



InterActivity 2024

FLOURISH!

May 15-17 • Madison, WI

Hosted in partnership with  madison children's museum

Monona Terrace Community and Convention Center
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#IA24



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A note about sustainability.

ACM has two central lenses that guide our work: diversity, equity, accessibility, and inclusion (DEAI); and environmental resiliency. Our commitment to environmental resiliency and regeneration means that every decision will be considered from a stance of not only doing less environmental harm, but of doing more environmental good through our work, to create the regenerative future our young audiences deserve. A place for us all to flourish.

As it relates to InterActivity 2024, ACM and our hosting partner Madison Children's Museum have thoughtfully implemented intentional choices to our conference.

Host Location

Madison is a walkable city with hotels conveniently located near the convention center and to Madison Children's Museum, therefore reducing the need for bus transportation.

Conference Venue

Monona Terrace Community and Convention Center is certified as a "green building" at the Platinum Level by the U.S. Green Building Council and has noteworthy sustainability practices in the areas of composting, water usage, recycling, catering, green energy purchasing, lighting, and greenspace (native gardens). Monona Terrace sustainability practices (<https://www.monona-terrace.com/sustainability/>) are environmentally conscious, including:

- Use of china and cloth napkins or recyclable products when necessary.
- Locally sourced food and donates what they can.
- Recycle bins.

Tote Bags and Badge Holders

The conference tote bags and badge holders are made from recycled materials.

Printed Materials

The InterActivity 2024 Final Program and Program At-A-Glance are printed on materials that practice sustainable forestry practices and with UV ink. UV inks are 99.5% VOC (Volatile Organic Compounds) free, unlike conventional inks making it more environmentally friendly. We print only the minimum quantity needed to avoid waste and encourage recycling of all materials.

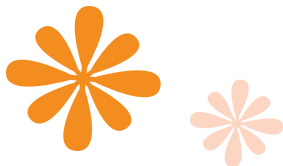
Conference App

Our conference app allows us to make updates to programming and content without the need for printed addendums. We also encourage all participants to use the app for session evaluations, instead of using printed forms. See p. 21 for access information.

Exhibitors

ACM has shared our intent to use more sustainable practices to all our exhibitors and encourages all exhibitors to recycle or donate any unneeded materials post-conference. We also invite exhibitors to highlight their own sustainable elements, aspirations, and accomplishments in their own work to resonate with our values and those of our community.

This year exhibitors are able to donate materials post-conference to local Madison nonprofit Pathways of Wisconsin.



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Contact:
Tasha Leverette, Chief Action Officer
tasha@gyroscopeinc.com
510.986.0111

www.gyroscopeinc.com



InterActivity 2024 Hosts



The **Association of Children's Museums' (ACM)** mission is to champion children's museums and together enrich the lives of children worldwide. Our vision is a world that prioritizes the rights of all children to playful learning and a healthy, safe, and equitable future. With more than 470 members in 50 states and 11 countries, ACM is the world's foremost professional society supporting and advocating on behalf of children's museums, and those who work at and otherwise sustain them. We leverage the collective knowledge of children's museums through convening, sharing, and dissemination.

Visit www.ChildrensMuseums.org to learn more about ACM.



Every day, **Madison Children's Museum (MCM)** seeks to "connect children with their families, their communities, and the world beyond through discovery learning and creative play." By elevating the brilliance of childhood, MCM fosters life-long connections that encourage children to find their passions and become their best selves.

MCM was founded in 1980 and moved to its "forever home" in 2010. In just five floors and over 40,000 square feet of indoor and outdoor exhibit space, unexpected and upcycled exhibit elements, along with work by hundreds of local artists and craftspeople, contribute toward a funky, inspiring space that activates the creativity and imaginations of visitors. Located across from the iconic Wisconsin State Capitol building and nestled between two lakes, the museum lives in the heart of downtown Madison.

From the WilderNest—the charming, only-local, early childhood exhibit on the first floor—all the way up to

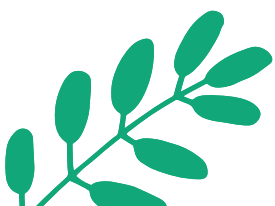
the top of the lush green roof, crowned with a classic Dr. Evermor sculpture and populated by chickens and bunnies, the museum invites play—with art, surprises, and playful humor.

Sustainability and creativity are inextricably intertwined, as the challenge of upcycling existing materials leads to entirely new and delightful creations. MCM masterfully turns what looks like trash—an abandoned airplane, old gym floors, or a deteriorating parking lot—into whimsical gems that shape future paths and memories. The Pie in the Sky Diner serves wool fruit and veggies. A providentially acquired giant bucket, often full of kids, has served as a stage for an opera singer. Children and their families take healthy risks on the two-story Hodge Podge Mahal indoor climber or test their courage in a human-sized gerbil wheel.

Community, partnership, and collaboration are core to the museum's work, and MCM benefits from decades of partnership building. Relationships with cultural organizations and leaders from all of Madison's diverse communities inform planning of vibrant programs and joyous events. Educational approaches and evaluation practices are developed in close collaboration with university and college professors and researchers.

Nationally, MCM is best known for its visionary and innovative leadership, creativity, strong access programs (used by nearly a third of visitors), free First-Time Parent membership, and sustainability. The museum has been a leader in green exhibit design for nearly three decades. A tradition of in-house exhibit design and construction has enabled experimentation and innovation in the ongoing pursuit of more sustainable museum practices.

Everything the museum does is in service of the well-being and flourishing of children and families. Above all, MCM fosters the joyful, healthy development of all children. Learn more about Madison Children's Museum at madisonchildrensmuseum.org.





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- Museums for All offers only minimum guidelines. Feel free to make your museum even more accessible.
- Over 200 children's museums already participate.
- Over 9 million visitors have come to a museum using Museums for All.

Learn more about Museums for All and accessibility by visiting:

Museums for All table at the Professional Networking Breakfast

Thursday, May 16
7:30 a.m.-8:45 a.m.
Community Terrace

Museums for All at Peer-to-Peer Roundtable Discussions

Friday, May 17
7:45 a.m.-8:45 a.m.
Madison Ballroom D

Visit www.Museums4All.org for resources, registration, and additional information.

Participating museums receive ongoing information and resources through newsletters, hangouts, and a dedicated Groupsite.

Welcome to InterActivity 2024

Dear Colleague,

ACM and Madison Children's Museum welcome you to InterActivity 2024: Flourish! Children's museums have a unique opportunity to reimagine and create a positive future. By radically flourishing in an ever-changing society and environment we can re-establish our sense of interconnection, use language and actions to frame the positive, and help our communities thrive.

InterActivity 2024 will explore how the field can ensure that every child prospers and becomes their best self, which in turn creates a more caring, compassionate, inclusive, and sustainable global community.

Children's museum professional development is unlike any other. The InterActivity 2024 Program Committee has developed an outstanding agenda with six blocks of sessions for staff on all roles presented through a variety of formats including gallery walks, flash talks, prototype creation, group therapy, and game show-style fun. Emerging museums will benefit from the focused pre-conference and executive directors and CEOs will network and connect at our annual retreat. There is also much to be found in the ACM MarketPlace—our exhibitors and sponsors are ready to answer your questions and help add to the joy in your spaces.

InterActivity 2024 is anchored by two plenary sessions. First, we will open the conference with small talks from three dynamic speakers framing lively short presentations around the conference theme. Dr. Lynda Barry will share how creativity sparks a flourishing spirit, Dr. Richard J. Davidson will focus on human flourishing and well-being, and Charles Hua will explore environmental flourishing. We then proudly present our Great Friend to Kids Award to Dr. Gloria Ladson-Billings for her outstanding contributions to educational pedagogy and anthropology as it relates to diversity, equity, accessibility, and inclusion.


Madison is the perfect venue for this year's InterActivity. The museum itself offers a plethora of professional inspiration through custom-crafted, award-winning exhibits, and beautiful indoor and outdoor spaces. **We are so glad that you are here!**



Deborah Gilpin
President & CEO
Madison Children's Museum
InterActivity 2024 Host



Joe Hastings
Co-Executive Director
Explora
President, Board of Directors



Arthur G. Affleck, III
Executive Director
**Association of
Children's Museums**





Tony Evers

Office of the Governor | State of Wisconsin

May 15, 2024

Greetings, InterActivity 2024: Flourish! Participants:

It is my pleasure to welcome all of you to the great state of Wisconsin for the Association of Children's Museum's InterActivity 2024: Flourish! conference at the Madison Children's Museum.

Madison is a wonderful city for learning and exploring, and the Madison Children's Museum provides creative, engaging, and educational programming for Wisconsin families and visitors alike. The state of Wisconsin recognizes the importance of education and creating spaces for kids to learn, play, and grow to help them become the leaders and innovators of tomorrow.

To all who are participating in this year's conference, thank you for the hard work that has gone into hosting this exciting event and for the imagination and joy you bring families as they learn and bond together. I wish everyone in attendance a wonderful conference and hope you are able to enjoy the many experiences this city and the greater state of Wisconsin has to offer.

Once again, welcome to Wisconsin! I hope you enjoy your stay and come back to visit again soon.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Tony Evers'.

Tony Evers
Governor

Office of the Governor ♦ PO Box 7863, Madison, WI 53707

(608) 266-1212 ♦ evers.wi.gov



Office of the Mayor

Satya Rhodes-Conway, Mayor

City-County Building, Room 403
210 Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard
Madison, Wisconsin 53703
Phone: (608) 266-4611
Fax: (608) 267-8671
mayor@cityofmadison.com
www.cityofmadison.com

January 26, 2024

Hello and Welcome to Madison!

We think you'll feel at home here. Like you, we're proud to create spaces where children and their families can flourish.

Our summers are full of festivals and activities with intergenerational appeal. Whole families attend arts events like Art Fair on the Square, Opera in the Park, and Concerts on the Square. Overture Center provides arts and culture at the top of State Street while kids participate in the arts with an impressive facility of their own, MYArts, nearby. Public gardens abound, and our Saturday Farmers' Market on Capital Square is the largest producers-only farmers' market in the country—all of the items for sale are grown, raised, and produced in Wisconsin by the person behind the stand.

Our Public Health Department and Parks Division are collaborating to connect children to nature and to ensure that we provide those experiences equitably to all children in our city. We offer 270 parks to choose from. Sustainability is a priority for Madison, as it is for all of you. Madison has set the ambitious goal of reaching 100% renewable energy and net zero carbon emissions for city operations by 2030 and community-wide by 2050. We know how important it is to show our children that we care about their future and are working to improve it.

Madison Children's Museum embodies all these things—arts, creativity, connection to nature, sustainability, and access—and does it in a way that concentrates the playful, quirky spirit of Madison in one city block. We appreciate that the museum chose the center of downtown for its home, because it shows children from every neighborhood that they have a place in the heart of our city.

Enjoy the conference and all Madison has to offer. I hope you return home with fresh ideas, renewed energy for your important work, and fond memories of Madison.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Satya Rhodes-Conway".

Satya Rhodes-Conway
Mayor



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Leda Riley, *The Magic House, St. Louis Children's Museum*

Erik Smith, *National Children's Museum*

Meghan Toland, *Sacramento Children's Museum*

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Kelly McKinley, *Bay Area Discovery Museum*

Members of the Task Force

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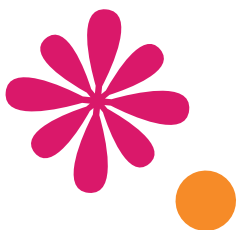
Beth McCune

Research Specialist

Blythe Romano

Special Assistant to the Executive Director

Uswa Ahmed



InterActivity 2024 Small Museum Financial Aid Program Recipients

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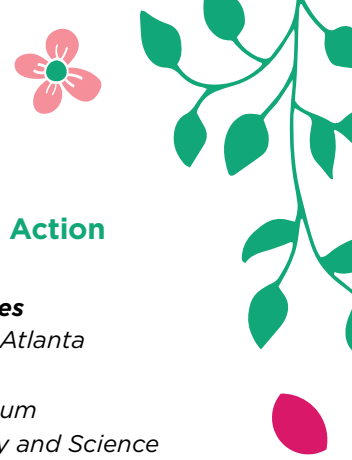
Kris Baily, *Wonder Workshop Children's Museum*
Julie Burtnette, *Des Moines Children's Museum*
Rylie Gryczko, *Adventure! Children's Museum*
Alyssa Miller, *Columbus Area Children's Museum*
Kristy Stacy, *Central Wisconsin Children's Museum*

**Children's Museum of Brownsville, Children's Museum of Denver at Marsico Campus, Children's Museum of Pittsburgh, Children's Museum of South Dakota, DuPage Children's Museum, EarlyWorks Children's Museum, Greentrike, Hands On Children's Museum, Seattle Children's Museum, Stepping Stones Museum for Children, The Magic House, St. Louis Children's Museum, The Regnier Family Wonderscope Children's Museum of Kansas City*

InterActivity 2024 Diversity in Action Fellowship Recipients

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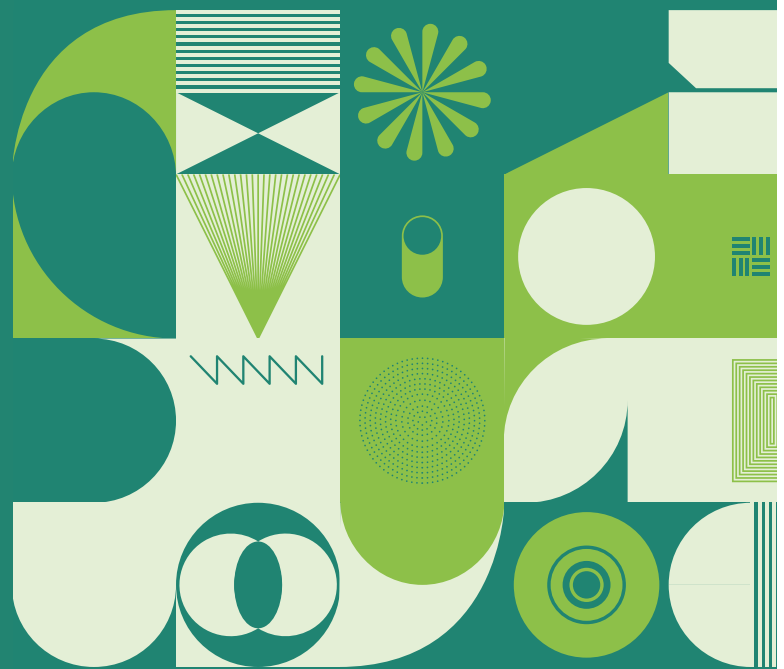


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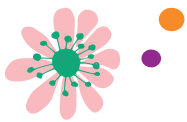
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Explore Madison

ACM and the Madison Children’s Museum welcome you to Madison for InterActivity 2024. Madison is a vibrant, one-of-a-kind, outdoorsy, storied, chic and down-home place. It’s a mid-sized city that perfectly blends urban style with natural beauty and small-town ease. Packed between five lakes you’ll find world-class arts, live music, over 270 parks and 200 miles of trails. Photos courtesy of Focal Flame Photography except where noted otherwise.



