

**2000 Metropolitan Life Foundation and Association of Youth Museums
Promising Practice Award Applicants**

Summaries of Promising Practices in U.S. Children's Museums

Listed below are summaries of promising practices in U.S. Children's museums submitted for the *2000 Metropolitan Life Foundation and Association of Youth Museums Promising Practice Award*. The award honors innovative management and programming practices among U.S. children's museums. The *2000 Promising Practice Award* emphasized model practices that define the **role of children's museums in strengthening community and in building civil society**. Summaries are taken from applicants' written submissions. For more information on the promising practices described below, please contact the museums directly. For information on the *Metropolitan Life Foundation and Association of Youth Museums Promising Practice Award*, contact Association of Youth Museums, 1300 L Street, NW, Suite 975, Washington, DC 20005 Tel. 202/898-1080, Fax 202/898-1086.

1. **ArtQuest at Green Hill Center**
200 N. Davie Street
Greensboro, NC 27401
Tel: 336/333-7460

Contact: Mary Young
Title: Director
Email: artquest@mindspring.com
Fax: 336/333-2612

ArtQuest is an innovative hands-on art gallery for children of all ages and an integral part of Green Hill Center for North Carolina Art. The museum's promising practice is to fully utilize the talents of the state's most valuable treasures--artists and educators-- to create a space and programs that promote the joy and value of experiencing the processes of art, accessible and available to all members of the community--even those beyond the museum's walls.

2. **Bay Area Discovery Museum**
631 McReynolds Road
Sausalito, CA 92965
Tel: 415/289-7275

Contact: Janet Petitpas
Title: Assistant Director
Email: jpetitpas@badm.org
Fax: 415/332-9671

As part of a master plan for the completion of a new site and renovation of existing exhibits, Bay Area Discovery Museum incorporated an educational framework to make the museum's educational goals the center of their future site. The framework, *My Place by the Bay*, is used for architectural and landscape planning and will be the document that the museum's interpretive exhibition plan is based upon. *My Place by the Bay* is not only the title of the educational framework but is also being used by the museum's marketing team for branding and board fundraising.

3. **Brooklyn Children's Museum**
145 Brooklyn Avenue
Brooklyn, NY 11213
Tel: 718/735-4406

Contact: Carol Enseki
Title: Executive Director
Email: Censeki@bchildmus.org
Fax: 718/604-7442

Brooklyn Children's Museum's after school program, *Museum Team*, offers education and employment opportunities to kids ages 7-18. Based on this model, the *Expedition Expolorer Corps* trains teens in working with the public and learning cutting edge computer skills. Linking the museum's outreach efforts and technology initiatives will form a national model for providing job training and leadership development in information technologies.

4. **Chicago Children's Museum ****
700 East Grand Avenue Suite 127
Chicago, IL 60611
Tel: 312/464-7677

Contact: Darchelle Garner
Title: VP, Education and Community Services
Email: darchelle@chchildrensmuseum.org
Fax: 312/527-9082

Chicago Children's Museum's promising practice is the *Latino Neighborhoods Initiative*, an institution-wide commitment to ensure easy and meaningful access to the museum for traditionally underserved Latino families. The *Latino Neighborhoods Initiative* affects every aspect of the museum's operation from exhibit development, marketing, and public relations to staff recruitment and governance. Additionally, the museum enlists members of the local Latino community to assist in developing and implementing the initiative.

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| <p>5. Children's Discovery Museum of Central Illinois
716 E. Empire
Bloomington, IL 61701
Tel: 309/829-6222</p> | <p>Contact: Shari Buckellew
Title: Executive Director
Email: staff@cdmct.org
Fax: 309/829-2292</p> |
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An innovative management practice that focuses on human resources and staff development. The museum philosophy and system focuses on a concept of putting the "whole brain" to work by managing "creative abrasion" which results in creative programming, knowledge building and sharing the unique talents of staff.

