

OUR COMMUNITY

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. More than 26 years later our staff, the board of Trustees, our visitors, community leaders and many volunteers sustain the Museum's success. Donors and members play an integral part in the Museum and support our mission. Thanks in part to their work, the Museum has welcomed more than 3.5 million visitors.

MEMBERSHIP

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

- 👏 Free, unlimited admission to the Museum for 12 months
- 👏 Free or reduced admission to 321 science centers worldwide
- 👏 Free Members Nights!
- 👏 Annual Friends & Family Day
- 👏 Member Rewards—includes one free guest pass and discounts to local attractions
- 👏 Discount at the Hands-On Store
- 👏 Opportunity to book birthday parties and Museum rentals
- 👏 Free subscription to the Hands-On News newsletter and email news updates

HANDY FACTS AND FIGURES ABOUT THE PEOPLE

- 👏 An average of 211,000 people participate annually
- 👏 More than 60% of our visitors come from outside of Washtenaw County
- 👏 34,000 students visit annually with school and community groups
- 👏 Museum memberships support our mission and are an integral part of our success
- 👏 Our Distance Learning program has reached out to students in over 15 states
- 👏 70 community leaders collaborated to create a Strategic Plan for Museum growth

DISCOVER THE PEOPLE

GENERAL INFORMATION 2008

Twenty-five years ago, the Ann Arbor Hands-On Museum first opened its doors of discovery in the old brick firehouse in downtown Ann Arbor. Since 1982, the Museum has expanded in size and standing, leaving its handprint on the community. This was made possible through the generosity of a variety of donors.

After receiving a Kresge Foundation Challenge Grant in 1986, the Museum was able to expand to the third and fourth floors of the firehouse. In 1993 the Museum initiated a \$6.5 million Capital Campaign fund, allowing the Museum to expand by purchasing adjoining buildings and introducing new programs. Those renovations were finished in October 1999. In 2007, the Legacy Project provided additional gifts and donations that expanded the Preschool Gallery, opened the Legacy Gallery and gave us new classroom space.

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 220 East Ann Street, Ann Arbor, MI 48104
Convenient parking is available at the Ann/Ashley parking garage, one block west of the Museum.

HOURS Monday – Saturday: 10am – 5pm Sunday: Noon – 5pm
The Museum is closed on New Year's Day, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.

ADMISSION

Members	Free	Children under 2	Free
Ages 2 and up	\$8.00	Groups (20 or more)*	\$5.00 per person

*Groups must be pre-registered to receive this rate. Call the Museum for details.

HANDY FACTS AND FIGURES ABOUT THE PLACE

- Received national recognition by the National Science Foundation, the Institute of Museum and Library Services and the Association of Science and Technology Centers
- Occupies 40,000 square feet in downtown Ann Arbor
- Pyramid Award winner for best collaborative project under \$3 million from the Washtenaw Contractors Association
- Named "Best Museum" in 2003 by the Detroit Free Press
- 2008 winner of "Best Local Museum" and "Best Place for Kids Under 12" by Ann Arbor News Readers



DISCOVER THE PLACE

EXHIBITS AND EVENTS 2008

EXHIBITS

In its first year in 1982, the Museum showcased 25 exhibits. Support from generous local business, individual sponsors 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.

- ✎ Figure out *How Things Work* in the new *Legacy Gallery*
- ✎ Encircle yourself in a bubble and scale a rock climbing wall in the *World Around You*
- ✎ Create a symphony of sound by playing a stringless harp in *DTE Energy Foundation Light and Optics Gallery*
- ✎ Move your feet to the beat in front of an interactive screen in *Recollections*
- ✎ Make a splash at the water table in the *Preschool Gallery*, designed for children under 4
- ✎ Explore an authentic Huron Valley Ambulance in the *All About You* gallery
- ✎ Return to the 1920s in the *Lyons' Country Store Exhibit* complete with historic radio broadcasts, antique toys and cash register.

PROGRAMS

The Museum also offers additional programming to highlight spellbinding science.

- ✎ Field Trips and ScienceWorks Lab—a 50-minute long lab class to enhance your field trip
- ✎ Sciencepalooza—a science festival held the first weekend of every month
- ✎ Outreach—our hands-on science visits your hometown!
- ✎ Special Events—unique annual events like the Big Freeze and The Bubble Festival
- ✎ Scout Programs—Camp-Ins, Twin Try-Its and Badge Workshops
- ✎ Distance Learning—students participate live in their classrooms with our staff via videoconferencing
- ✎ Birthday Parties—hands-on celebrations make your day special!
- ✎ Professional Development—educators get hands-on experience and CEUs

HANDY FACTS AND FIGURES

ABOUT THE PROGRAMS

- ✎ ScienceWorks Lab programs expand the minds of almost 11,500 students annually during field trips
- ✎ Outreach education programs and Science Alliance Summer Camps provide an additional 29,500 students and teachers with the chance to participate in hands-on learning
- ✎ Birthday Parties host over 5,000 people annually
- ✎ Camp-Ins grant more than 1,500 campers the opportunity to sleep at the Museum each year
- ✎ After Hours Rentals entertain more than 1,100 people annually



DISCOVER THE PROGRAMS

