More Mistakes Were Made!

Session Chair
Kathy Gustafson-Hilton, Hands On! Studio

Presenters
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Trudi Plummer, Director of Education, Maine Discovery Museum
Our Learning Objectives

Admitting mistakes isn’t a sign of weakness. It’s a sign of professionalism to learn from other’s mistakes to avoid repeating them.

Together we can create a playful, safe, interactive environment that encourages us to share and celebrate personal and organizational growth and learning.

Reflection helps us identify what we, as a field, are doing to encourage or suppress discussion of mistakes that we (and our museums) make.
Start thinking!
THANKS.
Know Your Regulator

Water tables are easy, right? What could go wrong?

A common mistake that people make when trying to design something completely foolproof is to underestimate the ingenuity of complete fools.

Douglas Adams
Should we rely on chemicals, or go state of the art?
Consequences (Uh-oh):

• Adapt and reconfigure 3 different major water exhibits in 3 different exhibit halls - eventually removing one

• Undertake daily cleaning and maintenance schedule that consumed up to 25% of our maintenance team’s time

• Considerable down time of the water exhibits during public hours

• Crash course in pool chemistry for everyone
But….  

We learned

• Got very picky about regulatory compliance by contractors
• Made sure we talk w/ regulators during design and construction
• Made sure staff were qualified on safety inspection
• Built relationships with those responsible for inspection
Awarding the Epic Failure Trophy 2023
Thank you for coming to More Mistakes Were Made!

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