City Cycling

See the city from all angles on the 12-mile Lake Loop. Madison’s most famous path wraps around Lake Monona and offers dozens of Instagram-worthy views, with plenty of places to stop for a bite and brew. Hop on a rental e-bike at one of the many BCycle stations located around town.



Eat Globally, Locally

More than just dairy, you can taste your way around the world, right here in Madison. To start, there’s Ethiopian Dorowot with a side of injera (flatbread), Russian pelmeni with the works, Nepali fare with vegetarian options, Laotian curry with tons of flavor and spice, and plenty of fresh-made Italian pasta. There’s Salvadoran sweet pupusas. Authentic tacos and tamales, French crepes and tartines, Turkish sausage, Korean bibimbap, and so much more. Where to try? Three

sure bets to find a variety of fare are South Park Street, Williamson Street and State Street. But keep your eyes peeled – there’s delicious global food around every corner. And, if you’d like to take home something special, there’s over 20 international grocery stores in the area, too.



Nightlife

You name it, Madison’s got it. Craft cocktails on the Capitol Square and throwing darts in the college bars. Plus, lots of live music and comedy shows pair perfectly with your choice of wine, beer, mocktails or cocktails.



Overture Center

Overture Center features seven state-of-the-art performance spaces and four galleries where Broadway tours, national and international touring artists, nine resident

companies, and hundreds of local artists engage people in nearly 700,000 educational and artistic experiences each year. Roughly half of the visitors are here for free or low-cost community and education programs.



Photo courtesy of Travel Wisconsin.

Wisconsin State Capitol and Observation Deck

The State Capitol building in the heart of the city reaches over 200 feet tall and is the only granite dome in the U.S. Step inside and take a free guided tour or roam on your own. Make sure you look up to see the gorgeous “Resources of Wisconsin” mural in the rotunda. On warm days, get a 365-degree view of downtown from the observation deck. The Capitol is open to the public seven days a week.





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Museum Open House Program

The Museum Open House Program provides InterActivity 2024 attendees with the opportunity to explore many cultural institutions in Madison. Many of the institutions listed below always offer free admission but those that charge a fee are generously offering free admission from May 12-19, 2024. Simply present your InterActivity 2024 conference badge or registration confirmation. Please call ahead or check website to confirm hours.

Madison Children's Museum

608.256.6445

www.madisonchildrensmuseum.org

Note: The museum will close at 12:00 p.m. on Thursday, May 16

Chazen Museum of Art

608.263.2246

www.chazen.wisc.edu

Henry Vilas Zoo

608.266.4732

www.henryvilaszoo.gov

Madison Museum of Contemporary Art

608.257.0158

www.mmoca.org

Madison Municipal Building Gallery

Exhibition of artwork by Madison youth

608.266.4071

[www.cityofmadison.com/dpced/
planning/exhibitions/3837/](http://www.cityofmadison.com/dpced/planning/exhibitions/3837/)

National Mustard Museum

608.831.2222

www.mustardmuseum.com

Olbrich Botanical Gardens

608.246.4550

www.olbrich.org

University of Wisconsin-Madison Arboretum

608.263.7888

www.arboretum.wisc.edu

University of Wisconsin Geology Museum

608.262.1412

www.museum.geoscience.wisc.edu

Wisconsin Historical Society History Maker Space

Limited hours: Open House,

Thursday, May 16, 4:30 p.m.–6:00 p.m.

608.264.6535

www.wisconsinhistory.org

Wisconsin Veterans Museum

608.267.1799

www.wisvetsmuseum.com

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Spring 2025



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Welcome to My Neighborhood!



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Learn, play, and discover with a unique traveling exhibit from The Magic House!



Argentina's Niños



Namaste India



Kenya's Kids



Molly of Denali: An Alaskan Adventure



Ciao Bambini



Xavier Riddle and the Secret Museum: The Exhibit

Visit Booth 34 for more info!

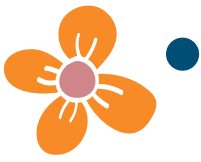
The Magic House®

St. Louis Children's Museum

314.288.2539 • travelingexhibits@magichouse.org



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General Conference Information

InterActivity Registration Desk

The ACM InterActivity Registration Desk is located on Level 4 of Monona Terrace Community and Convention Center (Monona Terrace). Registration Desk hours are:

Wednesday, May 15: 7:00 a.m.–7:00 p.m.

Thursday, May 16: 7:00 a.m.–6:00 p.m.

Friday, May 17: 7:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m.

Program Locations

Most InterActivity 2024 programming will take place at Monona Terrace unless otherwise noted.

ACM MarketPlace

The ACM MarketPlace will be held in Exhibit Hall A of Monona Terrace. It will be open on Wednesday, May 15 from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., with a reception starting at 5:00 p.m., and Thursday, May 16 from 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Your conference badge is your entrance ticket, so please wear it at all times. Some of the Networking Breakfasts (please see page 33 for specific locations), lunch, and an afternoon coffee break will be served in the ACM MarketPlace on Thursday, May 16.

Internet Access

Complimentary internet access is provided throughout Monona Terrace.

Social Media

Follow ACM on X (@ACM_Worldwide) and Instagram (@AssocOfChildrensMuseums), and join the InterActivity conversation with the hashtag #IA24. Share your photos of the learning and fun on Facebook & Instagram. Be sure to tag Association of Children's Museums. You can also post to the social feed in the InterActivity Mobile App (see the following page for details).

ACM Bulletin Board

The ACM Bulletin Board is located near the InterActivity Registration Desk on Level 4 of Monona Terrace. Use the board to post messages and announcements, including event tickets you wish to resell.

Information Tables

Use the tables located on Level 4 of Monona Terrace near the registration desk to share your museum's brochures and educational materials.

Getting Around Madison

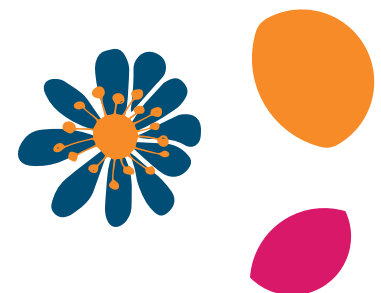
Set on an isthmus between two scenic lakes, and centered around the Wisconsin State Capitol, Madison packs a lot into their downtown. Walking is one of the best ways to get around downtown Madison. With so many great places—from shops to dining to entertainment—you'll want to lace up your walking shoes to explore.

Welcome to the bike capital of the Midwest. Navigating downtown on two wheels is easy. Didn't bring your own bike? Borrow an electric bicycle from Madison BCycle. With over 300 e-bikes and 45 stations, you can get from point A to B with speed and ease.

When you get tired or need to travel farther than your feet will allow, catch a Madison Metro Transit bus. With hubs located around the Capitol Square, on State Street, and other points downtown, taking the city bus is a cost-effective way to get around. One-day passes are \$5 and can be purchased directly from the driver.

ACM will provide transportation for the Study Tours A, C, and D.

Taxis, Uber, and Lyft are all available from Monona Terrace and all hotels.





All Gender & Accessible Restrooms

Monona Terrace has all gender & accessible restrooms located on either end of Level Four and in the Exhibit Hall on Level One. Please see locations marked on the floor plan on page 24. The restrooms are marked with this sign.



InterActivity 2024 Evaluation

We need your feedback to help plan InterActivity 2025! Please complete a session evaluation form in the app by selecting “Feedback” under each session you attend and take our electronic overall survey after the conference is over.

Consultations

Meet one-to-one with a representative from the following U.S. federal agencies:

- Institute of Museum and Library Services
- National Endowment for the Arts
- National Endowment for the Humanities
- National Science Foundation

Available in 15-minute intervals on Thursday, May 16, 12:30 p.m.-1:45 p.m. in Meeting Rooms KLOP. Sign up at the InterActivity Registration Desk. Attend the session, U.S. Federal Agencies Funding Opportunities and Commitment to Children and Families, on Thursday, May 16, 10:45 a.m.-12:00 p.m. to learn more about the programs they offer. Description on page 40.

Stay Connected!

Download the InterActivity Mobile App

Why use the app?

- **Stay Organized.** Bookmark sessions of interest and build your personal schedule.
- **Discover Programming.** View the program and find session locations.
- **Engage and Network.** Browse speakers, find exhibitors, and post to the app newsfeed.
- **Receive Real-Time Notifications.** Keep an eye on your dynamic home screen to see important messages.
- **Provide Feedback.** All concurrent sessions have a “Feedback” icon at the bottom of the session description page.



How to Login:

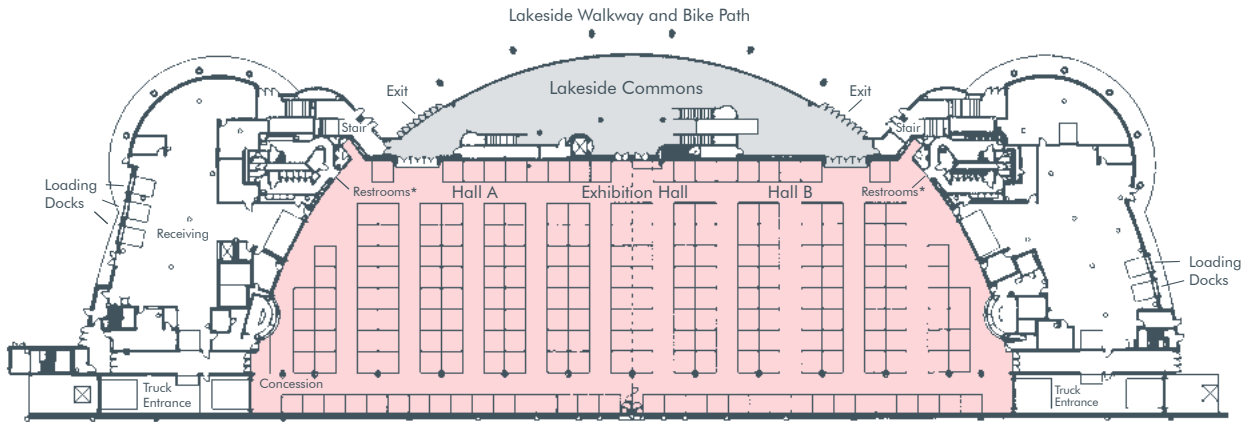
All registered attendees will have received an email with log in credentials. Log in with the email address you used to register for the conference and password provided. **Tip:** Select “Forgot Password” if this is the first time logging in and follow the emailed instructions.

How to Download:

Search for “Pheedloop Go!” in your device’s app store.

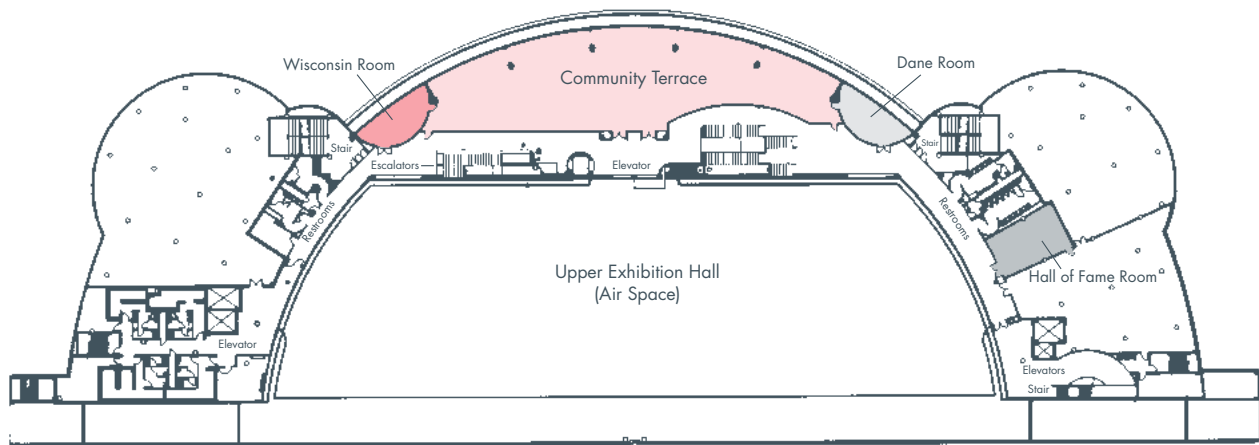


Monona Terrace® Floor Plans

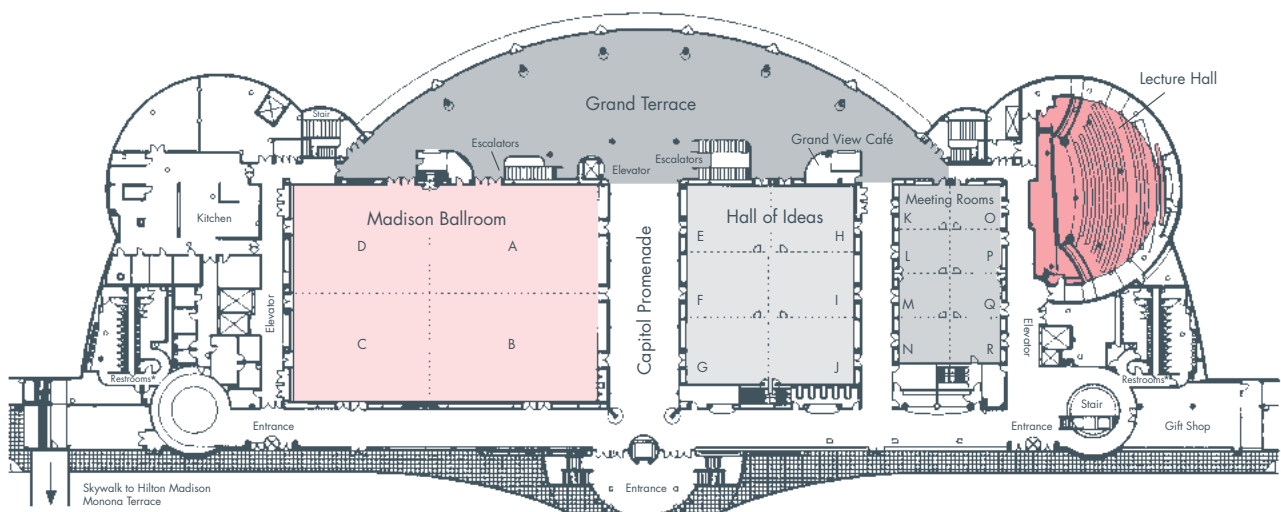


Level One

John Nolen Drive



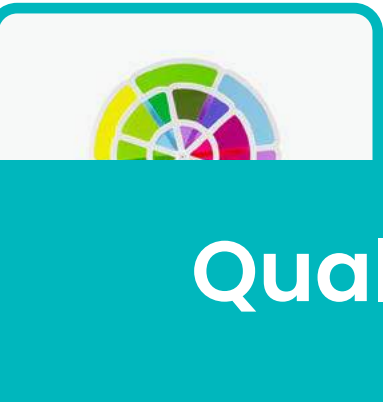
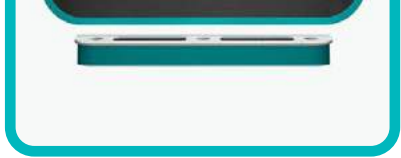
Level Two



Level Four

**Monona Terrace
Main Entrance**

*All Gender & Accessible Restrooms located here.



