



Scaling Respectfully:
Co-creating playful
learning experiences
across a regional network



Characteristics of playful learning experiences





Children's Creativity Museum, San Francisco





Mystery Box Challenge:

A toolkit that museums and organizations can deploy for playful learning





Co-Creation Partners

- Children's Museum of Sonoma County
- Habitot
- Monterey Youth Museum
- Sacramento Children's Museum
- Santa Cruz Children's Museum



What should go into a toolkit?

- Training Videos
- Editable PDF's
- Activity Descriptions with "scripts"
- Materials List





Pivoted from professional development model to coaching & technical assistance model





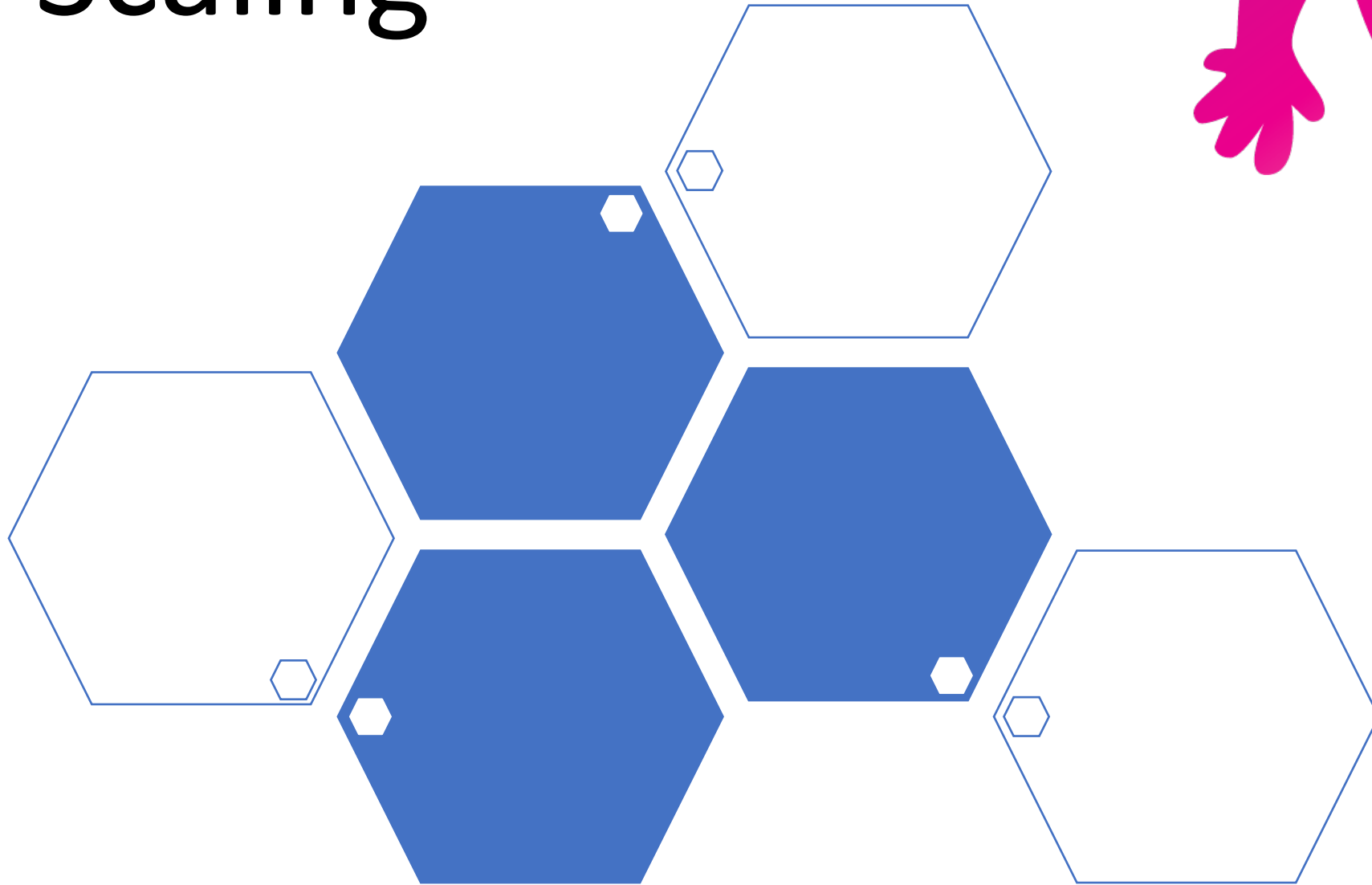
Significant activity modifications

- Strength-based
- Partner-specific resource limitations
- Co-created completely new practices
- Challenged our assumptions about what can vary and what cannot



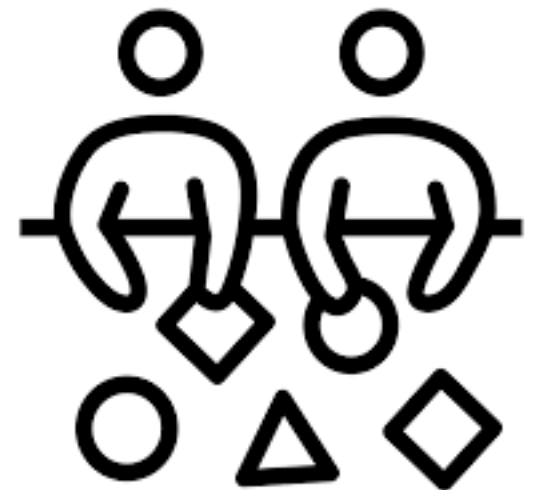


Scaling



Co-creation

Scott Burg
Rockman et al.



Co-creation

- Way for individuals to collaborate in various contexts
- Involves new social practices and modes of interaction
- Both a method and a process
 - Non-linear
- Bottom up vs. top down



Co-creation: Characteristics

- Value of collaboration with different stakeholders
- Creation of a collaborative platform
- Involvement of participants in different processes/activities



Coaching and Co-Creation



- Coach is part of the learning experience
- Process is driven by shared inquiry and curiosity
- Emphasizes peer-support and facilitation
- Promotes learner self-efficacy

Coaching and Capacity Building

- Helps learners apply new knowledge on the job
- Encourages independent decision-making
- Supports implementation
 - Customized approach
 - Reduces staff/organizational resistance
- Promotes learner self-efficacy



Creating the network

- Build awareness around benefits
 - What is the value creation? (individual and collective)
 - Whole vs. sum of the parts
- Build relational competencies
- Focus on shared competencies
- Accept and embrace unplanned actions and tensions

Evolving the network

- Dynamic nature is key to evolution (organic)
- Multiple perspectives fosters new ideas
- Shared and individual learning
- Structure is adaptive
 - Different roles, responsibilities and levels of participation
- These are 'neutral' spaces
 - Divergent thinking in a non-judgmental environment
- Diversity and rhythm

Successful strategies

- Understand an organization's/individual's unique needs and context
- Recipients should be active participants in the process
- Combine application of new skills with reflection on existing practices
- Lean into creative tension
- Embrace differences
- Let the process evolve



Challenges

- May result in unpredictable outcomes
- Requires forethought and reflection
- Takes time to develop trust and relationships
- Tension between being too prescriptive and letting go