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| <p>6. Children's Discovery Museum of San Jose *
180 Woz Way
San Jose, CA 95110-2780
Tel: 408/298-5437</p> | <p>Contact: Sally Osberg
Title: Executive Director
Email: sosberg@cdm.org
Fax: 408/298-6826</p> |
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With seed funding from Work/Family Directions (WFD), in partnership with the American Business Collaboration for Quality Dependent Care, Children's Discovery Museum of San Jose (CDM) created it *Summer of Service* (SOS) program for young people entering grades 7-9. This unique 8-week summer camp, going into its third CDM season, deepens its 90+ participants' appreciation of themselves, others, and their community through civic service, reflection, positive peer interaction, and "cool" (i.e. age appropriate!) recreational activities. By cultivating habits of civic engagement and reflection, SOS helps prepare its young participants to become active, hopeful, and resilient citizens of our democratic society.

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| <p>7. Children's Museum at La Habra
301 S. Euclid Street
La Habra, CA 90631
Tel: 562/905-9634</p> | <p>Contact: Jennifer J. Boxer
Title: Director
Email: Jennifer_Boxer@lahabracity.com
Fax: 562/905-9698</p> |
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Hola Stegosaurus is an arts education program for low income K-5th grade Latino students and parents featuring children's art/science workshops relating to the museum's dinosaur exhibit; creation of a children's art exhibit with accompanying 4-color book of their art; parent workshops; employment and English language skills training for parents to become docents; and a community event showcasing the children's exhibit. The program increases accessibility and participation in the arts by underserved Latino families.

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| <p>8. Children's Museum of Oak Ridge
461 West Outer Drive
Oak Ridge, TN 37830
Tel: 865/482-1074</p> | <p>Contact: Selma Shapiro
Title: Executive Director
Email: chmor@Bellsouth.Net
Fax: 865/481-4889</p> |
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Children's Museum of Oak Ridge is a student-driven art and science center that focuses on the empowerment of children and on improving their relationship with family and community. Conceived by young people, it has developed into a multigenerational museum that follows the philosophy of its founders in searching for a learning place where kids and adults can work, learn and be together. The museum's promising practice is the continued implementation of this philosophy through programming, exhibit planning and outreach into rural areas.

9. **Children's Museum of Richmond**
2626 W. Broad Street
Richmond, VA 23220
Tel: 804/474-7000

Contact: Claire Mehalick/Nana Miller
Title: Nan Miller. Executive Director
Email: nmiller@c-mor.org
Fax: 804/474-7099

In celebration of the museum's expanded, new facility, the Children's Museum of Richmond has initiated an extensive partnership which emphasizes idea driven group engagement. "We the Children", is the museum's inaugural project conceived and led by ceramist, Lee Hazelgrove, in a region-wide artist residency with Central Virginia's elementary schools. The goal is to introduce children to the creative potential of clay and to encourage in them idea collaboration with the ultimate objective of presenting a mythical journey installation of large, fully-realized clay sculpture created by and for the children of the museum's community.

10. **Children's Museum of Southeastern Connecticut**
409 Main Street
Niantic, CT 6357
Tel: 860/691-1111

Contact: Tony Mollica
Title: Executive Director
Email: CMSECT@aol.com
Fax: 860/691-1194

Children's Museum of Southeastern Connecticut's promising practice is the regional "umbrella" program, *Youth to Youth*. This is the museum's partnership with several other organizations that service at-risk and underserved youth, where they collaborate resources providing opportunities for children and families that would otherwise not have these experiences. With the museum's partners, *Youth to Youth* offers educational programs that enhance and enrich the learner; leadership training; community service and volunteering opportunities; and paid and unpaid internships.

11. **Children's Museum of the Arts**
182 Lafayette Street
New York, NY 10013
Tel: 212/274-0986

Contact: Elizabeth Reiss
Title: Director
Email: ereiss@mindspring.com
Fax: 212/274-1776

In 1999, Children's Museum of the Arts held "Community Feedback Sessions" to which the museum invited members, volunteers, community liaisons and funders. This broad sample of the community came together to express their needs as well as hear the needs of others. The format allowed them to see first-hand that their individual needs sometimes conflicted with others, and allowed the museum staff to charge them with identifying common needs so that the museum staff could plan worthwhile programs.

12. **Family Museum of Arts and Science**
2900 Learning Campus Drive
Bettendorf, IA 52722
Tel: 319/344-4168

Contact: Jeff Reiter
Title: Development and Marketing Coordinator
Email: jreiter@bettendorf.lib.ia.us
Fax: 319/344-4164

The *Street Heat* program of the Family Museum of Arts and Sciences involves youth in the creation of public art while learning a career related skill. *Street Heat* was developed in response to a youth strategy supported by the City of Bettendorf, and directed by the Family Museum staff. The Family Museum had already piloted several cross-cultural programs; however, with the emergence of graffiti, gang violence and conflict between area youth and neighbors, it was time for new action to be implemented. The Family Museum started *Street Heat* to promote positive interaction between area citizens, young and old.