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Wednesday, May 15

All programming will be held at Monona Terrace Community and Convention Center, 1 John Nolen Drive, Madison, WI, except where noted.

Emerging Museums Pre-Conference

Sponsored by Imagination Playground, LLC

8:00 a.m.–4:30 p.m.

HALL OF IDEAS EF

Pre-registration is required; Member, \$235, Nonmember, \$335. This event is limited to emerging museums and individuals starting a children's museum. Registration fee includes breakfast and lunch, and handout materials.

ACM offers the annual Emerging Museums Pre-Conference to share foundational and effective practices of the field with those in the process of starting a children's museum. The agenda changes each year to keep pace with new trends and insights, but always includes perspectives from recently opened children's museums.

8:00 a.m.–8:30 a.m.

Breakfast

8:30 a.m.–8:45 a.m.

Welcome

8:45 a.m.–9:30 a.m.

Attendee Introductions and Networking

9:30 a.m.–10:45 a.m.

Perspectives from Recently Opened Children's Museums

No two children's museums are ever planned alike. However, much can be learned from those who have gone before. Hear from leaders at recently opened children's museums. Session includes time for your questions.

Alyssa Miller, Columbus Area Children's Museum

Wendy Keller, Magic City Discovery Center

Chelsie Webster, Modesto Children's Museum

10:45 a.m.–11:00 a.m.

Break

11:00 a.m.–12:15 p.m.

The Children's Museum Price is Right

Come on down! Play the iconic pricing game with products and exhibits found in children's museums in this interactive session. The prize is having a better idea of how to budget for these elements as you plan your museum and understand how to get the most bang for your buck.

Anne Fullenkamp, Children's Museum of Pittsburgh

Rachel Mastromarino, Children's Museum of Pittsburgh

12:15 p.m.–1:15 p.m.

Lunch and Networking

1:15 p.m.–2:30 p.m.

The Grant-Writing Game is Afoot

Everyone loves a good mystery and no one unravels them better than Holmes and Watson. Follow their example and unleash your inner sleuth as you learn what your community needs, how your emerging children's museum can begin meeting those needs, and who can be your financial allies along the way. Complete with plot twists and red herrings, we'll go where the clues lead us as we walk through the ins and outs of early program development through grant writing. Together we will piece the puzzle together that solves the case and gets you and your museum the support that you need.

Bethany Bell, Children's Museum of the Magic Valley

Tennille Adams, Children's Museum of the Magic Valley

Kylie Conover, Great River Children's Museum

2:30 p.m.–2:45 p.m.

Break

2:45 p.m.–4:00 p.m.

Emerging Museums Jeopardy!

In this interactive game-show style session, you'll compete to gain knowledge for successful start-ups. The categories are fundraising, board engagement, exhibit design, programming, staffing, and before and after the doors open. Prizes and take-away strategies.

Michael Shanklin, kidSTREAM Children's Museum

Michael Yankovich, Children's Museum of Denver at Marsico Campus

Putter Bert, KidsQuest Children's Museum

Tifferney White, Louisiana Children's Museum

4:00 p.m.–4:30 p.m.

Unanswered Questions and Wrap Up



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Museum CEO and Executive Directors Retreat

Sponsored by CambridgeSeven

12:30 p.m.–4:30 p.m

MADISON BALLROOM BC

Pre-registration is required; Member \$95. Registration includes lunch sponsored by Speak Creative. Attendance is limited to CEOs and Executive Directors at ACM member museums

Museum CEOs and executive directors are once again invited to re-energize, recharge, and engage with their peers before the conference begins in full. Together we will explore issues and opportunities of interest to ACM member museums of all sizes. This retreat is a great opportunity for museum executives to network, learn from each other, and develop new strategies for addressing shared challenges.

This retreat will be decidedly tactical guided by direct input from attendees in real-time. Using the unconference approach, attendees will be asked to select hot topics for discussion to steer discussion in relevant and meaningful directions. Attendees will leave inspired and energized with ideas, effective practices, and innovative approaches to take back and advance their museums.

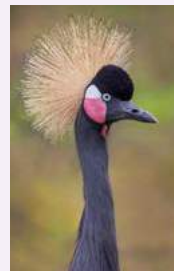
STUDY TOUR A

Birds of Baraboo Hills

12:30 p.m.–4:45 p.m.

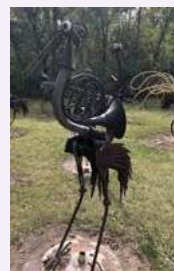
Pre-registration is required; \$45. Transportation is provided. Ticket holders should meet at the main entrance of Monona Terrace on Level Four. The bus will leave promptly at 12:40 p.m. and return by 4:45 p.m. Tour is rain or shine. Dress for the weather and wear comfortable walking shoes. Please note: Lunch is not provided.

Connect and recharge with colleagues outdoors in Wisconsin's beautiful "Driftless Area" as you explore and take inspiration from unique gems of the Baraboo region of Wisconsin.



The International Crane Foundation is a global conservation organization that works worldwide to conserve cranes and their ecosystems, watersheds and flyways with its sites in East Asia, North America, Sub-Saharan Africa, and South/Southeast Asia. This study tour

will include time for self-guided exploration of the world's fifteen crane species in outdoor habitats and exhibits, and a guided sneak peek at the foundation's new immersive indoor exhibit space designed for children.



Dr. Evermor's Sculpture Park features a wonderland made from scrap metal as created by visionary vernacular artist Tom Every (1938–2020). His work graces the entrance of the American Visionary Art Museum and the roof of Madison Children's Museum, but it is in his

sculpture park that his full vision can truly be appreciated. MCM staff will discuss their collaboration process and lessons learned from working with artists such as Every and the Madison artists he mentored, who continue to add creative sparks to MCM and Madison's public art spaces.

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of Rock County,
Janesville, WI



InterActivity 2024 Officially Starts

New Attendee Orientation

Sponsored by Process Curiosity

4:30 p.m.–5:15 p.m.

HALL OF IDEAS GJ

If you are attending InterActivity for the first time, or it's been a few years, join us for an orientation to learn how to get the most from the conference, take your learnings back to your colleagues, and meet ACM staff and members of the InterActivity 2024 Program Committee.

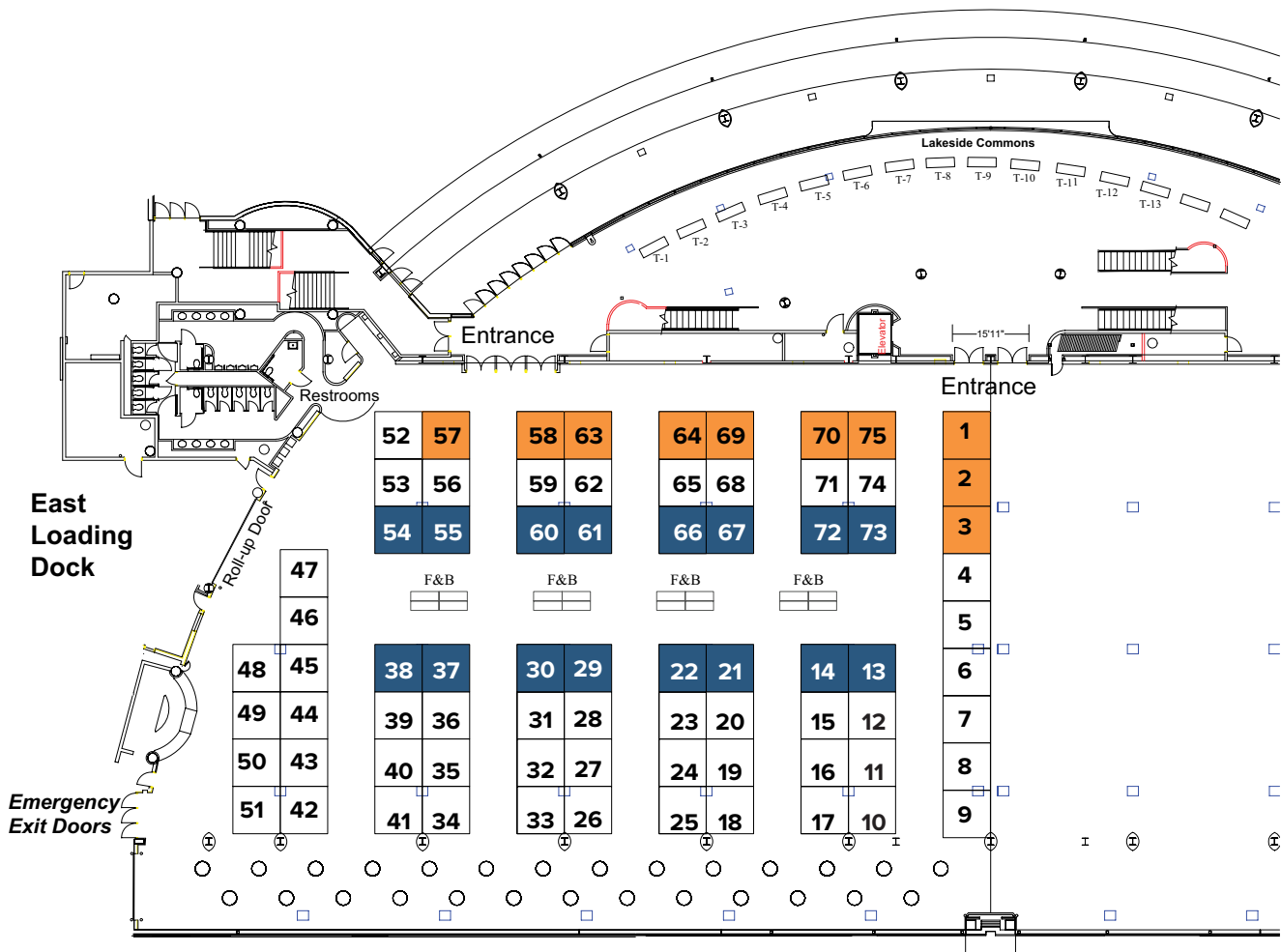
Opening Reception in the ACM MarketPlace

Drink tickets sponsored by Haizlip Studio and Blackbaud, Inc.

5:00 p.m.–7:00 p.m.

EXHIBIT HALL A

Start the conference off by mingling with your peers over drinks. It's the perfect time to catch up with your colleagues as you roam among exhibitors to get your sponsored free drink tickets and meet the amazing group of vendors who are excited to connect with you. The ACM MarketPlace offers a whole world of inspiring ideas, creative and educational products, software solutions, ready-to-rent exhibitions, and much more. Stopping by is a must!



Exhibitor Listing by location

| Booth or Table Top Location | Organization Name |
|-----------------------------|--|
| 1 | Science Museum of Minnesota |
| 2 | Minnesota Children's Museum |
| 3 | Gyroscope |
| 4 | Kubik Maltbie |
| 5 | Oregon Museum of Science and Industry |
| 6 | Ontario Science Centre |
| 7 | Hüttinger Interactive |
| 8 | Betty Brinn Children's Museum |
| 9 | Freenotes Harmony Park |
| 10 & 11 | Digitalis Education Solutions, Inc. |
| 12 | Nutcracker! Magical Christmas Ballet |
| 13 | Blackbaud |
| 14 | Heartland Scenic Studio |
| 15 | Benee's, Inc. |
| 16 & 17 | Digitalis Education Solutions, Inc. |
| 18 | Working Studio |
| 19 | U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission |
| 20 | Veevart |
| 21 & 22 | Imagination Playground |
| 23 | Taylor Studios, Inc. |
| 24 | Kraemer Design + Production |
| 25 | DuPage Children's Museum |
| 26 | wTrak Modular Wooden Railway |
| 27 | Luckey Climbers |
| 28 | Miami Children's Museum |
| 29 & 30 | Roto Design Group |
| 31 | Humanitru |
| 32 | Little Ray's Exhibitions |
| 33 | NISE Network |
| 34 | The Magic House, St. Louis Children's Museum |
| 35 | 1220 Exhibits, Inc. |
| 36 | Carnegie Hall |
| 37 | Haizlip Studio |
| 38 | Fiskars |
| 39 | Tessitura |
| 40 & 41 | Wild Republic |
| 42 & 43 | BCI Burke Company |
| 44 | Etix |
| 45 | Sciencenter |

| Booth or Table Top Location | Organization Name |
|-----------------------------|--|
| 46 & 47 | Percussion Play |
| 48 | Playlearn |
| 49 | Dolores Kohl Education Foundation |
| 50 | Omaha Children's Museum |
| 51 | Wonder-Worx |
| 52 | The Children's Museum of Indianapolis |
| 53 | Bienenstock Natural Playgrounds |
| 54 | The Assistant Manager™ |
| 55 | Feathr |
| 56 | Children's Museum of Pittsburgh |
| 57 | Nickelodeon Our World with National Children's Museum |
| 58 | Momentum Interactive |
| 59 | Boss Display |
| 60 | Center for Simulation Innovation |
| 61 | SafeSpace Concepts |
| 62 | SimpleTix |
| 63 | BIG, creative design |
| 64 | Blick Art Materials |
| 65 | Kidzibits |
| 66 | Speak Creative |
| 67 | Force of Nature Clean |
| 68 | Litezilla |
| 69 | Landrec |
| 70 | Doubleknot, Inc. |
| 71 | Ukidz |
| 72 | Flexhibit |
| 73 | Discount School Supply |
| 74 & 75 | Universal Service Associates, Inc. |
| T1 & T2 | RJ & Associates - Replica Food |
| T3 | Figgy |
| T4 | Caretakers of Wonder |
| T5 | Thanksgiving Point Institute |
| T6 | Brown Knows Design |
| T7 | Church Mutual Insurance Company, S. I. |
| T8 | Qleanse |
| T9 & T10 | Innovative Foto |
| T11 | APE Studio |
| T12 | Children's Museum of the National Folk Museum of Korea |
| T13 | Nerdbugs |

*Exhibitors highlighted in purple are also InterActivity sponsors. Stop by and say thank you!



