforts have always been centered within schools serving historically marginalized populations.. These experiences continue to inform my academic work.

Experience

TECHNOLOGY COORDINATOR, PS/MS 188, THE ISLAND SCHOOL; NYC — 2007-PRESENT

Designed and operate a social action Makerspace for grades 5-8. Using my site, www.techbrarian.com, students research social issues ranging from homelessness and women's rights to cyberbullying and animal abuse. After self-selecting topics, they create products to help inform others and work towards solutions. Technologies include filmmaking, laser cutting, jewelry making, 3D printing, game design, digital music composition, lego robotics, leather-crafting, and open-source electronics.

ADJUNCT LECTURER, CITY COLLEGE; NYC — 2017-2019

Working with B-12 pre-service and in-service teachers on developing critical literacy and technology in the classroom.

LIBRARY/MEDIA SPECIALIST, PS/MS188, THE ISLAND SCHOOL; NYC — 2001-2007

Working alongside an architect, designed our school's state-of-the-art library/media center. Responsibilities included technology education for students and staff, circulation of resources, storytelling, and grant writing/management. My Pre-K—8th grade technology program included the teaching of animation, Photoshop, documentary filmmaking, Lego Robotics, digital citizenship, and web-based research.

LIBRARY/MEDIA SPECIALIST, PS 60, GEORGE L. GALLEGO; NYC 1998-2001

Restored and revamped our school's tired library. My responsibilities included circulation/acquisition of resources, technology instruction for K-5 students and staff, storytelling, and puppetry.

Education

— Teachers College at Columbia University, NY — Ed.D. Instructional Technology & Media, 2016
— Pratt Institute, NY — MA Library & Information Sciences, 2002
— University of California at Santa Cruz — BA Psychology, 1998

Publications

—Lahana, L. (2025). Above the Influence: Youth Activism in a School Makerspace. *Middle Grades Review* 11(1).
—Ralls, D., Lahana, L., Towers, B., Johnson, L. (2022). Reimagining Education in a Pandemic: Children and Young People as Powerful Educators. In: Turok-Squire, R. (eds) *COVID-19 and Education in the Global North*. Palgrave Macmillan, Cham.
—Lahana, L. (2021). Integrating School Makerspaces into the English Language Arts Curriculum. *Middle Grades Review, 7*(2).
—Lahana, L. (2018). Positioning Educational Makerspaces within Schools Serving Low-Socioeconomic Status Students. *International Journal of Innovation in Education*. 5(1), pp. 31 - 44.

Skills

Curriculum design; learning space design; Filmmaking; grant writing; music production; programming; Woodworking; open-source electronics; metalsmithing, leather-crafting, 3D printing; Lego Robotics; graphic design; Spanish language.

Recent Achievements

— Presenter: Critical Media Literacy Conference of the Americas: *Sparking Social Activism in Students through Voice and Choice*. 2023
— Grand Prize Award Winner: FLAG Award for Teaching Excellence, 2020
— Profiled on NY1; Inspiring Teacher Wins 100K to Help Educate Children; 2020
— Featured in Today.com: No Place to Go
— Profiled in AM New York: "A Little Bit of Chaos' and 'Passion-Based Learning' in Manhattan, 2019
— Presenter: ISTE 2019: Teaching Creativity- Leading a Citywide Maker Movement, 2019
— Billion Oyster Project Teaching Fellowship, Pace University 2015-2017