

EXAMPLES OF IMPLEMENTING DIVERSITY IN ACTION



Association
of Children's
Museums

Highlighted Diversity in Action Showcase Participants

The Power of Children Exhibit

The Children's Museum of Indianapolis
Indianapolis, IN

Jennifer Robinson
Vice President, Experience Development
Phone: 317-334-3834

“The Power of Children Gallery” at The Children's Museum of Indianapolis takes visitors on a journey through the lives of three children — Anne Frank, Ruby Bridges and Ryan White — who faced profound trials and emerged as heroes of the 20th century. The exhibit exemplifies for children and adults that every individual can make a difference, and empowers each visitor to thoughtfully pledge an action that will effect positive change in society and the community in which they live.

Pledges take on a Web 2.0 community shared experience when visitors type them up and upload them to The Promising Tree, both an environmental structure with screen leaves displaying promises and a post-museum online activity. Visitors can post the progress and outcomes of pledges they have made long after the visit.

A Marshal's Perspective — Accompanying Theater Piece to “The Power of Children Exhibit”

The Children's Museum of Indianapolis
Indianapolis, IN

Eric Olson
Gallery Manager, The Power of Children
Phone: 317-334-3170

Theater and social change sounds pretty edgy, but it actually is a great way to take the edge off a potentially uncomfortable topic. *A Marshal's Perspective* provides its audience with a way to emotionally engage with the Ruby Bridges story. The performance utilizes a variety of props, visual aids and interactions with audience members in the re-created classroom of Ruby Bridges.

PlayGym at Howard School

Creative Discovery Museum
Chattanooga, TN

Jayne Griffin
Director of Education
Phone: 423-648-6064

PlayGym is a caregiver and child play program for children aged 4 months through 3 years that has traditionally been offered at the museum for a program fee.

The museum has recently partnered with Howard School to reach inner city high school students/teen parents who are a part of an early childhood learning academy and daycare at Howard School. PlayGym is presented onsite at Howard School and allows teen parents to experience effective play interactions with their children.

The Children's Photography Show

Duke Energy Children's Museum
Cincinnati, OH

Tony Lawson
Director
Phone: 513-287-7000 (ex. 7201)

In some communities, there are two parts of town and “never the twain shall meet.” The Children's Photography Show is showing that there is a way to unite groups with differences simply by providing a visual introduction. The Children's Photography Show brings art education to students at two inner-city schools, highlighting the works of 19th century Cincinnati photographer and abolitionist J.P. Ball and providing technical instruction for students to take photographs in their neighborhood. Students later curate their own photography show under the theme of “What Makes Your Neighborhood Beautiful?” for all museum visitors, no matter what side of the tracks they live on.

X-treme Adventures Summer Camp

Explorations V Children's Museum
Lakeland, FL

Brenda Paul
PR Director
Phone: 863-687-3869
Angie Watson
Visitor Services Manager
Phone: 863-687-3869

Since summer of 2006, the museum has partnered with Lakeland Housing Authority to provide scholarships so that resident underserved children would not miss out on summer camp. Because of their partnership, Lakeland's African American, Hispanic and Caucasian children are able to participate in hands on activities, crafts, sports, games and creating new traditions with friends at the museum.

Passport to Discovery

Garden State Discovery Museum
Cherry Hill, NJ

Monica O'Malley
Educational Programs Manager
Phone: 856-424-1233

January through April is neither dull nor dreary at the Garden State Discovery Museum, because that is time when the colorful Passport to Discovery Program takes place. The museum doubled the length of its traditional multicultural public program series and used actual child-sized customized passports to encourage repeat visits to discover different cultures. During the annual series, children and families can explore communities and cultures, climates and colorful clothing by participating in food and craft activities, enjoying dance performances and lively demonstrations and encountering authentic objects from many world cultures.

KICKstart Program

Long Island Children's Museum
Garden City, NY

Jeanmarie Walsh
Be Together, Learn Together Program Manager
Phone: 516-224-5809

Designed to reach children "early and often" before the critical fourth grade testing year, KICKstart offers children the opportunity to experience an interactive learning environment. Through KICKstart, more than 35,000 children have visited the museum on guided field trips.

In addition to museum visits for KICKStart participants, the program also provides free family memberships to the museum, "Family Night" outreach programs in the community and "Community Nights" at LICM. These components provide on-going access to the museum and its programs and help create a museum-going culture for these families. Launched in 2002, KICKstart is funded through a \$3.5 million, five-year grant from the international computer software company CA, with additional community support provided by JPMorganChase Foundation.

World at Play

Grand Rapids Children's Museum
Grand Rapids, MI

Scott Andersen
Marketing/PR Manager
Phone: 616-235-4726 (ext. 204)

Using the approachable theme of play, Grand Rapids Children's created a temporary exhibit, "World at Play" to introduce children and families to what play looks like in Ghana, Italy and Vietnam. In conjunction with outreach programming, the exhibit explores a streetscape and vendors in Reggio Emilia, Italy, the smells and materials unique to a Vietnamese kitchen and the sounds and lighting of nighttime stories around a fire in Ghana.

Juntos al Kinder/Together to Kindergarten

Long Island Children’s Museum
Garden City, NY

Monique van Putten
Early Childhood Manager
Phone: 516-224-5852

Preparing for Kindergarten can be a challenge, especially for families new to the United States with limited English proficiency. *Juntos al Kinder* (Spanish for “Together to Kindergarten”) helps Spanish-speaking families prepare for Kindergarten by teaching preschoolers a base of English words and introducing them to a classroom setting and by offering parenting classes in the summer, with free transportation included. Participating families receive a free family membership.

