

2011 Overview

The Ann Arbor Hands-On Museum is the cornerstone of informal science education in our community. A dedicated group of volunteers created the Museum in 1982 and nearly 30 years later, our staff, trustees, visitors, community leaders and volunteers work tirelessly to sustain the Museum. Donors and Members play an integral part in the Museum and support our mission through visitation, their gifts and community engagement. Thanks in great part to their work, the Museum has now welcomed more than 4 million visitors.

Facts and Figures

- h The Museum has set new attendance records for six out of the last seven years. An average of 250,000 people participate annually
- h Membership is greater than 4,250 families - a near record!
- H More than 60% of our visitors are from beyond Washtenaw County
- h 34,000 students visit annually with school and community groups
- H Outreach programming is delivered throughout Michigan, including the Upper Peninsula
- h Distance Learning programs reach students in over 30 states, 5 Canadian provinces and 3 distant countries, including Australia
- H 70 community leaders collaborated to create a Strategic Plan for Museum growth
- H National support is routinely received from the National Science Foundation and the Institute of Museum and Library Services

- h Member of the Association of Science and Technology Centers
- h Member of the Association of Children's Museums
- H Occupies 40,000 sq ft in downtown Ann Arbor
- h Pyramid Award winner for best collaborative project under \$3 million from the Washtenaw Contractors Association
- h National recognition from CILC, the Center for Interactive Learning and Collaboration

DISCOVER THE MUSEUM



General Information 2011

Nearly thirty years ago, the Ann Arbor Hands-On Museum first opened in the old brick firehouse in downtown Ann Arbor. Since 1982, the Museum has expanded in size and scope, leaving a growing handprint on the regional community. The Museum of today was made possible through the generosity of a variety of donors.

in 1986, the Museum expanded to the third and fourth floors of the firehouse. In 1999, the Museum expanded again into several adjoining buildings. In 2007, the Legacy Project expanded the Preschool Gallery, created the Legacy Gallery and greatly improved our classroom spaces. Today, the Museum continues to invest in improvements, new exhibits, enhanced programs, and more.

Mission Statement

The mission of the Ann Arbor Hands-On Museum is to inspire people to discover the wonder of science, math and technology.

Location and Hours

220 East Ann Street, Ann Arbor, MI 48104

Monday – Saturday: 10am – 5pm Sunday: Noon – 5pm

The Museum is closed on Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving, Christmas Eve and Christmas

Admission

Members	Free	Children under 2	Free
Ages 2 and up	\$10.00	Groups (20 or more)*	\$5.00 per person

*Groups must be pre-registered.

Membership

Membership is your passport to discovery—enjoy numerous benefits with membership!

- h Free, unlimited admission to the Museum for 12 months
- H Free or reduced admission to 290 science centers worldwide
- H Free or reduced admission to 160 children's museums
- h Free Members Nights!
- H Caregiver option with Membership
- H Discount at the Hands-On Store
- h Discounts on Birthday Parties
- H Free subscription to the Hands-On E-News



DISCOVER OUR STORY

Exhibits and Programs 2011

Exhibits

In 1982, the Museum showcased 25 exhibits. Support from generous local businesses, individuals and grants from the National Science Foundation promoted exhibit development. The Museum is now home to more than 250 interactive exhibits designed to promote science literacy and discovery.

- H Figure out *How Things Work* in the *Legacy Gallery*
- h Encircle yourself in a bubble or scale a rock wall in the *World Around You*
- H Create a symphony of sound by playing a stringless harp in the *DTE Energy Foundation Light and Optics Gallery*
- h Move your feet to the beat in *Recollections*, a kaleidoscope of light
- H Make a splash at the water table in the *Preschool Gallery*, for children under 4
- h Explore an authentic Huron Valley Ambulance in the *All About You Gallery*
- H Stroll through *Michigan Nature*, and explore an interactive nature wall
- h Return to the 1930s in the *Lyons' Country Store Exhibit* complete with historic radio broadcasts, antique toys and more.

Programs

The Museum offers award-winning informal educational programming here, near and far.

- h ScienceWorks —special programming designed to enhance school field trip experiences
- h Outreach—hands-on science experiences go on the road to schools, libraries and festivals
- H Special Events—enjoy unique events like *Hands-On Holidays*, *Bubble Festival*, *Creature Feature* and our innovation celebration, *TechTwilight*
- h Scout Programs—Camp-Ins and Scout Workshops
- H Distance Learning—students participate in live videoconferences from their classrooms
- h Birthday Parties—hands-on celebrations make any birthday special!

Facts and Figures About our Programs and Exhibits

- H ScienceWorks programs expand the minds of almost 11,500 students annually during field trips
- H Outreach, Afterschool and Camp programs reach 29,500 students and teachers with our unique style of hands-on, minds-on learning programming
- h Birthday Parties serve over 5,000 people annually
- H Camp-Ins provide more than 1,500 campers the opportunity to stay overnight at the Museum each year
- h After Hours Rentals immerse more than 1,100 people in a fun, science environment annually
- h Our exhibits are unique. Most of our collection has been created in-house by our exhibits team working in collaboration with scientists, researchers, local businesses, regional research and academic communities.
- h Versions of our exhibits have traveled to museums across the country.
- h Custom exhibits designed and fabricated by the Museum and our partners may be found in museums, libraries and in interactive learning centers across the country.

DISCOVER THE EXPERIENCE