13. **Fascinate-U Children's Museum**
P.O. Box 2671
Fayetteville, NC 28302
Tel: 910/829-9171

Contact: Susan Daniels
Title: Executive Director
Email: susan.fascinateu@netquick.net
Fax: 910/433-1639

Fascinate-U Children's Museum's promising practice is to foster and encourage respect, understanding, and acceptance of people from diverse racial, cultural, social, political, religious, and economic backgrounds through the programs and policies implemented by the organization. Aiding in developing programs and policies to meet these goals is an Advisory Council consisting of involved individuals representing the various segments of our population.

14. **Kidspace Children's Museum**
390 So. El Molino Avenue
Pasadena, CA 91101
Tel: 626/449-9144 ext 11

Contact: Carol Scott
Title: Executive Director
Email: not available
Fax: 626/449-9985

Using the power of the arts, Kidspace Children's Museum makes learning come alive. Whether it is presenting "theatre impromptus" which paint vivid pictures in a child's imagination about science concepts, motivating classroom achievement and validating a child's self worth through music or inspiring children to create in ways they may never have thought possible through satellite artists-in residence partnerships, Kidspace uses the power of the arts to cultivate the rich possibilities which exist in all children.

15. **Kohl Children's Museum**
165 Green Bay Road
Wilmette, IL 60091
Tel: 847/256-6056

Contact: Sheridan Turner
Title: President and CEO
Email: sturner@aol.com
Fax: 847/256-5438

In response to needed school reform, Kohl Children's Museum, in partnership with three Chicago Public Schools, is piloting a new methodology of teaching and learning. It has been documented that children learn best through interaction with the environment and intrinsic motivation. Further, classrooms include students who have varied learning styles. Kohl Children's Museum's promising practice, built upon project-based, child directed environments that embrace the multiple intelligence model, addresses these issues while engaging every teacher, parent, and student.

16. **Lincoln Children's Museum**
121 S. 13th Street
Lincoln, NE 68508
Tel: 402/477-0128

Contact: Marilyn Gorham
Title: Executive Director
Email: tracyrathe@yahoo.com
Fax: 402/477-2004

Through its *Have a Heart* program, the Lincoln Children's Museum provides free admission to families with limited incomes. Designated as a community betterment program by the Nebraska Department of Economic Development, businesses donating to *Have a Heart* receive a tax credit of its state tax liability of 40% of any contribution of \$500 or more. From December 1998 through November 1999 the Museum admitted nearly 4,000 children into the Museum via the *Have a Heart* program.

17. **Madison Children's Museum**
100 N. State Street
Madison, WI 53703
Tel: 608/256-6101

Contact: Brenda Baker
Title: Director of Exhibits
Email: brendab@kidskiosk.org
Fax: 608/256-0234

Sin Fronteras, a creative response to the community's rapidly changing demographics, celebrates an "America Without Borders." Launched by Madison Children's Museum in 1994, this integrated arts initiative has fostered deep lasting partnerships; organized over 500 community events; and connected individuals, schools, universities; social service, cultural and political organizations with our local and global communities. *Sin Fronteras* models participatory citizenship, celebrates the richness of Latino cultures and actively centers young people at the forefront of social change.

18. **Minnesota Children's Museum**
10 West Seventh Street
Minneapolis, MN 55102
Tel: 651/225-6008

Contact: Carleen Rhodes
Title: President
Email: crhodes@mnm.org
Fax: 651/225-6006

In 1997, with a grant from the Howard Hughes Medical Institute, Minnesota Children's Museum initiated *Family Science StoryPacks*™, an innovative literacy and science education resource for families. The core of this program is a collection of colorful backpacks filled with books and activities designed especially for an adult and a child (age 5-10) to explore together. Through the museum members, schools, community groups and a unique team of youth volunteers, *Family Science StoryPacks*™ deliver tools for playful learning to homes in diverse communities of the greater Twin Cities and Minnesota.