Exhibitor Listing A-Z

| Organization Name | Booth or Table Top Location |
|---|-----------------------------|
| 1220 Exhibits, Inc. | 35 |
| APE Studio | T11 |
| BCI Burke Company | 42 & 43 |
| Benee's, Inc. | 15 |
| Betty Brinn's Children's Museum | 8 |
| Bienenstock Natural Playgrounds | 53 |
| BIG, creative design | 63 |
| Blackbaud | 13 |
| Blick Art Materials | 64 |
| Boss Display | 59 |
| Brown Knows Design | T6 |
| Caretakers of Wonder | T4 |
| Carnegie Hall | 36 |
| Center for Simulation Innovation | 60 |
| Children's Museum of Pittsburgh | 56 |
| Children's Museum of the National Folk Museum Korea | T12 |
| Church Mutual Insurance Company, S.I. | T7 |
| Digitalis Education Solutions, Inc. | 10, 11, 16, 17 |
| Discount School Supply | 73 |
| Dolores Kohl Education Foundation | 49 |
| Doubleknot, Inc. | 70 |
| DuPage Children's Museum | 25 |
| Etix | 44 |
| Feathr | 55 |
| Figgy | T3 |
| Fiskars | 38 |
| Flexhibit | 72 |
| Force of Nature Clean | 67 |
| Freenotes Harmony Park | 9 |
| Gyroscope | 3 |
| Haizlip Studio | 37 |
| Heartland Scenic Studio | 14 |
| Humanitru | 31 |
| Hüttinger Interactive | 7 |
| Imagination Playground | 21 & 22 |
| Innovative Foto | T9 & T10 |
| Kidzibits | 65 |
| Kraemer Design + Production | 24 |
| Kubik Maltbie | 4 |

| Organization Name | Booth or Table Top Location |
|--|-----------------------------|
| Landrec | 69 |
| Litezilla | 68 |
| Little Ray's Exhibitions | 32 |
| Luckey Climbers | 27 |
| Miami Children's Museum | 28 |
| Minnesota Children's Museum | 2 |
| Momentum Interactives | 58 |
| Nerdbugs | T13 |
| Nickelodeon Our World with National Children's Museum | 57 |
| NISE Network | 33 |
| Nutcracker! Magical Christmas Ballet | 12 |
| Oregon Museum of Science and Industry | 5 |
| Ontario Science Centre | 6 |
| Percussion Play | 46 & 47 |
| Playlearn | 48 |
| RJ & Associates - Replica Food | T1 & T2 |
| Qleanse | T8 |
| Roto Design Group | 29 & 30 |
| SafeSpace Concepts | 61 |
| Science Museum of Minnesota | 1 |
| Sciencenter | 45 |
| SimpleTix | 62 |
| Speak Creative | 66 |
| Taylor Studios, Inc. | 23 |
| Tessitura | 39 |
| Thanksgiving Point Institute | T5 |
| The Assistant Manager™ | 54 |
| The Children's Museum of Indianapolis | 52 |
| The Magic House, St. Louis Children's Museum | 34 |
| U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission | 19 |
| Ukidz | 71 |
| Universal Services Associates, Inc. | 74 & 75 |
| Veevart | 20 |
| Wild Republic | 40 & 41 |
| Wonder-Worx | 51 |
| Working Studio | 18 |
| Trak Modular Wooden Railway | 26 |

*Exhibitors highlighted in purple are also InterActivity sponsors. Stop by and say thank you!





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BUILDING & BEYOND

Thursday, May 16

All programming will be held at Monona Terrace Community and Convention Center, 1 John Nolen Drive, Madison, WI, except where noted.

ACM MarketPlace

7:30 a.m.–4:00 p.m.

EXHIBIT HALL A

The ACM MarketPlace continues for the day! Pick up on a conversation you didn't finish at the reception, visit new exhibitors, or say hi to old friends.

Professional Networking Breakfast

Sponsored by SafeSpace Concepts

7:30 a.m.–8:45 a.m.

Network with peers over breakfast. Tables will be organized by professional job functions and special interest groups, including:

Exhibit Hall A

- Exhibits
- Volunteers Managers

Madison Ballroom BC

- Education

Hall of Ideas EF

- Communications
- Membership
- Trustees & Board Members

Hall of Ideas GJ

- Human Resources
- International Attendees
- Libraries

Hall of Ideas HI

- Retired Museum CEOs and Executive Directors
- Visitor Experience/Services

Community Terrace

- Administration
- Finance
- Marketing
- Museums for All
- Research and Evaluation

Meeting Rooms KLOP

- Development
- Digital Programming

Madison Ballroom AD

- Museum CEO and Executive Directors

Plenary Session and Keynote Small Talks

9:00 a.m.–10:30 a.m.

EXHIBIT HALL B

This year, the opening plenary will feature three small talks speakers framing lively short presentations around the conference theme, highlighting the ways museums, communities, and the children we serve can flourish in an ever-changing world.

Creativity Sparks a Flourishing Spirit

Drawbridge: Making Comics with Kids

How old do you have to be to make a bad drawing? Most people give up on being able to draw at about the age of eight or nine when they realize they can't draw a nose or hands in a representational way.

There is another kind of drawing that can leap right over this problem of good and bad, which can allow us to experience a way of making pictures that set the conditions for discovery and insight and can be used by anyone of any age. What might it be? Can drawing with kids bring mutual benefit?



Lynda Barry has worked as a painter, cartoonist, writer, illustrator, playwright, editor, commentator and teacher and found they are very much alike. *The New York Times* has described Barry as

“among this country's greatest conjoiners of words and images, known for plumbing all kinds of touchy subjects in cartoons, comic strips and novels, both graphic and illustrated.” She earned a degree from Evergreen State College during its early experimental period (1974–78), studying with painter and writing teacher Marilyn Frasca. Frasca's questions about the nature of images and the role they play in day-to-day living have guided Barry's work ever since. In 1979 while pursuing a career as a painter, Barry began drawing a weekly comic strip incorporating stories considered to be incompatible with comics at the time. Stories, as Barry puts it, “that had a lot of trouble in them.” Widely credited with expanding the literary, thematic and emotional range of American comics, Barry's seminal comic strip, *Ernie Pook's Comeek*, ran in alternative newspapers across North America for 30 years.



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Human Flourishing & Well-Being

The Science of Well-Being: Teaching and Training for Healthy Minds, Brains, and Bodies

Just like being physically in shape means regular exercise, supporting one's emotional well-being begins with a training program — for the mind. In this talk, world renowned neuroscientist, Dr. Richard J. Davidson discusses the scientific concept of neuroplasticity and how research in the lab confirms that well-being is a skill that can be taught. By learning and practicing the skills associated with awareness, connection, insight, and purpose — anyone can have a healthier mind, despite their external circumstances. Based on four decades of contemplative neuroscientific research, Dr. Davidson outlines a path to well-being for anyone in this highly relevant talk.



Richard J. Davidson, PhD, is the William James and Vilas Research Professor of Psychology and Psychiatry and Founder & Director of the Center for Healthy Minds, University of Wisconsin-Madison. Founder and Chief Visionary for Healthy Minds Innovations, Inc. Davidson received his PhD from Harvard University in Psychology in 1976. Davidson's research is broadly focused on the neural bases of emotion and emotional style and methods to promote human flourishing including meditation and related contemplative practices. He has published over 573 articles, numerous chapters and reviews, and edited 14 books. He is the author (with Sharon Begley) of *The Emotional Life of Your Brain* published in 2012 and co-author with Daniel Goleman of *Altered Traits* published in 2017. He was named one of the 100 most influential people in the world by *Time Magazine* in 2006. He was elected to the National Academy of Medicine in 2017 and appointed to the Governing Board of UNESCO's Mahatma Gandhi Institute of Education for Peace and Sustainable Development (MGIEP) in 2018. In 2014, Davidson founded the non-profit, Healthy Minds Innovations, which translates science into tools to cultivate and measure well-being.

Environmental Flourishing

negative space

Discussing his climate journey—from first learning about climate change and the importance of taking initiative from his second grade teacher to launching a campaign for Madison Metropolitan School District to become the nation's then-largest school district with a 100% renewable energy goal to now serving in the Biden-Harris Administration and advising on clean energy policy—Charles Hua will illustrate how the thoughtful mentorship and support he received along the way has shaped him into the person and leader he now aspires to be.



Charles Hua is the Founder and Executive Director of PowerLines, Senior Advisor at the U.S. Department of Energy Loan Programs Office, and Research Affiliate at Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory. Previously, Charles advanced building electrification policy with Rewiring America. In college, Charles was appointed to serve on the Harvard Presidential Committee on Sustainability, where he helped develop and write Harvard's sustainability plan and organized the inaugural Harvard Climate Summit. Charles has advised Fortune 500 companies and international NGOs on sustainability issues and serves on the Board of Directors for environmental nonprofits Slipstream, Energy News Network, and Clean Wisconsin. Born and raised in Madison, Wisconsin, Charles organized a campaign that successfully petitioned his school district to become the largest in the U.S. at the time with a 100% renewable energy commitment. For his work, Charles has been recognized by the White House as a 2018 U.S. Presidential Scholar, by the Aspen Institute as a Future Climate Leader, and as an Energy News Network 40 Under 40 honoree. Charles holds an A.B. in Statistics and Mathematics from Harvard College.

STUDY TOUR B

Madison Children’s Museum: Outdoor Play Spaces

10:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m.

Pre-registration is required; \$35. Transportation is not provided. Ticket holders should meet at the main entrance of Monona Terrace on Level Four. Madison Children’s Museum staff will walk participants to the museum at 10:40 a.m. It is an approximate 10-minute walk. For those that need accessible transportation, please see an ACM staff member who can help you. The tour will conclude so that you are able to be back at Monona Terrace by 12:30 p.m. Please note: lunch is not included.

Join Madison Children’s Museum staff and two inclusive play experts to explore MCM’s outdoor spaces through the lenses of nature play and universal design. This 90-minute study tour will be split into two 45-minute experiences. As one group investigates the outdoor spaces to explore ways that gardens and outdoor play can be used for



rich educational experiences, the other group will examine how museums can foster active play for children of all abilities. Attendees will learn about designing spaces with playground safety standards in mind, while encouraging children to become smart appraisers of risk. The tour will also showcase ways to go beyond ADA compliance to create spaces that welcome children with sensory and self-regulation challenges. Wrapping up with a discussion of available resources, the tour will offer insights into how we can all work to improve accessibility and support all kids’ connection to nature.



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Jen Crespo

Traveling Exhibits Program Sales Coordinator
317-704-3514 · jcrespo@childrensmuseum.org

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Rendering for the Small Fry Fish Camp at Museum of Discovery, Little Rock

Hands On! Is Jumping Into Great Projects!

Small Fry Fish Camp is an adventurous destination for children 0-6 at the Museum of Discovery in Little Rock. Hands On!'s design creates a play-focused, immersive environment that inspires curiosity, discovery, and imagination through creative role-play, while celebrating the beauty and fun of the outdoors in Arkansas.

Fort Kids Children's Museum is a new children's museum for the growing community of Fort Smith, Arkansas. Hands On! is delighted to help this dedicated team realize their mission to build a world of possibility and connection through play.

Vision at the Glazer Children's Museum will invite kids and caregivers to explore the wonders of sight, discover how our eyes and brains work together, and play with technologies that bring hidden worlds into view.

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Concurrent Session Streams

InterActivity 2024 includes six blocks of Concurrent Professional Development sessions which feature nine thematic streams. Diversity, equity, accessibility, and inclusion (DEAI) is embedded in the sessions. Use the stream icons to identify sessions of interest and create your own learning experience at the conference.



Biz Ops

Business Operations. Content areas cover development, marketing, membership, planning, communications, finance, and administration.

Sponsored by Feathr



Community Engagement

Content areas include strategies, principles, and models to involve audience members and potential audiences in and outside the museum.



Design

Content areas cover exhibit and learning spaces, design and fabrication, architecture, construction, and renovation.

Sponsored by Roto Leadership



Content areas cover topics of interest to museum CEOs and aspiring CEOs, such as innovation and inspiring change, board- and governance-related issues, and leadership development.

Sponsored by Hands On! Studio



Learning

Content areas cover everything from pedagogy to programs and experiences designed for learning.



Mental Health & Well-Being

Content covers topics that foster creativity, facilitate the state of flow, prevent burnout, and promote optimal wellness for both employees and visitors.



Partnerships

Content areas cover informal and formal community connections and collaborative projects that advance partner goals.



People

Content areas cover organizational culture, governance, professional development, and staffing.



Research and Evaluation

Content areas cover research findings and their application to data collection methods and analysis.

CONCURRENT PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT SESSIONS

10:45 a.m.–12:00 p.m.

 **Fundraising for Operating Expenses**

MADISON BALLROOM A

Join this session for a discussion of fundraising for general funds and operating expenses. We all know how to get money to buy things, and capital campaign advice abounds, but what about payroll and toilet paper? We will talk about how to incorporate operating funds into grant requests and budgets, how to have the big and sometimes uncomfortable conversations with repeat donors and sponsors to grow relationships, and how to make the big asks. The combined knowledge of pitching, applying for grants, growing donor relationships, and finding creative ways to fund the “lowest-hanging fruit” will leave you with a toolkit of fund development tricks to return to your museum.

Meredith Maple-Gitter, *Fairbanks Children’s Museum*
Atiba Edwards, *Brooklyn Children’s Museum*
Hannah Hausman, *Santa Fe Children’s Museum*

 **U.S. Federal Agencies Funding Opportunities and Commitment to Children and Families**

LECTURE HALL

Come hear from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS), National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH), National Endowment for the Arts (NEA), and National Science Foundation (NSF) about their commitment to children and families, as well as funding opportunities, available to children’s museums.

