



In 2018, SSHSA launched its virtual education program using artifacts from the SSHSA archives as source material. *STEAMing Into The Future*, the SSHSA education program, is housed on a dedicated website (www.shiphistory.org) where lesson plans are organized by grade, theme and subject matter. The SSHSA program was designed based on the popular STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) education model. An “A” for Art was added to the acronym to create STEAM education. The SSHSA online database of artifacts, the Virtual Museum and *STEAMing Into The Future* are all free of charge and formatted for mobile devices.

The demand for *STEAMing Into The Future* during (and after) the COVID-19 shutdowns motivated SSHSA to develop a program expansion. The proposed expansion is called STEAMing Ahead: Digital Collections and Virtual Education Initiative. STEAMing Ahead will increase access to SSHSA archives by making them available in the online database and through SSHSA’s Virtual Museum Exhibits. Furthermore, these artifacts will provide the source material for additional *STEAMing Into The Future* lessons for grades K-12. Connecting the end-user to these resources will be done through a coordinated approach specifically: (1) targeting US communities with poverty rates greater than 20% (note: the national average is 13.1%) (2) working directly through those municipal school educators, area public libraries and area nonprofits and (3) communicating directly to smartphone users via social media boosts in those same areas.

The goal of STEAMing Ahead is to (1) continue to meet societal needs created by COVID-19 and to (2) increase access to cultural experiences and high-quality virtual STEAM educational lessons among K-12 students in communities that live in poverty.

[Click here](#) to access the full Case Statement for the Full Ahead! campaign.