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London's Community Engagement

In 2009, London Public Library (LPL) and the UWO's Faculty of Information and Media Studies (FIMS) collaborated to present a five-week Lunch and Learn Series at FIMS for students and faculty. LPL staff spoke about many ways the library demonstrates its commitment to community engagement. LPL's strategic plan articulates the need for community engagement in order to fulfill its promise of being inclusive, essential, and accessible. LPL's community-led service development is designed to connect directly with people, institutions, and agencies so that the library hears what the community needs and wants. Participants learned about initiatives with the City of London Child and Youth Network, Library Settlement Project, Teen Services, Libro Library Road Show, Neighbourhood Revitalization of the Carson Branch Library, and Serving the Socially Vulnerable Populations Project. The worlds of the public library and academia have meshed, leading to a closer relationship and future partnerships.

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