Reagan Moore, *Institute of Museum and Library Services*
Peter Fristedt, PhD, *National Endowment for the Humanities*
Toniqua Grigsby, *National Endowment for the Arts*
Kevin Clark, PhD, *National Science Foundation*

 **Engagement Beyond Your Museum Can Flourish on Any Budget**

HALL OF IDEAS GJ

Four diverse museums share how to implement community engagement models in unique and scalable ways. Discussion will center on building partnerships to create a range of programs offsite—from individual experiences to long-term engagements and permanent installations. Learn how to implement afterschool programs in schools, create successful mobile programs, and partner for long-term collaborative success outside the museum walls. Dive into logistics of building successful program models on any budget for any size museum. Gain an understanding of how to secure funding and organizational buy-in to think outside the box (literally!) and discover the reasons why you should.

Hilary Van Alsborg, *Children’s Museum Tucson*
Sylvia Doyle, *Jackson Hole Children’s Museum*
Dené Mosier, *Kansas Children’s Discovery Center*
Tiffany Espinosa, *Children’s Museum Houston*

 **Designing Children’s Exhibits to Support Family Engagement**

COMMUNITY TERRACE

We have all seen an adult leading their child’s experience through the museum, directing them at each exhibit, then moving on before the child has the chance to explore. But what if the exhibit is designed for the adult to engage on a different aesthetic level, supplementary to the child-directed play? When done successfully, adult exhibit engagement frees the child to explore the space on their own while joyful adults are nearby for support. From artistic flourishes to thoughtful seating arrangements, an engaged adult experience can generate longer dwell times and increased observable behaviors related to play-based learning.

Conrad Meyers, *Bay Area Discovery Museum*
Rick Roth, *Bay Area Discovery Museum*
Kelly Hoke, *The STEM Research Center at Oregon State University*
Erin Dowdall, *Wonder Works Children’s Museum*

Fostering Leadership Opportunities: Understanding Retention, Interdepartmental Skill-Building, and Honing Diversity

MADISON BALLROOM B

How do you create a culture that fosters leadership, cross-departmental growth, and a long-lasting employee base? In an era where employees are seeking out passion over pay, it is important to find ways to cultivate leaders within our organizations regardless of job title or position. Session attendees will discover effective strategies to work collaboratively across departments to support the organizational mission and foster growth among future leaders, while improving company culture and increasing employee retention.

Megan Kemmett, *Imagine Children's Museum*

Quinn Schell, *Imagine Children's Museum*

Urgency & Action: Climate Change and A New Developmental Framework

MEETING ROOMS MNQR

Madison Children's Museum and Caretakers of Wonder project team members will present the new developmental framework created to help museums serving children address climate change in their institutions in developmentally appropriate ways. The framework pulls together research from experts in the fields of climate psychology, neuroscience, equity, early childhood, nature education, and climate science, and its goal is to be a tool for climate action, engagement, and education. Importantly, this session will showcase how museums and caregivers can help our audiences find hopeful, engaging, and empowering ways to manage uncertainty and build resiliency in productive ways.

Brenda Baker, *Madison Children's Museum*

Jenni Martin, *Children's Discovery Museum of San Jose*

Katie Slivovsky, *Independent Professional*

David Sobel, *Antioch University New England*

All for Friends, Friends for All: Designing Intentionally Inclusive Programming

MADISON BALLROOM D

Take your education programming beyond sensory rooms and adaptability boxes and explore intentionally inclusive programming for children with exceptionalities. Join museum colleagues and disability advocates who have journeyed into inclusive programming by designing programs that allow exceptional children to experience the museum and with their peers in a fully inclusive environment. Attendees will learn how to identify and utilize local resources as well as review strategies for curating and designing for exceptional children.

Emily Woods-Johnson, *Glazer Children's Museums*

Claire Stockman, *Creative Discovery Museum*

Blaire Donnelly-Mason, *Treatment and Research Institute for Autism Spectrum Disorders (TRIAD), Vanderbilt Kennedy Center*

Liz Burke, *Center for Autism & Related Disabilities at University of South Florida*

Drawing Jam with Lynda Barry

MADISON BALLROOM C

Celebrated author, cartoonist, and creative force Lynda Barry will lead an out of the box drawing jam to unleash your hidden creativity. Lynda's genre-defying work teaching drawing and writing for children and adults is based on the premise that EVERYONE is an artist or writer. Barry will guide participants through the method she uses for teaching writing and drawing that focuses on the relationship between the hand, the brain, and spontaneous images, both visual and written. Barry has used her techniques across North America—with prison inmates, postal workers, pre-schoolers, university students, and hairdressers—and now children's museum professionals.

Charlotte Cummins, *Madison Children's Museum (moderator)*

Lynda Barry, *University of Wisconsin-Madison, Art Department*

Angela Richardson, *University of Wisconsin-Madison, Business School*

After the session

Lynda Barry Book Signing

12:15 p.m.-1:15 p.m.

LAKESIDE COMMONS

Lynda Barry will be available to sign copies of her books *What It Is*, *Making Comics*, and *Syllabus*. The books will be available for purchase onsite.

 **Centering Children in Museum Collaborations**

HALL OF IDEAS HI

This session will explore the concept of centering children as key (and often overlooked) collaborators in museum exhibit and program partnerships. Three institutions representing different regions, audiences, museum sizes and departments, offer three concrete examples of successful collaborations with children in exhibit planning and programming. From a small children’s museum in suburban Boulder to a large San Antonio-based children’s museum and exhibit designer/fabricator, to a Denver fine art museum, collaborations with children—centering children’s voices and opinions—have proven wildly successful.

Anna Talley, *WOW! Children’s Museum - World of Wonder* (moderator)

Jackie Hobbins, *WOW! Children’s Museum - World of Wonder*

Nicole Cromartie, *Clyfford Still Museum*

Meredith Doby, *The DoSeum*

 **A Tale of Two Museums: Working Towards Belonging and Critical-Consciousness**

MEETING ROOMS KLOP

As museums often struggle to support a sense of belonging among marginalized staff and visitors, how can they work to create informed and inclusive practices that shift museum culture while centering the voices of those often overlooked or excluded from shaping the narrative? This session will discuss the collaborative process between Children’s Museum of Pittsburgh and Madison Children’s Museum as they work together to answer this question. In exploring the relationship between belonging and critical consciousness, both museums will share processes and findings from their respective working groups.

Angelica Miller, *Children’s Museum of Pittsburgh*

Kia Karlen, *Madison Children’s Museum*

Peter Wardrip, PhD, *University of Wisconsin-Madison*

 **The Individual, Societal, and Economic Value of Children’s Museums**

HALL OF IDEAS EF

When a children’s museum has data on the value of stakeholders’ perception of their institution, a better justification for funding can be made. Therefore, communicating the value of children’s museums to the community must extend beyond simply assessing their economic worth. In this session, you will learn one thriving community’s perception toward a local children’s museum with respect to three hypothesized areas of value. The Lutz Children’s Museum in Manchester, Connecticut will present the evaluation process used to gather needed data for grant proposals, donation requests, and inclusion in the local municipal budget.

Patricia Buxton, EdD, *Lutz Children’s Museum*

Clare Mazur, *Lutz Children’s Museum*

Ashley Little, *Lutz Children’s Museum*

Lunch in the ACM MarketPlace

12:00 p.m.-2:00 p.m.

EXHIBIT HALL A

Enjoy lunch in the ACM MarketPlace, and then take your time to explore the exhibit booths. The next sessions don’t start until 2:00 p.m.



STUDY TOUR C



Step Outside at Aldo Leopold Nature Center

1:00 p.m.–3:15 p.m.

Pre-registration is required; \$35.

Transportation is provided. Ticket holders should meet at the main entrance of Monona Terrace on Level Four. The bus will leave promptly at 1:10 p.m. and return by 3:15 p.m. Please note: Lunch is not provided.

Step outside and explore the hands-on environmental education programs that the Aldo Leopold Nature Center offers to young children and families. Through outdoor childcare programs, they are leading the way to educate the next generation of stewards of the land for a healthy, happy, and sustainable future. Tour their wetland, woodland, and prairie trails to learn how climate change affects native Wisconsin species and how the center offers opportunities for children to build empathy and connect with nature.

Center staff will share how The Aldo Leopold Nature Preschool—designed for children ages 3 to 5—is integrated into the center, with a mission to engage current and future generations, empowering them to respect, protect, and enjoy the natural world. The preschool provides outdoor and indoor environments rich in interactive materials, literature, and open-ended play time, which encourage wonder, discovery, and the opportunity to see the results of one's actions.

CONCURRENT PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT SESSIONS

2:00 p.m.–3:15 p.m.

How to Prepare for Your Annual Audit and 990 and the Pitfalls to Avoid

MEETING ROOMS MNQR

This session will cover the essentials of establishing a sound framework for processes, procedures and best practices in your organization. Presenters will delve into the process of preparing a request for proposal (RFP) and engaging the board/finance committee in the process. Additionally, presenters will explore creating and implementing schedules, checklists, and reconciliations while promoting transparency and accountability. Walk through the before, during, and after an audit and understand how to interpret the 990 form and audited financial statements.

Fred Mutz, *EdVenture*

Mike Lisle, *Children's Museum of the Low Country*

Carey Loshbaugh, *Louisiana Children's Museum*

Playful Podcasts as an Imaginative Museum Marketing Strategy

HALL OF IDEAS GJ

No, this isn't *Only Murders In the Building*. Playful podcasts can be an effective marketing strategy to reach your current audience, to develop and nurture community partnerships, and to grow and expand your outreach efforts. But where to start? Often, especially for a small or midsized museum, starting and maintaining a podcast may seem intimidating. Dr. Diane Jackson Schnoor of *Dr. Diane's Adventures in Learning* shares strategies for creating your own playful podcast (on a budget) with video, audio, and blog opportunities for increasing your marketing reach. What are you waiting for? Let your voice stand out today.

Diane Jackson Schnoor, PhD, *Dr. Diane's Adventures in Learning*

 **Engage, Enable, and Empower with Universal Design [for Learning]**

MADISON BALLROOM C

How do you create experiences that help all visitors flourish? One powerful solution is to leverage two established frameworks for designing environments that embrace and uplift human variability. Explore examples of groundbreaking work using Universal Design and Universal Design for Learning guidelines to create museum experiences that engage, enable, and empower audiences. Then, experience firsthand how to use planning tools and ideas that can streamline the design process in your own programs.

Danielle Linzer, *Children’s Museum of Pittsburgh* (moderator)

Meghan Fraser McGrogan, *Utica Children’s Museum*

Sara Thomson, *New York Transit Museum*

Debbie Coppula, *Children’s Museum of Pittsburgh*

 **Professional Learning Communities: Connecting Across Museums for Educators’ Professional Flourishing**

LECTURE HALL

Opportunities for professional development are necessary to support the flourishing of museum educators at every stage of their careers. However, the isolated nature of work in many museums means that it can be difficult to engage in ongoing learning with fellow practitioners. This session will highlight the Museum Educator Network: a regional group of museum educators from several children’s museums and science centers in the Midwest region. Using the framework of a Professional Learning Community, this session will demonstrate an emerging model for professional development plus specific strategies for attendees to support the educational practice and professional well-being of museum educators.

Peter Wardrip, PhD, *University of Wisconsin-Madison* (moderator)

Tarah Connolly, *University of Wisconsin-Madison*

Bill Pariso, *Betty Brinn Children’s Museum*

Jim Edwards, *Upper Peninsula Children’s Museum*

Beth Vanderloop, *Building for Kids Children’s Museum*

DOUBLE SESSION

 **Building a Flourishing Prototyping and Exhibit Development Process**

2:00 p.m.–5:00 p.m.

MADISON BALLROOM B

In this fun and fast-paced “nuts and bolts” workshop, participants will learn how to build their organization’s capacity for prototyping and exhibit development from three veteran exhibits creators! First, we’ll discover the power of “bringstorming”; weigh the pros and cons of building exhibit elements “in-house”; and learn what Elvis has to do with prototyping. Then we’ll break into teams for a hands-on rapid prototyping and share-out session. Every participant will take away budget-stretching tips, tricks, and resources from this workshop that they can use as soon as they return to their home institution. *Note: there will be a break at 3:15 p.m., but participants need to attend Part One to really benefit and understand Part Two.*

Paul Orselli, *POW! (Paul Orselli Workshop, Inc.)*

Blake Wigdahl, *Process Curiosity*

Joe Cook, *Hüttinger Interactive Exhibitions*

 **La multiculturalidad en el museo: Multiculturalism in the Museum**

HALL OF IDEAS HI

In this session, four museums will share their experience with incorporating the home languages and cultures of visitors through educational programming and museum environments to better serve their communities. Representing the languages and cultures of children in educational programs enriches learning while encouraging growth and confidence in their identities. Presenters will discuss practices and methods used in their museum settings, along with successes by sharing feedback and interactions with children, students, families, and educators.

Elsa Peterson, *Children’s Museum Tucson* (moderator)

Andrea Bennett Gutierrez, *Children’s Museum Tucson*

Danielle Nylander, *The Tech Interactive*

Selena Garza, *International Museum of Art & Science*

Shannon Blady, PhD, *Louisiana Children’s Museum*

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On! Studio

 Learning

 Mental Health
& Well-Being

 Partnerships

 People

 Research and
Evaluation

Let Yourself Flourish: Reconnecting with Your Inner Child

HALL OF IDEAS EF

One of the best ways to help children flourish is to allow ourselves to reconnect with our inner child. This session will lead participants in activities meant to reignite their relationship with their younger selves, as a means towards enhancing the work they do for their museum such as taking financial risks, building stronger community partners, and dreaming a bigger vision for their museum. Participants will have the opportunity to draw their “Utopia Museum,” write a letter from their eight-year-old self and discuss roadblocks in their organizational goals through the eyes of a child.

Robert Halvorson, *Santa Fe Children’s Museum*

Leona Hillary, *Santa Fe Children’s Museum*

Better Together: Building Co-Generative, Value-Based Partnerships

COMMUNITY TERRACE

This session will explore museum-based partnerships in four community settings: schools, libraries, residential areas, and community centers. The presenters will share how these relationships have been built and sustained over time for mutual benefit. Participants will be invited to actively engaged in conversations that invite them to address considerations around and approaches to building partnerships. Topics will include gaining trust with community members and constituents, engaging in authentic community listening to identify assets and areas of need, relational vs. transactional implementation of initiatives, and ways of co-creating content, programming, and spaces that lead to community stake-holding, shared ownership, and sustainability.

