Avoiding the Trip-Ups of Field Trips: The Value of Play

Hillary Saalfeld - Omaha Children’s Museum
Sarah Weeden and Mindy Porter - Scott Family Amazeum
Adrienne Barnett - Thinkery
Kendra Freedom - Discovery Lab
Put on a tentacle finger puppet!
Creative Play
Children explore and use their bodies and materials to make and do things and to share feelings, ideas, and thoughts.
Definition of play

Pretend play

Children use their imaginations. They use language to develop their thinking as they pretend and play out real events and fantasy events.
Definition of play

Physical Play

Physical play involves body movements and control, coordination and balance.

- **Exploratory** - Use senses to find out what things feel like and what can be done with them.
- **Manipulative** - enhances physical dexterity and hand-eye coordination.
- **Constructive** - Building something using natural and manufactured materials.
"Children learn as they play. Most importantly, in play children learn how to learn."
- O. Fred Donaldson
Scott Family Amazeum

The Unfield Trip

Sarah Weeden
May 16, 2018
CORE PURPOSE AND IMPACT

The Amazeum exists to spark and nurture the curious and creative spirit in all of us.

Human beings are questioning machines. We actively explore the world around us, trying new things and experiences in our own personal learning quests. The Amazeum fosters powerful moments for individuals and the community that engage them in building relationships with each other, and developing identities as confident creative, curious, and innovative shapers of their world.
Museum as Platform

Layer on Learning

Scott Family Amazeum
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of Unfield Trips</td>
<td>352</td>
<td>326</td>
<td>332</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of Unfield Trip Attendees</td>
<td>30,118</td>
<td>29,041</td>
<td>27,654</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Free Range Play
Lift, Load & Haul
Lift, Load & Haul

- Social cooperation
- Collaboration

- Gravity
- Mass, force, movement
- Simple machines
- Categorization

Scott Family AMAZEUM
Amazeum AIR

Amaze with curiosity starters
Investigate discoveries with a digital tablet
Relate the experience back to classroom
Amazeum AIR

Amaze with curiosity starters
Investigate discoveries with a digital tablet
Relate the experience back to classroom
Daily Interactions Report

Value Added Experiences

- Pre-Habitat Interactions
  - * Required

Name *
Your answer:

List all zeigths you did that included interactions.
- Boat/Water
- Care
- Drills
- Color Shadows
- Color Spectrum
- Floating Objects
- Goopy Goggles
- Gyro Ring
- Heat Sensing
- Micro Eye
- Nets
- Snowy the Owl

If you experienced any specific interactions or moments with guests you would like to share with all team. (Please designate if your interaction was with an on-farm Trip Group.)
Your answer:

Submit
Unfield Trip Agenda

Lunch at Amazeum?  Yes [ ]  No [ ]  Time: ______
Groups may only eat outside. There are no inside eating areas.

Exit Plan
Departure Time: ______
Location:  Nickelodeon hallway [ ]  Cubby hallway [ ]

KEY POINTS
1. Stay Together…. Play Together
Chaperones must supervise their groups at all times.
2. Gentle Touch
Use a gentle touch on exhibits and share with other guests.
3. Look For Us
Please ask Amazeum team members to help deepen your experience. This is not a guided tour. You are free to move at your own pace.
4. Certain Areas Are Unavailable
The Hershey’s Lab Workshop is only available with a reservation before your Unfield Trip, there are clearly marked toddler areas, and the 3M Tinkering Hub is for 2nd grade and older.
The AMAZEUM made me wonder about what imagination is? It also helped me realize what I want to be when I’m older—an artist. Thank you for helping me realize that.

The AMAZEUM helped my students come up with ideas for science fair projects. The field trip started a lot of wondering and ideas about science in the classroom. It was a wonderful experience! —Mrs. Kimberly
Invest in TEAM
To Engage the Imagination
and
Create Excitement About Learning
QUICK FACTS
AN AT-A-GLANCE LOOK AT OMAHA CHILDREN’S MUSEUM
Last updated in 2017

MISSION STATEMENT
To engage the imagination and create excitement about learning.