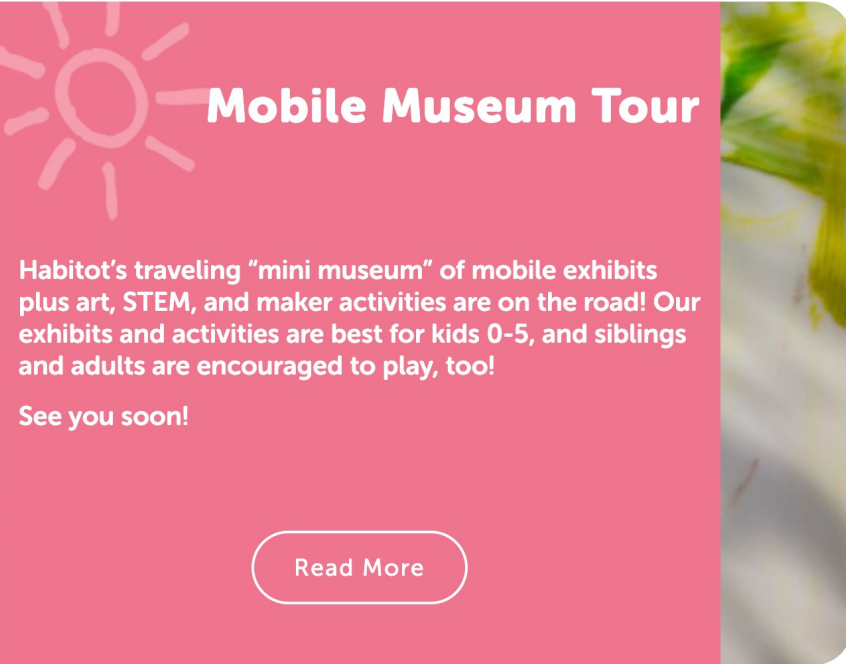
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habitat

CHILDREN'S MUSEUM



Mobile Museum Tour

Habitot's traveling "mini museum" of mobile exhibits plus art, STEM, and maker activities are on the road! Our exhibits and activities are best for kids 0-5, and siblings and adults are encouraged to play, too!

See you soon!

[Read More](#)





 children's
museum
of SONOMA COUNTY



Mystery Card Challenge





This child was asked if he was creating a pet on his card and he said, "no, I'm not sure what I am creating", but he was very busy nonetheless.



Jackson and his friend abandoned their cards and decided to create two parts of a space center and combine their creations.

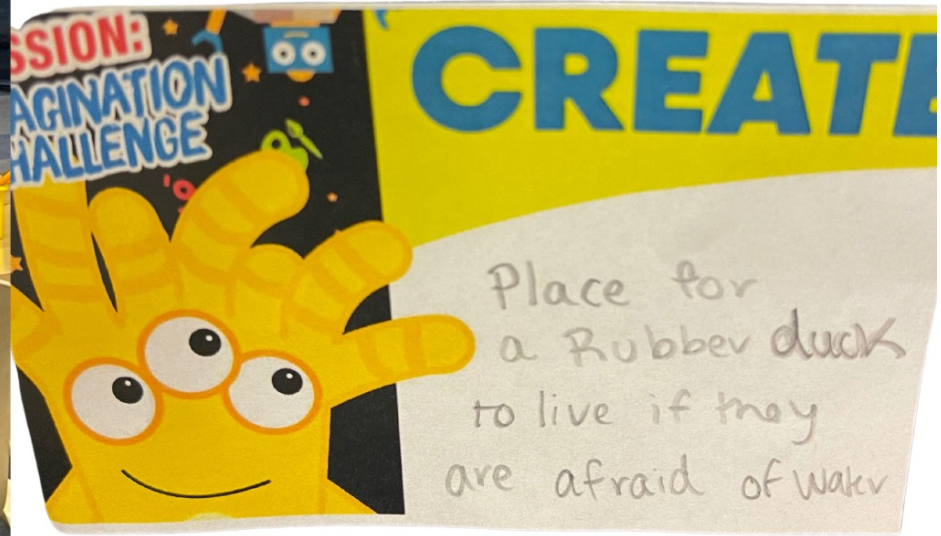


This family made a bed and were onto a bigger project of a Machine That Can Make Pigs Fly.