Hana Elwell, *Brooklyn Children’s Museum*

Rachel Hamilton, *Thinkery*

Amy Spar, *Children’s Museum of Chicago*

Ali Sullivan, *Children’s Museum of Richmond*

Following the Youth: Rethinking Teen Engagement and Expertise

MADISON BALLROOM D

The London Children’s Museum, along with Brooklyn Children’s Museum and Madison Children’s Museum, will share their experiences in modifying teen engagement within their museums to allow for it to be teen-interest led and influenced. Presenters will discuss assessing teen engagement in children’s museums, creating sustained and successful teen employment through community-oriented workforce development, and developing youth directed approaches to teen programming within their museums. After case studies are shared, the session will shift into an active workshopping portion for attendees to consider their own spaces and teen engagement.

Vanessa Eastmure, *London Children’s Museum*

Jessie Collins, *London Children’s Museum*

Kate Mirand Calleri, *Brooklyn Children’s Museum*

Rayna Cunningham, *Madison Children’s Museum*

Flourishing with Data: A Quantitative Observation Tool for Playful Learning

MADISON BALLROOM A

To flourish, children’s museums need quantitative metrics to increase, improve, and document our impact. Session participants will be introduced to an open-source, research-validated observation tool that can be easily applied in museums of all sizes to evaluate exhibitions, programming, and professional development. The LEGO Foundation Experience Tool can be used to assess five elements of playful learning: joyful, meaningful, social interactive, engaging, and iterative. Session speakers will share the research behind the tool, inspiration through case studies, tips to using the tool, and free resources to share with your staff and board.

Carol Tang, PhD, *Children’s Creativity Museum*

Alexandra Pafilis Silverstein, *Chicago*

Children’s Museum

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Fairbanks, Alaska



Doseum, San Antonio, TX
Explora, Albuquerque, NM
Exploratorium, San Francisco, CA
Frost Science Museum, Miami, FL
Acton Discovery Museum, Acton, MA
Great Lakes Science Center, Cleveland, OH
Minnesota Children's Museum, St. Paul, MN
FIT and Bank Street Graduate Programs, NYC



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Coffee Break in the ACM MarketPlace

Sponsored by POW! (Paul Orsell Workshop, Inc.)

3:15 p.m.–3:45 p.m.

EXHIBIT HALL A

Need a mid-afternoon pick me up? Come for a complimentary coffee break in the exhibit hall. This is the last chance to visit with exhibitors and find the products and services your museum needs.

CONCURRENT PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT SESSIONS

3:45 p.m.–5:00 p.m.

Thinking Small: Big Ideas That Small Museums Have to Offer

MADISON BALLROOM A

What would it look like for small museums to be at the center of our field? Would it change how we think about exhibits, operations, audiences—even missions? And how could it benefit stakeholders of any size to reimagine the world of children’s museums through a smaller lens? Not intended as a “small museum session,” instead, we will consider small museums from a diverse set of perspectives as vital building blocks at the center of a field with the unique opportunity to build itself around the improvisation, innovation, and creative spirit of small and locally-focused institutions.

Stephen Wisniewski, PhD, *Independent Professional*

Jacky Metcalfe, *Flint Children’s Museum*

Mary Kegel, *Ravenswood Studio*

Emilie Utigard, *Children’s Museum of South Bend*

Inspirational and Inclusive Futurism

HALL OF IDEAS HI

The future belongs to the children: all the children. As children’s museums, how can we best engage our audience in conversations about the future that are inspirational and inclusive? Three museums will share how they have collaborated with communities of color and working artists to create programs and exhibitions with a focus on the future. From Afrofuturism, Indigenous futurism, Latinx futures, and female-driven Empathetics—the future is as diverse and beautiful as our communities.

Chris Navarro, *The DoSeum*

Matthew Picon, *The New Children’s Museum*

Iyari Arteaga, *The New Children’s Museum*

Nina Woodruff-Walker, *Museum of Children’s Art*

Design Practices and Principles for Well-Being

MEETING ROOMS KLOP

In this session, attendees will engage with three children’s museums’ perspectives on practices and principles used in their museums to foster connection and empathy so children, families, and communities can flourish in a post-pandemic world. The panelists will share their perspectives on museum design, exhibits, community engagement, and exhibit evaluation to spark conversation about how children’s museums can be spaces for well-being. We will address the following questions: What are effective practices for fostering inclusion and equity in programs and exhibits? What role can museums play in promoting a sustainable future for children and communities? What design principles can be adopted to foster and enhance empathy and connection?

Melanie Hatz Levinson, *Kidzu Children’s Museum*
(moderator)

Samantha Shannon, *Kidzu Children’s Museum*

Brad Burns, *Gensler*

Sarah McManus Christie, *Children’s Museum of Denver at Marsico Campus*

Anne Fullenkamp, *Children’s Museum of Pittsburgh*

Baggage Claim: What Are You Taking on Your DEAI Journey?

HALL OF IDEAS GJ

Cultural institutions are increasingly prioritizing diversity, equity, accessibility, and inclusion (DEAI). As museums take off on this exploration, there are questions to consider: Where do you start? What if all the stakeholders are in different places on their DEAI journey? How do you know what to pack in your knowledge tool kit? Through a panel discussion among cultural professionals, this session will share the Kohl Children’s Museum team’s experience on their own project planning journey. This session will include an interactive DEAI mapping activity to help guide you in next steps, no matter where you are on your DEAI journey.

Annie Vedder, *Luci Creative*

Stephanie Bynum, *Kohl Children’s Museum of Greater Chicago*

Sandra Bonnici, *Sandra Bonnici Consulting*

Erika Gray, *Kohl Children’s Museum of Greater Chicago*

How Can Children’s Museums Participate in STEM Learning Ecosystems

MADISON BALLROOM C

STEM learning ecosystems bring organizations together in a community to provide multiple pathways through a learner’s lifetime: at home, at school, at play, and at work. Children’s museums can play a big role in STEM learning ecosystems. This approach can help communities and neighborhoods flourish by sharing among community organizations and providing relevant content and opportunities for children and families. Hear real stories about the experiences of museums who currently participate in these ecosystems; learn about recent research into strategies for this approach and learn how to get involved.

Catherine McCarthy, PhD, *Arizona State University*
(moderator)

Allison Anderson, *Museum of Science, Boston*

Debbie Coppula, *Children’s Museum of Pittsburgh*

Ali Jackson, *Sciencenter*

Lynnsey Childress-Wimp, *Discovery Lab*

Living Our Values: Finding Flow and Preventing Burnout in Children’s Museums

COMMUNITY TERRACE

In a life full of meetings, long hours, projects, and deadlines, it can be hard to find time to slow down and care for ourselves and one another. Practicing what we preach through creative play, mindfulness, and art making can be powerful tools for healing and burnout relief. It allows us to stay focused in the present moment and get into a flow state where we feel and perform our best. During the state of flow, the brain releases chemicals that can boost focus, and expand lateral thinking, all of which contribute to heightened creativity, relaxation, and community building. Learn strategies for recognizing and avoiding burnout, explore the science behind connecting our hands, hearts, and minds, and, most importantly, take the opportunity to play, make art, and decompress.

Jennifer Farrington, *Chicago Children’s Museum*

Natalie Bortoli, *Chicago Children’s Museum*

Sara Tolson, *The Children’s Museum of the Upstate*

Strategic Corporate Partnerships to Extend Impact

MEETING ROOMS MNQR

National Children’s Museum has partnered with Nickelodeon Our World to distribute their Climate Action Heroes exhibit for free to all interested educational and cultural institutions with a fun infusion of the Nickelodeon brand and characters. Presenters will explore how this exhibit and partnership came to fruition and share how other institutions can leverage strategic corporate partnerships to further their reach. The presenters will also discuss how their shared mission to empower children has fueled creativity and collaboration between their organizations.

Crystal Bowyer, *Museum of Science and Industry*

Jean Margaret Smith, *Nickelodeon*

Playing Together: Establishing Effective and Sustainable Museum-University Partnerships

HALL OF IDEAS EF

Partnerships between children’s museums and universities can be beneficial to both institutions. Learn from museum professionals, researchers, and students about forging a museum-university partnership and discover how you can establish a collaborative relationship that enhances learning, scholarship, and impact.

Beth Fitzgerald, *The Magic House, St. Louis Children’s Museum*

Rachel Thibodeau-Nielsen, PhD, *University of Missouri*

Alaina Wilson Dooley, *University of Missouri*

Roxane Hill, *The Regnier Family Wonderscope Children’s Museum of Kansas City*



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Learning



Mental Health
& Well-Being



Partnerships



People



Research and
Evaluation

Building Capacity in Your Guest-Facing Team

MADISON BALLROOM D

Our guest-facing teams power the play in children's museums. Learn about effective ways to build capacity in your guest-facing team through engaging professional development that will ensure a stellar guest experience. Three museums will share strategies, tools, and resources for engaging training and ongoing learning and growth opportunities. Participate in sample training activities from each museum.

Hardin Engelhardt, *Marbles Kids Museum (moderator)*

Robin Mangum, *Marbles Kids Museum*

Kiersten Dittrich, *Discovery Museum*

Cassie Coffey, *DuPage Children's Museum*

Museum Family Feud

LECTURE HALL

Similar to the InterActivity 2023 Effective Practices Jeopardy session, this semi-fishbowl style session will utilize the latest survey data from the Institute of Museum and Library Services. Guided by advisor, Laura Huerta Migus, Deputy Director of IMLS, the session will include four to five rounds of Family Feud-style game, culminating in the Final Round. Survey data that is appropriate for small, medium, and large museums, covering a variety of topics, in an active and fun learning environment will be selected.

Putter Bert, *KidsQuest Children's Museum (moderator)*

Michael Shanklin, *kidSTREAM Children's Museum*

Michael Yankovich, *Children's Museum of Denver at Marsico Campus*

Tifferney White, *Louisiana Children's Museum*

Laura Huerta Migus, *Institute of Museum and Library Services*

EVENING EVENT

An Evening at Madison Children's Museum

6:30 p.m.–9:30 p.m.

Pre-registration required; tickets are \$50. ACM staff will be in the lobby of each hotel starting at 6:15 p.m. to direct participants to Madison Children's Museum (MCM).

Participants are on their own to walk to MCM. It is approximately a 5-10 minute walk depending on your hotel. For those that need accessible transportation, please ask ACM staff at registration or in the hotel lobby to arrange for transportation.

Madison Children's Museum staff, board, and volunteers invite you for an evening of modern Madisonian delights fueled by a brandy old fashioned—our official state cocktail. Enjoy local food and iconic cocktails, mocktails, and local beers throughout the museum. Unleash your inner toddler in the Wilderdest, the early childhood space: don a chipmunk vest, slide down a hollow log, and send a flag to a friend on a high-flying clothesline. On the second floor, visit the Art Studio to make a souvenir to take home, scale the Hodge Podge Mahal climber, and explore the wild inside in the Nice Age Trail, our newest exhibit. Head up to the Rooftop Ramble to amble through the garden, take in spectacular views, and meet the resident chickens. Head out to the Wonderground to enjoy live local music while you clamber on the Thicket Climber, shimmy in the Giant Bucket, and explore the 1830s Log Cabin.



Make it a green evening with special activities including screen printing upcycled t-shirts and tote bags, touring the Trash Lab mobile exhibit, sampling edible insect treats, and cheering on all-star teams of exhibit fabricators as they repurpose treasures from MCM's storage to compete in the ultimate re-fab prototype challenge.

After the party, let the State Capitol light your way back to your hotel, or take advantage of local nightlife within walking distance around Capitol Square.

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Friday, May 17

All programming will be held at Monona Terrace Community and Convention Center, 1 John Nolen Drive, Madison, WI, except where noted.

Continental Breakfast

7:30 a.m.–8:45 a.m.

GRAND TERRACE

There are never enough opportunities to connect with old friends and make new ones. Use this unstructured time for networking.

Peer-to-Peer Roundtable Discussions

7:45 a.m.–8:45 a.m.

Connect with colleagues on topics not addressed in the concurrent professional development sessions. Table moderators will introduce a topic and facilitate a conversation. Stay at one roundtable discussion or move between tables to touch on multiple topics.

MADISON BALLROOM A

1. Safety and Security: From Soft Play to Soft Targets—Keeping Your Staff, Your Visitors, and Your Exhibits Safe

Moderator: Daniel Guyton, *OMSI*

2. Rookie Rendezvous: Wonderment and Woes in Your New Museum Career

Moderator: Beth Housewert, *Inspired Impact*

3. Emerging Museums: Adventure Awaits!

Moderator: Ryan Howard, *North Colorado Children's Museum*

4. When Your Part-Timers Are Your Full-Timers

Moderator: Scott Turner, *National Children's Museum*

5. That's Not What I Meant! Good Intentions Communicated the Wrong Way

Moderator: Monique Ealey, EdD, *Mississippi Children's Museum*

MADISON BALLROOM D

6. Museums for All

Moderator: Brendan Cartwright, *Association of Children's Museums*

7. Experience Audits: Exhibits and Facilities

Moderator: Travis Reid, *Process Curiosity*

8. Membership Matters

Moderator: Matt Shutler, *Madison Children's Museum*

9. Embracing a Full Museum (Now that Visitors Are Back!)

Moderator: Lindsay Newton, *Missouri Historical Society*

10. Idea Exchange: Professional Development for Museum Staff

Moderator: Mike Lisle, *Children's Museum of the Lowcountry* and Karen Coltrane, *Children's Museum of the Lowcountry*

MADISON BALLROOM B

11. Trustee to Trustee/Board Member to Board Member

Moderator: Janet Brown, *Children's Museum of South Dakota*

12. Blurred Lines of Museum Roles

Moderator: Caroline O'Sullivan-Jens, *Family Museum*

13. Earned Revenue Strategies

Moderator: Michael Shanklin, *kidSTREAM*

14. Signature Events: Galas and Beyond

Moderator: Laura Richardson Bright, *Golisano Children's Museum of Naples*

15. It Takes a Village! Creating a Culture of Staff Appreciation

Moderator: Ayesha Inayat, *DISCOVERY Children's Museum*

16. Let's Ideate and Create: Building an Inclusive Language Guide

Moderator: Abby Ildefonso, *Kohl Children's Museum of Greater Chicago*

Plenary Session and Great Friend to Kids Award Ceremony

9:00 a.m.-10:15 a.m.