19. **Providence Children's Museum****
100 South Street
Providence, RI 02903
Tel: 401/273-5437

Contact: Louisa Kile
Title: Director of Education
Email: kile@childrenmuseum.org
Fax: 401/273-1004

The *AmeriCorps* program at Providence Children's Museum (PCM) seeks to instill a lifetime love of learning in children, especially those whose exposure to rich educational experiences is limited. The 15 member *AmeriCorps* team develops and implements three programs that increase use of the museum by underserved audiences: a partnership with Head Start; "Learning Clubs" for inner-city children ages 6-11 through their neighborhood community centers; and a multi-part school program for elementary school children in grades 3-5 and their teachers.

20. **Providence Children's Museum****
100 South Street
Providence, RI 02903
Tel: 401/273-5437

Contact: Janice O'Donnell
Title: Executive Director
Email: odonnell@childrenmuseum.org
Fax: 401/273-1004

Families Together is a collaborative effort of Providence Children's Museum (PCM) and Rhode Island Department of Children, Youth and Families (DCYF) serving parents and children separated due to abuse or neglect. Participants make a series of visits to PCM where, under the guidance of PCM family therapists, they play and learn together. *Families Together* helps families rebuild relationships and strengthen parenting skills while informing the decisions of DCYF and family courts as to "the best interests of the child."

21. **Santa Fe Children's Museum**
1050 Old Pecos Trail
Santa Fe, NM 87501
Tel: 505/989-8359

Contact: Ellen Biderman
Title: Executive Director
Email: children@trail.com
Fax: 505/989-7506

Voices of Violence/Visions of Peace, published by the Santa Fe Children's Museum, documents the concerns about and experiences with violence of a cross section of our community. The book serves as a tool to help us talk about violence and peace within our lives and our families. It tells personal stories and includes a section for families and educators on raising more caring children in a civil society.

22. **The Children's Museum**
300 Congress Street
Boston, MA 02210-1034
Tel: 617/426-6500 ext. 250

Contact: Elizabeth Taylor
Title: Grants Manager
Email: shirin@bostonkids.org
Fax: 617/426-1944

Camp on the Channel (COTC) connects urban children across neighborhoods with Boston's downtown and waterfront. Based at the Children's Museum, COTC offers an interdisciplinary introduction to the harbor, linked to the Boston Public School learning standards. It takes children to cultural, financial, legal and hi-tech institutions, exposing them to new people and opportunities. A collaboration with two community agencies, COTC builds on Museum and agency expertise, while serving pressing needs to break down neighborhood isolation.

23. **The Children's Museum of Denver**
2121 Children's Museum Drive
Denver, CO 90211
Tel: 303/433-7444

Contact: Patricia Cooper
Title: Executive Director
Email: patc@cmdenver.org
Fax: 303/433-9520

Through creating strategic collaborations with other child-related organizations, the Children's Museum of Denver leverages available resources to raise community awareness about our children's healthy growth and development. The Children's Museum, with the Junior League of Denver, is a founding partner in the "Early Childhood Brain Development Coalition", a group of thirty child-oriented organizations working together to assess community needs, identify and address duplications of services, disseminate information about member organizations, and influence public policy.

24. **The Children's Museum of Indianapolis**
P.O. Box 3000
Indianapolis, IN 46206
Tel: 317/334-3223

Contact: Francine Kelley
Title: Director of Community Initiatives
Email: annk@childrensmuseum.org
Fax: 317/921-4019

Community initiatives have taken on an important role at the Children's Museum of Indianapolis. This initiative has several components which include: Starpoint after-school and summer youth program; neighborhood outreach; and the Northwest Gateway initiative (NWGW) - a community revitalization effort.

25. **The Children's Museum of Northern Nevada**
813 North Carson Street
Carson City, NV 89701
Tel: 775/884-2226

Contact: Susan Meehan
Title: Executive Director
Email: suzic@mnn.org
Fax: 775/884-2179

The Children's Museum of Northern Nevada has a series of programs for home schooled families in Northern Nevada focusing on hands-on Math and Science for Kindergarten through 6th grade children on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of each month and hands-on Art on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays from 1:00 - 3:00 pm. Ballet and jazz classes just for home schooled children are held every Wednesday and Friday from 1:30 -2:30 pm.