TYPE OF ORGANIZATION
501(c) 3

A HISTORY OF THE MUSEUM
1976 - Museum incorporated. First housed in the City/County Connector building before moving to 16th and St. Mary’s Ave.
1989 - Moved to current and permanent home at 20th Street and St. Mary’s Ave.
1993 - Complete renovation of main floor (40,000 sq. feet)
2002 - Second floor renovation of 20,000 sq. feet completed, making the facility 60,000 sq. feet and in the top 10% of children’s museums worldwide.
2006 - Building on the Best Campaign raises $6.6 million or complete renovation of permanent exhibits.
2007 - Exhibit renovation complete.
2010 - Named Omaha Non-Profit of the Year by the Greater Omaha Chamber of Commerce.
2011 - First community exhibit, Big Backyard.
2016 - Museum’s 40th Anniversary: Set record attendance with over 316,000 visitors.

MARKET AUDIENCE
• Families with children ages 0-8 in the greater Omaha/Council Bluffs area
• Grandparents
• Tourists
• School groups, educators, preschools, early childhood care providers, homeschool families and scouting groups

STAFF
35 Full Time Staff Members
35 Part Time Staff Members
210 Volunteers

OPERATING BUDGET

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Operating Expenses</th>
<th>2012</th>
<th>$2,774,161</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2013</td>
<td>$3,174,350</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2014</td>
<td>$3,356,660</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2015</td>
<td>$3,756,709</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2016</td>
<td>$3,933,723</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

65% Earned (Admissions, Membership, Programs)
35% Contributed (Endowments, Donations, Grants)

OUR VISITORS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total Attendance</th>
<th>Attendance</th>
<th>Memberships</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Year</td>
<td>2012</td>
<td>253,311</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2013</td>
<td>282,387</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2014</td>
<td>290,996</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2015</td>
<td>302,901</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2016</td>
<td>316,915</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

MEMBERSHIP:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Membership Type</th>
<th>Fee</th>
<th>Free</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Family</td>
<td>$119</td>
<td>$50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grandparent</td>
<td>$119</td>
<td>$50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Patron</td>
<td>$150</td>
<td>$250</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contributing</td>
<td>$250</td>
<td>$250</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Benefactor</td>
<td>$500</td>
<td>$500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gift of Play</td>
<td>$1,000</td>
<td>$1,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

ADMISSION:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age Group</th>
<th>Fee</th>
<th>Free</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Children under 2</td>
<td>$5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children ages 2-15</td>
<td>$10</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adults ages 16-19</td>
<td>$12</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seniors ages 60+</td>
<td>$11</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

SUMMER HOURS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Days</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday-Friday</td>
<td>10AM-5PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>10AM-5PM</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

WINTER HOURS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Days</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday-Friday</td>
<td>9AM-2PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>9AM-2PM</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Member-Parent: 8AM-8PM 7 days a week
Member-Grandparent: 8AM-8PM 7 days a week
Member: 8AM-8PM 7 days a week
Visitor: CLOSED on School Holidays
Visitor: OPEN on school holidays
Exploration Field Trips
Students can explore the museum and any special exhibit with classmates and chaperones. This field trip is great for early childhood groups, preschool, kindergarten and lower elementary grades. Simply play and explore the museum with your group. Learn more

Cost
$7/Student

Group Size
12+ students*

Ages
2-6

Time
2 hours**

Availability
Available during regular Museum hours. Field trips must be booked in advance. Group sizes may be limited during Member Hours.

Investigate and Play Field Trips
This facilitated field trip includes exploration in the museum’s permanent and special exhibits as well as hands-on guided workshops. Choose from one of the following programs here.