EXHIBIT HALL B



ACM will present its 2024 Great Friend to Kids Award to **Dr. Gloria Ladson-Billings**. This award is presented annually at InterActivity and honors those individuals and organizations that have made significant contributions to strengthen education and advance the interests of children.

ACM selected Dr. Ladson-Billings for her outstanding contributions to educational pedagogy and anthropology as it relates to diversity, accessibility, inclusion, and equity.

An esteemed educator and scholar, Ladson-Billings has held various academic positions, including serving as a faculty member at Santa Clara University, Stanford University, and the University of Wisconsin-Madison, where she became a distinguished professor and held the Kellner Family Distinguished Chair in Urban Education. Her research focuses on the educational achievement gap, culturally relevant teaching practices, critical race theory in education, and the experiences of African American students in schools.

Her publications, including books *The Dreamkeepers: Successful Teachers of African American Children* and *Critical Race Theory in Education*, have had a profound impact on educators and policymakers seeking to create more culturally responsive and equitable learning environments.

Dr. Ladson-Billings continues to be a leading voice in the field of education, inspiring educators worldwide to embrace culturally relevant pedagogy and work toward creating more inclusive and empowering educational experiences for all students.

STUDY TOUR D



Center for Healthy Minds at University of Wisconsin-Madison

10:15 a.m.-12:15 p.m.

Pre-registration is required; \$35.

Transportation is provided. Ticket holders should meet at the main entrance of Monona Terrace on Level Four. The bus will leave promptly at 10:25 a.m. and return by 12:15 p.m.

In the heart of the city of Madison is the beautiful, sprawling campus of a world class university. Among University of Wisconsin-Madison's various endeavors is the Center for Healthy Minds, founded by world renowned neuroscientist Dr. Richard J. Davidson. The Center for Healthy Minds envisions a kinder, wiser, more compassionate world; their mission is to cultivate well-being and relieve suffering through a scientific understanding of the mind.

Learn how incorporating the concepts of kindness, compassion, gratitude, and other important social-emotional skills in the daily lives of children will build resilience and well-being into adulthood. Explore how the takeaway concepts from the Kindness Curriculum can be applied in your museum in a hands-on way to allow children to flourish. The Kindness Curriculum maps directly to improvements in cognitive and social-emotional well-being going forward. When children are taught to recognize and care for their own emotions, they are also more likely to connect and empathize with the emotions of their family members, friends, and teachers, and to learn how to care for their community, environment, and world.

CONCURRENT PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT SESSIONS

10:30 a.m.–11:45 a.m.

 **Embrace the Chaos: Marketing Fishbowl**

MEETING ROOMS KLOP

Join us for a marketing fishbowl that explores bandwidth, balance, ethics, and other—big and small—marketing topics. Facilitated by three experienced children’s museum marketers and informed by your work, this discussion-based workshop will dive into the chaotic and beautiful world of children’s museum marketing.

Kelly Stenka, *Lincoln Children’s Museum*
Laura Burton, *Kansas Children’s Discovery Museum*
Jayson Albright, *Children’s Museum of Illinois*

  **Everything Local: Artists, Culture, and the Making of the Museum**

MEETING ROOMS MNQR

Madison Children’s Museum (MCM) is unique in the children’s museum world because of its hyperfocus on the local. Local stories, local fabricators, local materials, local people and local culture make up the essence of MCM’s flavor. This session will introduce MCM’s Only Local Initiative, our Only Local Toolkit, and the museum’s Field Guide to Local Culture, as well as the museum’s unique approach to working with local artists and fabricators and collaborating with local teachers and students on exhibit development. The session will include local educators, artists, and architects, each giving their own perspective on why using such a hyper-local lens is such a compelling approach. Attendees will leave with new tools to expand their local networks in new ways.

Kia Karlen, *Madison Children’s Museum (moderator)*
Mark Wagler, *Randall Elementary School*
Dan Ganch, *Super G Construction*
Lou Host-Jablonski, *Design Coalition Architects*
Rissel Sanderson, *Madison Metropolitan School District*

 **iMi Museo es Tu Museo! How to Become More Translingual!**

HALL OF IDEAS HI

Experiencia a Dual Language program with us! Educadoras de Chicago Children’s Museum (CCM) will lead you through a quick art project we did virtually con our guests. Then we will share what we have aprendido and the mistakes we have made learning how to include different languages in our spaces at CCM and at the Art Institute of Chicago. Information covered includes the differences between Bilingual, and Dual/Translingual approaches, ways to include multilingual staff in meaningful and equitable ways in the process, and how we have communicated with our communities about their needs in formal and informal ways. Lastly, we will include novel ways to share what YOU are doing in your spaces!

Liz Rosenberg, *Chicago Children’s Museum*
Alexandra Pafilis Silverstein, *Chicago Children’s Museum*

Lucía Calderón Arrieta, *The Art Institute of Chicago*

 **Interactivity Incubators: Temporary Exhibits for Your Empty Spaces**

MADISON BALLROOM C

In the spectrum of museum experiences, programming, and traveling exhibits get a lot of attention but what about temporary exhibits? Consider a transitional, temporary, or seasonal exhibit! We’ve created a framework of effective practices based on examples from dozens of different sized museums doing this already. You’ll walk out of this session inspired with tips and personalized ideas. This session will take you through the key components then offer an inspiring roundtable work session where you can make your own exhibit plan. With attention to differing budgets, space allocations, and the logistics necessary to pull it all off—we’ve got you covered!

Erik Smith, *National Children’s Museum (moderator)*
John Shaw, *Museum EXP*
Langley Lease, *National Children’s Museum*
Beth Housewert, *Inspired Impact*

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SESSION AND GALLERY WALK


**MuseumLab for Museum Professionals—
Unleashing Creativity and Innovation**

COMMUNITY TERRACE

Melding synchronous in-person and online learning with personalized coaching, the MuseumLab for Museum Professionals (MLMP) program guided twelve participants to turn deep questions into prototypes and actionable implementation plans. Topics explored by MLMP included how to conceptualize and create exhibits and programs that integrate new technologies, think entrepreneurially, deepen accessibility, and engage emotions, and emphasize creativity, health, and justice. This program, co-led by the Association of Children's Museums and Children's Museum of Pittsburgh with the support of ten leading museum professionals, aims to change the trajectory of museums by using prototyping and exhibit design to revitalize our staff and to spark localized, creative innovation that is responsive to our communities.

This session will share the drivers behind the program, why this group of museum professionals felt compelled to initiate the program, and what we are learning from the cohort about means and methods for developing an impactful and sustainable professional learning program that supports the people who develop creative experiences. Participants of the pilot cohort will present their prototypes and offer opportunities for project feedback and discussion.

Jane Werner, *Children's Museum of Pittsburgh*
(moderator)

Victoria Garvin, *Association of Children's Museums*

Michael Yankovich, *Children's Museum of Denver*
at Marsico Campus

Cohort Members

Lauren Bell, *Children's Museum of Houston*

Traci Buckner, *Akron Children's Museum*

Vanessa Eastmure, *London Children's Museum*

Billy Ernest, *ECHO, Leahy Center for Lake Champlain*

Lucas Fredericks, *Sciencenter*

Daniel Guyton, *OMSI, Oregon Museum of Science
and Industry*

Brennon Land, *Alaska Children's Museum*

Savita Madan, *Kidzu Children's Museum*

Kelly Marks, *Morehead Planetarium and
Science Center*

Rachel Towns, *Miami Children's Museum*

After the session

During lunch, drop in for the gallery walk. View project plans and prototypes up close, ask questions about the projects, program, and learn more!


**Designing Programs Inspired by Reggio
Emilia and Montessori**

MADISON BALLROOM A

Weave pedagogical ideas and techniques into your museum's education programming. Learn how you can easily and effectively engage children and families using the Montessori and Reggio Emilia approaches. Discover how thoughtful program design can inspire children to develop independence through the power of choice. Invite children to engage, concentrate, and refine fine-motor movements while inspiring families to apply these methods at home.

Shelby Hiken, *Port Discovery Children's Museum*

Natalie Williams, *Miami Children's Museum*

Catie Davis, EdD, *The Children's Museum of
the Upstate*


**Building Resilience: A Conversation on
Executive Burnout**

MADISON BALLROOM B

In this conversation led by clinical psychologist, Dr. Vincent Miles, participants will learn to identify and address burnout in executive and senior staff. Participants will learn strategies for combating burnout and building resilience. The museum environment provides unique stressors and challenges. This conversation provides a space to hear insights from fellow executives and museum leaders with direct feedback from Dr. Miles, as well as strategies for change and tips to build a workplace culture that promote healthy individuals and a flourishing organization.

Vincent Miles, PsyD LP, *Great River Children's
Museum (Board) and Human Factor Leadership, LLC*



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 **Outreach Strategies: Growing Beyond Your Building**

MADISON BALLROOM D

Three different children’s museums are sowing the seeds of possibility by growing beyond the four walls of their buildings. This session will explore various outreach strategies—from operating as a robust museum without walls to offering educator training workshops for community partners to incorporating state education standards into museum programming. A museum’s reach is only limited by its cultivation, so let’s get tending and watch as our communities flourish!

- Tennille Adams**, *Children’s Museum of the Magic Valley*
- Bethany Bell**, *Children’s Museum of the Magic Valley*
- Claire Stockman**, *Creative Discovery Museum*
- Brett Nicholas**, *DuPage Children’s Museum*

 **Starting with Staff: Helping Your Team Flourish**

LECTURE HALL

We often hear the phrase “culture is king” but many organizations don’t know how to curate a positive culture. Join members of the Children’s Museum of Richmond to hear how they turned around the organization’s employee experience—reducing turnover and increasing employee engagement. The Executive Director and Director of Human Resources will share the museum’s culture journey from 2019 to today. They will share innovative employee programs that have helped solidify a culture of learning and play and share evaluation methods and tactics your team can implement immediately upon your return.

- Whitney Fogg**, *Children’s Museum of Richmond*
- Danielle Ripperton**, *Children’s Museum of Richmond*

 **So, You Want to Start a Flourishing Volunteer Program?**

HALL OF IDEAS EF

In children’s museums, we often focus on finding enriching play and learning opportunities for our youngest friends; but children’s museums can be a place of playful, intentional learning for teenagers and retirees as well. This panel will discuss how to create a flourishing and engaging volunteer program for volunteers of all ages and experience levels, whether starting from scratch or expanding and strengthening an existing volunteer program. We will discuss the hiring and onboarding process for volunteers as well as meaningful programs and tasks for active volunteers that will provide purposeful learning and play for guests and volunteers alike.

- Kathryn Schmitt**, *Port Discovery Children’s Museum*
- Christopher Small**, *Louisiana Children’s Museum*
- Kailey Singleton**, *Kidzu Children’s Museum*

Lunch on Your Own

11:45 a.m.–1:15 p.m

Lunch and Learn: Exploring the 21st Century Children’s Museum

12:15 p.m.–1:00 p.m.

HALL OF IDEAS EF

Buy your lunch and join a discussion considering the significant shifts since the inception of the world’s first children’s museum. Today, we confront the challenges of smartphones, digital landscapes, the climate crisis, pandemics, and global conflict, affecting both people and children worldwide. In light of these transformations, children’s museums are compelled to redefine their purpose and identity. Hands On! International, alongside various museums, has taken strides to formulate an international framework for our collective efforts: “The Home of 21st Century Education!” Participants will have time to share how they resonate with this mission statement and the related obstacles, dreams, and objectives shaping the journey.

- Jörg Ehtreiber**, *FRida & freD, The Graz Children’s Museum and Hands On! International Association of Children in Museums*



STUDY TOUR E



SOLD OUT

Madison Children's Museum: Sustainability for All

12:45 p.m.–2:45 p.m.

Pre-registration is required; \$35.

Transportation is not provided. Ticket holders should meet at the main entrance of Monona Terrace on Level Four. Madison Children's Museum staff will walk participants to the museum at 12:55 p.m. It is an approximate 10-minute walk. For those that need accessible transportation, please see an ACM staff member who can help you. The tour will conclude so that you are able to be back at Monona Terrace by 2:45 p.m. Please note: lunch is not included.

Madison Children's Museum (MCM) staff lead this sustainability study tour that highlights green exhibits, programs, and museum-wide sustainability initiatives. MCM became the first LEED Gold certified (existing building category) museum in the state of Wisconsin in 2014. MCM models replicable best practices in a green building using local, reclaimed, recycled, natural, non-toxic, and organic materials. The health of visitors, the community, and the environment is at the forefront of MCM's sustainability commitment. We will explore how to connect with our communities through strategic partnerships and help them flourish by improving health and well-being. The tour is designed to spread knowledge of sustainable practices through ideas that can help museums become greener, one step at a time.

CONCURRENT PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT SESSIONS

1:15 p.m.–2:30 p.m.

🎯 Preparing for Capital Projects that Flourish

MADISON BALLROOM B

Building or renovating a museum is challenging in the best of times. How can we prepare space for capital projects to flourish? As the seeds of new projects are planted, it can feel like the ground is shifting under our feet. But fertile soil and good stewardship lead to healthy, fun, and satisfying outcomes! Panelists with experience as both museum staff and allied consultants will help you lay an excellent foundation for projects of any scale. We'll discuss how planning and pre-design work can answer important questions and help your team establish key project parameters like budgets, schedules, and teams.

Alissa Rupp, FAIA, LEED AP BD+C, FRAME |

Integrative Design Strategies

Jill Randerson, Jill Randerson Exhibit Management

Aaron Goldblatt, Metcalfe

Peter Olson, Peter Olson Museum Planning, LLC

🎯 Small Museums CAN Raise Big Dollars: Tips and Tricks from Two Executive Directors Who Got It Done!

LECTURE HALL

In this session, attendees will hear about two successful children's museum capital campaigns. The expERIENCE Children's Museum in Erie, PA has raised over \$18.5 million for its new renovation and expansion under the leadership of its executive director. Explore & More in Buffalo, NY raised \$29 million in 2019 and then another \$5 million total since then! Hear what these presenters believe led to each of their successful fundraising campaigns. Takeaways include how to prepare your museum for a capital campaign and for those new to the field, the session will include an overview of fundraising and an introduction to the capital campaign process.

