More Mistakes Were Made!

Session Chair
Kathy Gustafson-Hilton, Hands On! Studio

Presenters
Trudi Plummer, Director of Education, Maine Discovery Museum
Devon Hamilton, Experience & Learning Director, Blue Rhino Studio
Jane Werner, Executive Director, Children’s Museum of Pittsburgh
Our definition of a mistake:

There was really something lost: resources, time, goodwill, pride. The example should be a bit embarrassing. It should have helped our organizations or us, as professionals, grow in a significant way. Experimentation is, of course, an excellent way to develop new programming and operations, but that’s different from a mistake in this sense.
A common mistake that people make when trying to design something completely foolproof is to underestimate the ingenuity of complete fools.

Douglas Adams, Hitchhikers Guide to the Galaxy
Learning from your mistakes does not happen automatically, it requires thinking and reflection.

Oscar Auliq-Ice, South African author, venture capitalist
If you aren’t making mistakes then you aren’t doing anything. I’m positive that a doer makes mistakes.

John Wooden, UCLA basketball coach who won 10 NCAA national championships in 12 years.
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Japanese Proverb: Saru mo ki kara ochiru

Translation: Even monkeys fall from trees.

Meaning: Everyone makes mistakes. Monkeys are very good at climbing trees, but even they mess up sometimes.
Appreciate your mistakes for what they are: precious life lessons that can only be learned the hard way. Unless it’s a fatal mistake, which, at least others can learn from.

Former Senator Al Franken, writer for Saturday Night Live
There are no stupid mistakes.

There are mistakes. These moments teach us something.
Then there’s stupid. This happens when we refuse to learn from our mistakes.

Seth Godin, Author & former dot com business executive
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A mistake that makes you humble is better than an achievement that makes you arrogant.

Sheikh Hamza Yusuf, Islamic scholar
Mistakes are the portal to discovery.

James Joyce, Irish novelist & poet
Some of the worst mistakes in my life were haircuts.

Jim Morrison, Musician, lead vocalist of The Doors