

FACTS ABOUT CHILDREN'S MUSEUMS

- There are 341 ACM museum members, representing a total of 22 countries. Approximately 23 percent of these children's museums are in the start-up phase.
- Including children's museums, businesses, individuals and museums with programs for children, ACM has more than 515 members.
- According to the 2008 ACM Membership Survey, more than 30 million children and families visited children's museums.
- Sixty-five percent of children's museums are located in urban areas.
- Twenty-three percent of children's museums are located in suburban areas.
- Twelve percent of children's museums are located in rural areas.
- Thirty-five percent of children's museums are flagships in downtown revitalization projects.
- Sixty-two ACM member children's museums are undergoing a capital campaign in order to build a new facility or expand an existing facility.
- Four percent of ACM children's museums are accredited by the American Association of Museums.
- Fourteen children's museums have LEED-certified green buildings; 26 museums are in the process of building a green facility. Therefore, 12 percent of ACM member institutions have committed themselves to be green children's museums.
- In 1975 there were approximately 38 children's museums in the United States. Eighty new children's museums opened between 1976 and 1990. Since 1990, an additional 125 have opened.
- There are approximately 78 children's museums in the planning phase.
- Outreach programs in ACM member museums extended to nearly 4 million people in 2007.
- Eighty-one percent (up from 65% in 2004) of ACM museums have a dedicated early childhood exhibit space specifically designed for infants and toddlers.
- Thirty-five percent of ACM museums have an outdoor exhibit and/or garden.
- Forty-nine percent (up from 34% in 2004) run after school programs.
- Sixty percent (up from 41% in 2004) develop curriculum materials.
- Seventy percent (up from 47% in 2004) provide school outreach.
- The largest children's museum is The Children's Museum of Indianapolis (Indiana), which has a total of 433,000 square feet.
- The oldest children's museum is the Brooklyn Children's Museum (New York), which opened in 1899; the children's museum field is 111 years young!