Ainslie Brosig, expERIENCE Children's Museum

Michelle Urbanczyk, Explore & More, The Ralph C. Wilson Children's Museum



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Beyond Plastic: Simply Sustainable Exhibit Materials

MADISON BALLROOM C

Children’s museums can have A LOT of plastics in their exhibit materials. Plastic is durable, cleanable, and cheap. But we also know of the detrimental effects of plastics on health and the environment. As children’s museums, we are dedicated to the health and safety of children and the futures they will inhabit. Four museums will share their ideas for alternative materials in exhibits. From rocks to felt to everything in between, the presenters will share failures and successes in sustainable materials. Attendees can feel, test, and ask questions to apply the materials in their own institutions.

- Meredith Doby**, *The DoSeum*
- Daniel Guyton**, *OMSI, Oregon Museum of Science and Industry*
- Anne Fullenkamp**, *Children’s Museum of Pittsburgh*
- Margo Malter**, *Long Island Children’s Museum*

Actionable Insights: DEAI Resources for the Museum Field

MEETING ROOMS KLOP

Hot off the press! This session introduces a new online resource for museums focused on advancing inclusive and equitable practices in museums. Designed for museums of all types and sizes to engage in dialogue, planning, and changemaking related to equity and inclusion practices, these tools encourage museums to identify possibilities for action and change. Hear from the developers of the tools and the museums who pilot-tested the resource about how they gained alignment and set priorities for their DEAI work.

- Jenni Martin**, *Children’s Discovery Museum of San Jose*
- Marilee Jennings**, *Children’s Discovery Museum of San Jose*

Playful Leadership: A Leader’s Guide to Letting Go

MADISON BALLROOM A

What if we infused playful learning with our everyday leadership strategies to intentionally let go of our innate desire for control? Might we change the organizational and cultural domains of leadership practice by tapping into the power of play? Learn how to incorporate the open-ended, creatively divergent, experimental aspects of play to lead business transformations and spark cultural change in your organization while smashing the status quo. Presenters will share stories and offer challenging prompts to inspire participants to courageously apply playful leadership to their work environments.

- Christian Greer, EdD**, *Michigan Science Center*
- Carol Tang, PhD**, *Children’s Creativity Museum*
- Tifferney White**, *Louisiana Children’s Museum*

Hi AI! Playful Early Encounters with Artificial Intelligence

HALL OF IDEAS EF

Dive into the exciting world of Artificial Intelligence (AI)! Learn strategies and techniques for engaging children and families creatively in this rapidly evolving technology that is already affecting our lives and transforming aspects of society. Discover a range of hands-on activities designed to engage families in understanding AI concepts playfully. Attendees will explore how robots and people are different, how facial recognition works, and how machine learning can be used in activities and exhibits. This participatory session will include facilitated table discussions about talking with children about the future and fostering intergenerational learning and curiosity about the possibilities of AI.

- Catherine McCarthy, PhD**, *Arizona State University*
- Darrell Porcello, PhD**, *Children’s Creativity Museum*
- Ari Krakowski**, *Lawrence Hall of Science*



Flash Talks: Flourishing, Belonging, and Risk HALL OF IDEAS HI

Dig in and get inspired by nine speakers who will give short talks on three topics related to play, children's museums, and child development: Flourishing, Belonging, and Risk. Then engage with others to take the exploration of these topics further.

Hardin Engelhardt, *Marbles Kids Museum (moderator)*

Flourishing

Mindy Porter, *Scott Family Amazeum*

Mallory Mbalia, *Fred Rogers Productions*

Simon Goldberg, PhD, *University of Wisconsin-Madison*

Belonging

Tiffany Espinosa, *Children's Museum Houston*

Ashley Niver, *Long Island Children's Museum*

Liz Rosenberg, *Chicago Children's Museum*

Risk

Pam Hillestad, *Glazer Children's Museum*

Erik Smith, *National Children's Museum*

Sarah Curtis, *The Works Museum*

The Lullaby Movement: Strengthening Parenting-Child Bonds with Carnegie Hall

MEETING ROOMS MNQR

Bring joy and delight to families through shared music experiences. This session will introduce Carnegie Hall's Lullaby Project, the research supporting it, and its impact on families. This international program pairs new or expecting parents/caregivers with professional artists to write and sing personal lullabies for their babies—supporting maternal health, aiding childhood development, and strengthening the bond between parent and child. Attendees will participate in a group writing of a new lullaby with a teaching artist and get resources to take back to your museum.

Erika Floreska, *Long Island Children's Museum (moderator)*

Tiffany Ortiz, *Carnegie Hall*

Arthur Affleck, *Association of Children's Museums*

Saskia Lane, *Carnegie Hall*

Susan Westhoff, *Ann Arbor Hands-On Museum and Leslie Science & Nature Center*

Bringing Research into Practice to Reimagine Caregiver Engagement

MADISON BALLROOM D

What do we mean when we talk about “caregiver engagement” in children's museums? What's more, how do our ideas about this long-standing priority relate to caregivers' own beliefs about their roles and responsibilities? Through research presentations and practice-focused discussions, this session will explore the often-unspoken expectations that children's museums have about caregivers' involvement in children's learning. Starting from a strengths-based perspective, we will explore more inclusive and equitable ways of framing caregiver engagement, situating this central concern of children's museums within broader ecosystems of individuals and institutions that help families learn, connect, and flourish.

Suzy Letourneau, PhD, *New York Hall of Science*

Tarah Connolly, *University of Wisconsin-Madison*

Kelly Hoke, *The STEM Research Center at Oregon State University*

CONCURRENT PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT SESSIONS

2:45 p.m.–4:00 p.m.

GALLERY WALK

Form and Function: Understanding the Organizational Structure of Children's Museums

COMMUNITY TERRACE

Children's museums around the country differ in terms of their size, scale and scope—and most of all in their organizational structure. Learn how your museum's staffing infrastructure compares to others in this “Gallery Walk” session where you will engage with visual displays of a host of museum organizational structures—and presenters from each museum.

Rachel Demma, EdD, *Port Discovery Children's Museum (moderator)*

Brian Krosnick, *Modesto Children's Museum*

Jeraka Tweite, *SPARK*

Stephanie Arduini, *Seattle Children's Museum*

Rani Vargas, *Long Island Children's Museum*

Erika Floreska, *Long Island Children's Museum*



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 **Marketing Mad Libs: Promotion Plan Workshop**

HALL OF IDEAS HI

Name three adjectives and we'll help you craft an actionable promotion plan in this practical workshop for small to medium museums. Attendees will see successful examples of event and exhibit promotion plans and work with other marketing professionals to create their own, all implementable by a limited team. Use tools like traditional media, social platforms, influencer marketing, and paid media to accomplish marketing goals. Leave the workshop ready to hit the ground running on your initiative!

Laura Burton, *Kansas Children's Discovery Center*
Sarah Duff, *Westchester Children's Museum*

 **Living Our Values Through Our Financial Decisions**

HALL OF IDEAS EF

Whether intentional or not, the financial decisions organizations make, and the processes we use to make them, reflect our organizations' values and priorities. Furthermore, budgets and financial decisions are not always shared in an accessible manner with staff, leading to confusion regarding the motives of the organization's leadership. This session will examine current practices used by the session presenters and offer examples of how institutions can live their values through the world of finance. Hear concrete examples from the panel on how to leverage financial decisions and practices to lift the morale of your museum and move forward with trust and accountability.

Christine Koebly, *Children's Museum of Pittsburgh*
Susie Park, *Chicago Children's Museum*
Monica Bonny, *Bay Area Discovery Museum*

 **Community Engagement Through an Equity Lens**

MADISON BALLROOM B

With the goal of being responsive and sustaining for Latinx communities, the Cambio Project focuses on community engagement and organizational for museums centered in equity. This session features an introduction of a new framework and case studies from museums who have used that framework to make organizational change toward more inclusive and equitable practice.

Ann Hernandez, *Space Center Houston*
Jenni Martin, *Children's Discovery Museum of San Jose*
Katie Johnson, *Butterfly Pavilion*
Carla Boscacci, *KidZone Museum*

 **Heating Up: Tackling Climate Change with Young Learners and Caregivers**

HALL OF IDEAS GJ

To help our communities flourish, museums can create meaningful climate change programming for young children and caregivers using an encouraging and solution-based framework. Engage with two museums that have connected through the LEGO Playful Learning Network community of practice as they share how they are working to design climate change programming that is approachable and promotes a positive future. These museums will lead participants in hands-on activities and a brainstorming session around barriers and solutions. Participants will walk away with connections to other institutions who are also committed to climate change programming to continue solution-making together.

Michelle Dileso, *Boston Children's Museum*
Kelsey Holtaway, *Children's Creativity Museum*
Dianne DeStefano, *Boston Children's Museum*

Going the Distance: (Developing) Virtual Learning Strategies That Work!

MADISON BALLROOM C

Adapting to the challenges posed by the pandemic, museums forged innovative collaborations with schools and rural communities. This session explores how we can continue to use these tools to reach these same communities today. Presenters will share their own work that went the distance and had measurable impact on language and literacy development. Children's Museum of Atlanta partnered with researchers and rural school systems to explore the impact of virtual learning. Explora worked with Home Visitors in rural areas of New Mexico to distribute STEAM@home kits. This session will use hands-on learning and presentations to share results and strategies for supporting language comprehension and developments.

Karen Kelly, *Children's Museum of Atlanta*
Jacqueline Smalley, *Children's Museum of Atlanta*
Gary Bingham, PhD, *Georgia State University, College of Education and Human Development*
Tara Henderson, *Explora*

Focus on Frontline Staff

MADISON BALLROOM A

Our frontline staff and volunteers are the face of our organizations. They shape our audiences' experience while articulating our vision and values as the direct contact between our institutions and the communities we serve. Investing in and supporting them is crucial, and in this session, we will be discussing various successful strategies to support these individuals to better adapt to changing visitor needs. We'll explore new trends in visitor behavior, give participants an opportunity to discuss their own audience observations, and speak to adopting new policies that champion our frontline while also creating an inclusive environment for all audiences.

Christina Leavell, *Arizona State University*
Sarah Fox, *The Children's Museum of Indianapolis*
Annie Gordon, *Sciencenter*
Bill Pariso, *Betty Brinn Children's Museum*

Even More Mistakes Were Made!

MADISON BALLROOM D

As museum professionals, we don't usually admit our mistakes. It's understandable; we answer to supervisors, boards of directors, government institutions, funders, clients, and the public. Sharing our mistakes is the first step in learning from them. Join us as we come together to create a playful and safe environment that allows for admission of failure, encourages reflection, and celebrates professional growth. A crowd-sourced contest awards the Epic Failure Trophy of 2024 to the person in the room with the biggest mistake of the year and a "Red Pencil Reward" for everyone!

Kathy Gustafson-Hilton, *Hands On! Studio*
Jonathan Zarov, *Madison Children's Museum*
Robin Gose, EdD, *MOXI, The Wolf Museum of Exploration + Innovation*
Blake Wigdahl, *Process Curiosity*



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ACM, together with Explora Science Center and Children's Museum of Albuquerque, invites you to InterActivity 2025. The conference will provide us with ample opportunities to explore the ways in which our field lifts up children and families. From educational programs embedded in community centers and co-created exhibitions to wrap-around services and innovative partnerships, museums can help their communities reach new heights, while elevating our own museum community, as well.





Explora

Children's museums are trusted organizations with the power to listen intentionally and center the voices of families in order to create positive community change. This year's conference co-host, Explora, has been on a powerful, decade-long journey to listen, welcome, and co-create with its community in Albuquerque, New Mexico, resulting in an expanded Cradle through Career STEAM Learning Campus that will be the perfect setting for this year's conference.

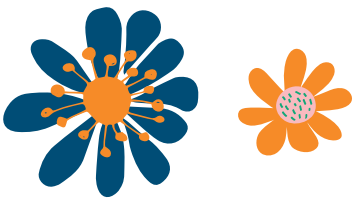
Submit a Session Proposal

We invite you to **submit a session proposal**. Tie your proposal to the theme: How has your museum created positive community change? What strategies has your museum used to co-create with your community? What are ways you intentionally listen and incorporate the voices of a diverse population?

Proposals are selected by the InterActivity Program Committee who look for **innovative, adaptable, and scalable** practices. The session proposal form and selection criteria are available at www.ChildrensMuseums.org.

Session proposals are due by Wednesday, July 31, 2024.





Join ACM: Become a Member!

Serving members in the United States and countries across the globe, the Association of Children’s Museums (ACM) is an international nonprofit professional service organization that champions children’s museums around the world. Currently, ACM serves more than 470 museums, businesses, educational organizations, and individuals.

Which membership level is right for you?

ACM offers a number of membership levels for both individuals and organizations. Each level is tailored to provide benefits to meet your needs. ACM supports its members through leadership, advocacy, professional development, and service.

ACM Annual Membership Dues

Open Museum Categories

Dues are based on annual operating income.

| | |
|---------------------------------------|---------|
| Level 1 (under \$250k): | \$500 |
| Level 2 (under \$500k): | \$900 |
| Level 3 (under \$1 million): | \$1,200 |
| Level 4 (under \$3 million): | \$1,675 |
| Level 5 (under \$5 million): | \$1,975 |
| Level 6 (\$5 million and over): | \$2,500 |

Special Museum Categories

| | |
|--|-------|
| Emerging U.S./Canadian Children’s Museum..... | \$475 |
| Emerging International Children’s Museum..... | \$325 |
| International Museum..... | \$325 |

Individual Categories

| | |
|----------------------------|-------|
| Friend of the Field: | \$150 |
| Student: | \$100 |

Organizational Categories

| | |
|--------------------------------------|-------|
| Academic/Research Institution: | \$500 |
|--------------------------------------|-------|

ACM Annual Business Membership Dues

ACM business members represent a diverse range of organizations serving the field and supporting the growth of children’s museums in their communities. They gain exposure to a unique and focused audience through ACM membership while acknowledging the value of children’s museums worldwide.

Business Categories

| | |
|---------------------------|---------|
| Business Visionary: | \$2,750 |
| Business Patron: | \$1,200 |
| Business Supporter: | \$825 |
| Business Associate: | \$330 |

Questions about ACM Membership?

Museums: Membership@ChildrensMuseums.org
Businesses: Development@ChildrensMuseums.org





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interactive | thematic design
prototyping | testing
custom build
project management



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We create *genuine* human connections.

- Museum Start-Up Planning
- Exhibit Development & Evaluation
- Full-Service Exhibit Design

- Theming & Environmental Design
- Interactive Engineering & Prototyping
- Fabrication & Turnkey Installation