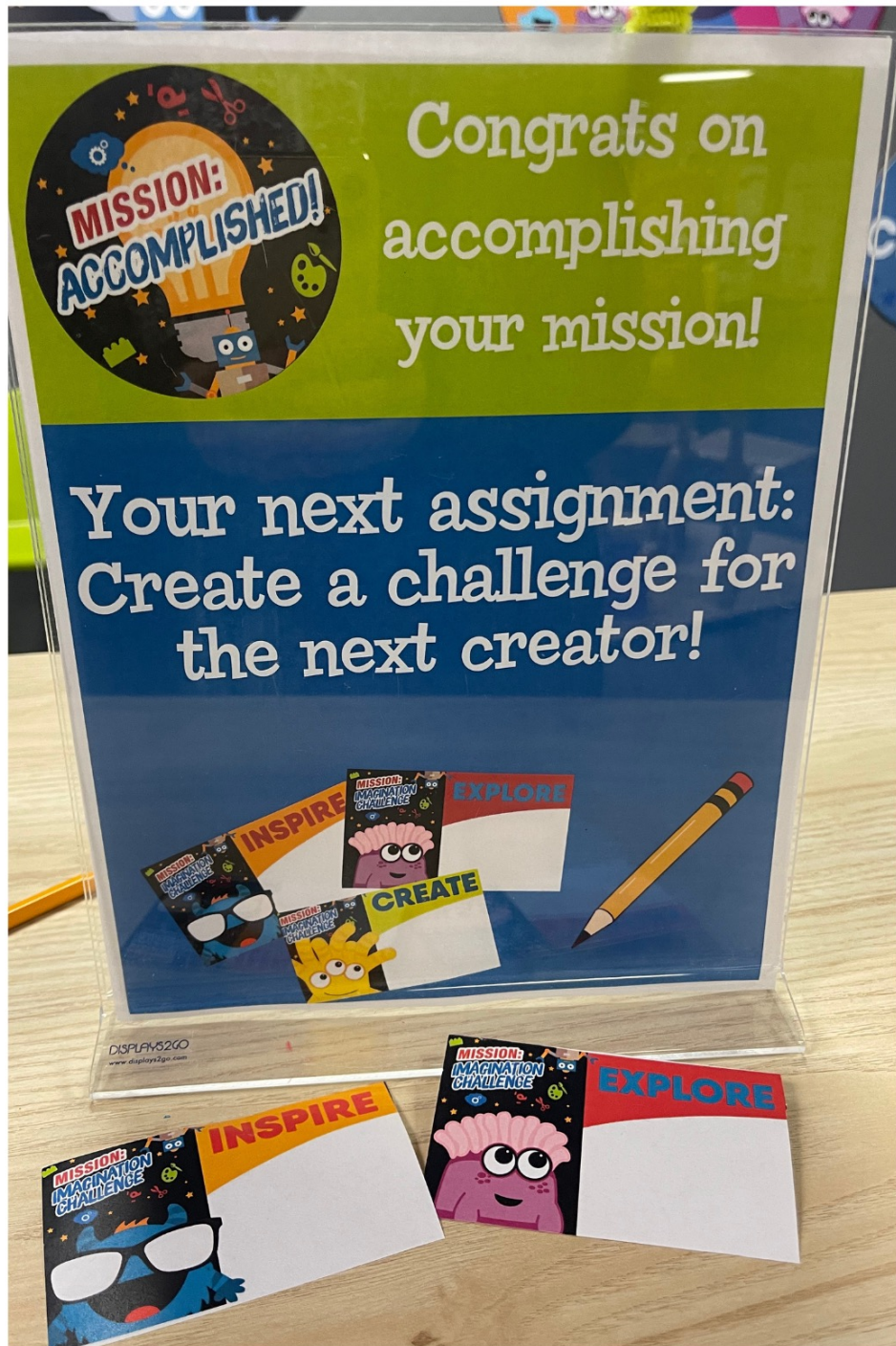


Sacramento Children's Museum











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