Cost
$10 per student

Workshop
12 - 32 students*

Grades
1-3

Time
2 hours (1 hour of play + 45 minute workshop)

Availability
Monday - Friday during the school year

*Groups larger than 60 require additional time. If actual attendance is less than minimum group size, your group will be charged for 12 admissions.
FIELD TRIPS

INVESTIGATE AND PLAY FIELD TRIPS

$ COST: $10/student

WORKSHOP SIZE: 12-32 students*

GRADES: 1-3

TIME: 2 hours (1 hour of play + 45 min. workshop)**

*If actual attendance is less than minimum group size, your group will be charged for 12 admissions.

**Your organization is bringing 3 or more groups, additional time will be required.

CHAPERONES
See chaperone rules and pricing on page 10.

AVAILABILITY
Monday – Friday during the school year

This facilitated field trip includes exploration in the museum’s permanent and special exhibits as well as hands-on guided workshops. Choose from one of the following workshops:

3. Weather Wiz
Explore the phenomena of weather! Be a meteorologist and learn how clouds and rain are formed, and see demonstrations of lightning and a tornado.

3. Bubble-ology
Explore the science of bubbles! Use the scientific method to decide what makes a good bubble solution. Get inside a giant bubble and make your own bubble wand to take home.

4. Full STEAM Ahead
Investigate the science of electricity including circuits, conductors, and insulators. Create a take-home project using your newly acquired circuitry skills.

5. Truth About Trees
What do ping pong balls, glue sticks and bubble gum all have in common? They're all made from tree products! In The Truth About Trees, we will explore everything from how trees grow, to the creatures who call the forest home, to how what we do affects the world around us as we live, work, and play in the forest.
Thank you for teaching me about Density. I think it was really cool when we poured the red liquid in. I observed that the red went under the yellow and above the yellow to me. That was amazing. Thank you for providing us to go to the Children's Museum.

I appreciate you teaching Science because it was fun. Thank you.

Curiosity Queen

2nd grade

by ah
Welcome to Imagination Playground

Watch Your Child Learn and Grow

Play is the way children learn. You can feel good about visiting the museum because while your child is playing here they are developing skills for success in school and life.

- Pretend play helps children learn to see things from someone else's perspective and also helps build literacy, math and problem-solving skills.
- As children share materials and play together, they learn to cooperate, listen, stand up for ideas, handle frustration and empathize.
- When playing with materials like water, children are experimenting with cause and effect. This forms the basis for understanding math and science and for more complex thinking.

Fun Things to Try in the Imagination Playground Today!

Visiting with your child is a great time to connect, learn and make memories playing together.

- Work on a grocery list together and then go shopping in the Little Market.
- Play a counting or sorting game with cans and fruits and veggies.
- Climb aboard the fire truck and make up an adventure about putting out the fire.

Take The Learning Home

Here are a few of our favorite museum-inspired ideas to use for play at home.

- Play store: Children can set up shop with a calculator, some pretend money (scrap of paper or coins) and whatever they gather in your house to "sell." A few bags for them to put purchases in for their "customers" are always a hit.
- Dress Up Box: Put old hats, scarves, fabric and shoes in a box for a magical kit that can encourage pretend play any day.
- Spectacular Sorting: Have your child help you sort the items in your kitchen or laundry room. They will benefit and so will you!

Great Related Reading!

- Barn Dance (Bill Martin Jr. and John Archambault)
- The Doorbell Rang (Pat Hutchins)
- Eating the Alphabet (Lois Ehlert)
- Fire Drill (Paul Dutton; Jacobs and Jennifer Swenend)
- If You Give a Mouse a Cookie (Laura Numeroff)
- Rainbow Fish (Marcus Pfister)

Walker Tire & Auto Service

proudly supports Omaha Children's Museum and the importance of educating young children. For more than 80 years we have partnered with local businesses and families to help keep precious cargo safe on the road.