Language for the Eye

National Children’s Museum & Imagination Stage
Washington, DC

Jillian Finkle
Manager of Theatre & Early Childhood
Phone: 202-675-4169

Language for the Eye is a hands-on portable exhibit created through a partnership between National Children’s Museum and Imagination Stage, a regional children’s theatre located in Bethesda, MD. The exhibit explores deafness, deaf culture and the accomplishments of deaf individuals. The exhibit tours schools, community centers and libraries where visitors explore sound, communication, technology and famous people who are deaf. Interactive programs and assemblies also provide answers to questions about deaf life.

Project Reach Out

Discovery Center at Murfreesboro
Murfreesboro, TN

Rachel Anderson
Development & Communications Director
Phone: 615-890-2300

Project Reach Out is an effort to share the museum’s programming with all students. The museum offers students who qualify for free and reduced price lunches in the Murfreesboro City and Rutherford County Schools. Project Reach Out provides free access to museum-lead science, health, arts and culture programs. Students are also invited to attend field trips and special events celebrating Martin Luther King Day, Hispanic Open House, Chinese New Year, as well as performances by Telling Tales, the Wood & String Puppet Theater and *La Musica Fabulosa*. The museum also loans portable discovery boxes based on exhibits such as “Windows on the World” which features goods sold in open air markets in Laos, Mexico, Kenya and other countries, to school and community groups.

Stories of Our Community

Bay Area Discovery Museum
Sausalito, CA

Janet Petitpas
Deputy Director
Phone: 415-339-3910

The Bay Area Discovery Museum partnered with Active Arts Theater for Young Audiences and Marin County youth artists to create “Stories of Our Community,” an original theater piece celebrating the history and founding of the community to house African-American shipyard workers during World War II. The production highlights how theater can explore the history of Marin City and uses student performers, ages 9-14 in the play.

Friends’ Discovery Camp

Creative Discovery Museum
Chattanooga, TN

Rebecca Littleton
Revenue Programs Manager
Phone: 423-756-2738

The Creative Discovery Museum partnered with Siskin Children’s Institute, T.C. Thompson Children’s Hospital and the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga to create the two-week-long summer camp. Friends’ Discovery Camp is an inclusive day camp rich in social and sensory experiences designed to meet the needs of children with autism and their typically developing peers.

The Community Admission Pass Program

Stepping Stones Museum for Children
Norwalk, CT

Sharon Anderson
Director of Community Relations
Phone: 203-899-0606

Stepping Stones Museum for Children created the Community Admission Pass Program by partnering with more than 70 local community organizations whose clients include underserved families in the Norwalk community. Each agency decides how to distribute museum passes to their clients. In 2007 Stepping Stones expect visits from more than 1,400 children and families through the program.

Friendship Journeys

Chicago Children's Museum
Chicago, IL

Natalie Bortoli
Director of Student & Educator Programs
312-464-7699
Keith McCormick
Director of Cultural Programs
312-464-8248

Friendship Journeys was created by Chicago Children's Museum and The Art Institute of Chicago as part of the yearlong, citywide Silk Road Project. Families from three culturally and ethnically distinct neighborhoods over the span of three months participated art activities to create new friendships, share artistic experiences, conversations and perspectives on their own cultural traditions as they related to the art and culture of the historic Silk Road.

Genesis at the Crossroads

Genesis at the Crossroads
Chicago, IL

Dr. Wendy Sternberg
Founder & Executive Director
Phone: 773-929-0224

Genesis at the Crossroads' peace quilting project, One Peace at a Time, engages ethnically diverse students at children's museums, community and afterschool programs to create quilt squares to express their thoughts on world peace. Genesis then gives the individually designed squares to professional quilters who create finished quilts, which are then donated to children in Iraq. Examples of the quilt making process have also been used to create an international traveling exhibit of the same name, "One Peace at a Time."

We Are Maine Exhibit

Children's Museum of Maine
Portland, ME

Sheryl Mays
Education Director
Phone: 207-828-1234 (ex 228)

"We Are Maine" is an exhibit exploring the global and ethnic traditions of Maine's communities. The exhibit was created in collaboration with 20 Maine families, some of whom are refugees while others are immigrants who arrived years ago. The exhibit's centerpiece is a first-voice collection of videos, narrated by a young family member that explore the daily activities of families and how they continue to celebrate cultural traditions through food, holidays, language, music and dance. A video storytelling kiosk enables visitors to record their own family traditions that can be added to the exhibit.

Dream Keepers

Children's Museum of Oak Ridge
Oak Ridge, TN

Mary Ann Damos
Children's Museum of Oak Ridge
Phone: 865-482-1074

The Children's Museum of Oak Ridge hosts Dream Keepers with the local Martin Luther King Day Celebration Committee in Oak Ridge, TN. Through music, storytelling, crafts and other activities, children learn about the Civil Rights Movement and the life and work of Dr. King. The museum also hosts an annual International Festival each February that features food, performers and crafts. A highlight of the International Festival are cultural booths representing more than 30 countries.

Inside/Outside: Skin Deep

Curious Kid's Museum
St. Joseph, MI

Patricia Adams
Executive Director
Phone: 269-983-2549

The "Inside/Outside: Skin Deep" is an exhibit developed in collaboration with Calling All Colors, a non-profit organization that strives to create racial and cultural harmony by bringing together elementary students in the three local school districts that surround the museum. The exhibit examines the science of skin color and avoids using racially charged language to describe the physical differences and similarities between people.

Creative Technology

Capital E! Museum for Children
Wellington, New Zealand

Stuart Grant
Executive Director
Ph. +64-4-913-3734

The museum's free scholarship programs helps children, who carry the hopes of their disparate communities, to discover and express themselves through original music, video, animation and live performance. Through technological partnerships, children are able to share their expressions and experiences with children in other cities and countries, and by doing so more deeply understand fresh perspectives on an ever-changing world.