26. **The Children's Museum of Portsmouth**
280 Marcy Street
Portsmouth, NH 3801
Tel: 603/436-3853

Contact: Denise K. Doleac
Title: Executive Director
Email: staff@childrens-museum.org
Fax: 603/436-7706

The Children's Museum of Portsmouth has launched a series of collaborative projects with human service agencies, education centers, libraries, teen programs, and businesses in order to advance toward the goal of providing all children with active partnerships with 36 human service agencies to insure that agency clients have free access to the museum; installation of exhibits off-site to meet the needs of families who cannot travel to the museum; and development of the "exhibit team" project that connects at-risk teens with mentors and with early learners.

27. **The Children's Museum, Seattle**
305 Harrison Street
Seattle, WA 98109
Tel: 206/441-1768

Contact: Susan Warner
Title: Director of Education
Email: swarner@thechildrensmuseum.org
Fax: 206/448-0910

The *Experimental Gallery* of the The Children's Museum, Seattle, provides direct services to children in vulnerable circumstances. The major emphasis is placed on reaching youth that are incarcerated or otherwise marginalized from society. The program operates in eight sites that include seven correctional facilities for youth (three state maximum-security facilities, three work camps), a county detention center, and a children's hospital. Recently, the program expanded its service to work with youth that have severe mental health issues.

28. **The Children's Peace Pavilion**
P.O. Box 1059
Independence, MO 64051
Tel: 816/521-3033

Contact: Lisa Prosser-Dodds
Title: Director
Email: kidpeace@kidpeace.org
Fax: 816/521-3032

The Children's Peace Pavilion opened in 1995, filled with interactive, hands-on exhibits designed around four concepts of peacemaking: Peace for Me, Peace for Us, Peace for Everyone and Peace for the Planet. In 1999, the museum joined ten area elementary schools to form the Children's Peace Pavilion Pledge School Program. This promising practice joins museum and community in teaching peacemaking. The program provides teacher training, classroom curriculum, peace club activities and conflict resolution programming.

29. **The Community Children's Museum**
30 Brookfield Way
Morristown, NJ 7960
Tel: 973/644-2697

Contact: Jody Marcus
Title: President
Email: jmarkis348@aol.com
Fax: not available

The Community Children's Museum's promising practice offers process oriented art programming to the Child Life Teams on the pediatric wards in three local hospitals. This art program is designed to assist and supplement the Child Life Teams' overall programs. It offers pediatric patients a choice of daily art projects that engages them in positive creative experiences in the playroom, at the clinic while waiting for treatment or at their beds.

30. **The Kidzeum**
22315 Hwy 8 E. G.
Grenada, MS 38901
Tel: 662/226-8900

Contact: Eloise Portera
Title: Director
Email: kidzeum@dixie.net.com
Fax: 662/227-4497

When a survey revealed that less than 1% of elementary school students had visited any museums - much less a youth museum - Grenada School District, MS created its own children's museum. The Kidszeum, the first US full-scaled, school based children's museum, located in Grenada Elementary School, serves approximately 2000 rural students, Kindergarten through third grade. Over 54% of the students are minority. Almost 60% of students receive subsidized or free meals. There is no cost to any visitor.

31. The Pittsburgh Children's Museums
10 Children's Way
Pittsburgh, PA 15212
Tel: 412/322-5059

Contact: Jane Werner
Title: Executive Director
Email: werner@pittsburghkids.org
Fax: 412/322-4932

The Pittsburgh Children's Museum's promising practice is the comprehensive planning process it has undertaken to study the feasibility of creating a national model Pittsburgh Children's Center. Through this process, and the subsequent development of the Children's Center, the Children's Museum will act as a catalyst for community development in its surrounding neighborhood in order to better the quality of life for all children and families in the region. The Pittsburgh Children's Museum has incorporated traditional and non-traditional planning techniques in its planning process, including internal and external visioning session for a wide range of stakeholders and community members in order for all involved to develop both a personal and collective vision for this ambitious project.

* Recipient of 2000 Metropolitan Life Foundation and Association of Youth Museums Promising Practice Award

** Honorable Mention Recipient, 2000 Metropolitan Life Foundation and Association of Youth Museums Promising Practice Award. Note: Providence Children's Museum honored for two programs combined, *AmeriCorps* and *Families Together*.