Alignment:

- Vehicle alignment is a major cause of premature tire wear, yet you may not feel any difference in the way the vehicle drives.
- Suspension parts deteriorate over a long period of time so changes in steering and handling response may not be noticed — but it can be a safety issue.
- Alignment gets knocked out of specs during normal driving due to rough roads, pot holes, etc.
- Alignment should be checked at least once per year.


www.walkertire.com
The one thing I would like you to remember....
Guided Tours vs. Self-Guided Exploration
The new Austin Children’s Museum
Est. 1983
Opened December 2013
40,000 sq ft
40 FTE; 60ish PTE
$4.5 million operating budget
450,000 annual visitors

Mission:
To create innovative learning experiences that equip and inspire the next generation of creative problem solvers.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School Year</th>
<th>Summer</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2014-2015</td>
<td>23,799</td>
<td>3,302</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015-2016</td>
<td>21,698</td>
<td>3,987</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016-2017</td>
<td>21,633</td>
<td>3,751</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Guided Tours

- Pre-K - 5th grade
- 90-minute tour
- 6 galleries (of 10)
- 1 tour guide per class
  - 6 per time slot (10 on staff)
- $3-$7 per student
- 1:5 chaperone to student ratio
- 9:30 am, 11:30 am & 1:30 pm
- 120 students per timeslot

Zach Theater
Collaboration
The Very Nervous Caterpillar

Imaginative Play
Self-Guided Exploration

- Pre-K - 5th grade
- 2.5 hour
- Entire museum + program rooms
- $3-$7 per student???
- 1:5 or 1:4 chaperone to student ratio
- 9:30 am, 11:30 am & 1:30 pm
- 250 students per timeslot

Creative Play

Physical Play
**Guided Tours**

**Pros**
- Tour guide navigator
  - Bilingual available
- Organized & structured experience
- Less crowded museum (240 students)
- Learning as a class

**Self-Guided Exploration**

**Pros**
- Serve more kids (500 students)
- Full museum access + activities
- Free choice, open-ended play
- Up to 2.5 hours
Guided Tours

Cons
- Restricted museum access
- Not (fully) open-ended play
- Less museum time
- Chaperones not fully engaged
  - Too many too, but revenue!
  - “Bulldozing” of toddlers
- Potential crowding
  - Member/visitor complaints

Self-Guided Exploration

Cons
- Classes not grouped together
- Potential crowding
  - Member/visitor complaints
  - “Bulldozing” of toddlers
  - “Run and scream” model
- Success requires chaperone engagement

Creative Play

Physical Play
How’s play fostered at Thinkery?

- Collaborative play
  - Inviting others
  - Inviting parents or showing parents
- Experimentation
- Playful group management
- Inquiry-based questions

Opportunities for improvement
- Staff need more time & space to play/prototype
- Cross-departmental culture that fully values and models play
Mission

To inspire children, connect families, and build community through exploration, exhibits, programming, and PLAY.

Vision

TCM envisions a welcoming, compelling, and sustainable children’s museum in Tulsa that engages children and adults in exploring, playing, and learning within a changing landscape of experiences and activities.
Discovery Lab at Owen Park

› Opened in 2013
› Over 575,000 visitors
› 1,360 Member Families
› 5 Original Exhibitions
DISCOVERY LAB IMPACT
July 1, 2016 – June 30, 2017

TOTAL IMPACT

- Admission
  - 71,497
- Members
  - 20,233
- General
  - 51,264
- Outreach
  - 19,660
- Field Trips/Groups
  - 14,024
- Birthday Parties
  - 2,243
- Facility Rentals
  - 1,657

TOTAL IMPACT: 117,413
25% students who visit Discovery Lab on field trips annually came at a free or reduced rate thanks to our Accessible Discovery program.
A Field Trip at Discovery Lab

› Pre-K – 6th grade
› Maximum 120 students
› 1.5 – 3 hours
› $5 per person
› 1:5 chaperone to student ratio
› Option to add museum class
› Full range of the museum
Preparing to Visit Discovery Lab

› Social Story
› Educator Guide
› Chaperone Guide
Field Trip Play
Experiences
Everyone Plays
Co-Develop Pathways
How do we make the value of play relevant to stakeholders (parents, teachers, school administration, and funders)?

What are ways to get the message out about value of play to external stakeholders?
What are effective ways to train your team on the value of play?

How do you train and motivate your team to be playful with field trip students?
Go forth and play!