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Subject: Projects We Love: Out of This World
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JULY 26, 2012

This week our projects are going far — to the printers, to the Olympics, or all the way to space. Don't worry, though. No matter where they end up, they're taking backers along for the ride.

 [T-REX](#)

T-REX

by Drea Cooper/Zackary Canepari/Sue Johnson

 **Category** Documentary

 **Location** Flint, MI

Good as gold

Claressa Shields is pretty much your typical 17-year-old girl, with crushes on boys and an affection for Twitter. Except for one thing: she's also the youngest, and one of the very first, women to ever box in the Olympics. In the ring, she goes by the name of T-Rex, which is also the title of the documentary about her life. The film follows her around the world as she navigates the promises and pitfalls of athletic celebrity, from Flint, Michigan all the way to — we hope! — the gold.

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These Days: A Novel

These Days: A Novel

by Jack Cheng

 Category Fiction

 Location New York, NY

A novel idea

Jack Cheng is a writer and designer who spends most of his day in front of a computer, which serves as direct inspiration for his debut novel, *These Days*. Three years in the making, it tells the story of a tech-savvy boy who falls for a girl who doesn't even own a cell phone, and how their colliding worlds reflect our modern relationship to that thing we call The Internet. In a move sure to please both of his protagonists, he's set to self-release in digital and print editions.

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1000 Student Projects to the Edge of Space

1000 Student Projects to the Edge of Space

by John Powell

 Category Technology

 Location Rancho Cordova, CA

Ping pong satellites

This fall, a group of students will send 1,000 ping pong balls into space. Each "PongSat" contains a pint-sized project, ranging from the super simple (a marshmallow!) to the wildly ambitious (miniature data logs), that will be launched into the atmosphere then returned to its creator with data and video from the flight. It's enough to make anyone feel like the next great space explorer, but you don't have to be a kid to get on board. Backers can pledge to send their own notes along for the ride!

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