

WELCOME

OUR MISSION

Kohl Children's Museum of Greater Chicago provides engaging informal learning environments featuring interactive exhibits and programs that encourage young children ages birth to 8 to become effective learners through self-directed complex play.

OUR VISION

Kohl Children's Museum nurtures a love of learning in young children.

SUPPORT US

If you would like more information about supporting Kohl Children's Museum, please contact our development office at (847) 832-6895 or visit www.donate.kohlchildrensmuseum.org.

Dear Friends,

Since Kohl Children's Museum opened its doors in 1985, we have dedicated ourselves to being a parent's first partner in their child's learning. We strive to serve ALL children, parents, grandparents and caregivers, with any level of physical, cognitive, social and emotional ability and across all socioeconomic statuses.

The Museum embraces complex, research-based, self-directed play, providing physical, emotional, cognitive, imaginative and social experiences that spark a love of learning that never goes away. Play is an integral part of development as children grow their capacities in creativity, problem solving, logic and social knowledge.

We believe in Kohl Children's Museum's power to be the first place where young minds discover the transformational power of creativity and imagination. Every day, the Museum earns its place as a trusted partner in the earliest years of a child's learning.

Like the young minds we serve, we challenge ourselves to grow and embrace changes in the world to create the best learning practices. Thanks to your generous support, we will continue to have the flexibility to remain relevant and impactful, and most importantly, responsive to the needs of the communities that we serve.

Because of you and your generous support, we are the place where awesome lives.

With much appreciation and warmest wishes,



Sheridan Turner
President & CEO



Paul Sutenbach
Chair, Board of Trustees





As one of the area's premier cultural institutions, Kohl Children's Museum of Greater Chicago plays a leadership role in early childhood development.

And we're not playing around about learning. Our leadership demands that we make our commitment to nurture a love of learning in young children as accessible as possible. **That means all children.**

Through outreach work to underserved communities, professional development training for teachers and childcare providers in low-income neighborhoods, and specially designed learning experiences that welcome children with special needs, we aspire to reach as many young children as possible.

Our job is to harness the power of play and to use it to jump start the next generation. The future of our country is in the hands of our children – the young hearts and minds who love and use our museum.

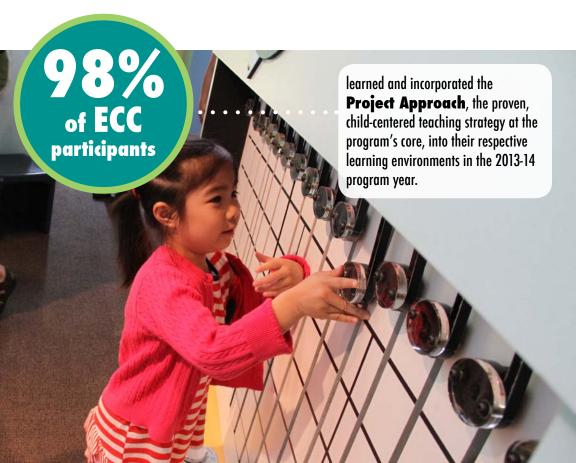
That's why we're not just an ordinary playspace. We are an incubator for transforming young minds into creative thinkers, learners, and leaders.

Take a look at just a few of the highlights from the past year, and you'll agree: **We're the place where awesome lives.**

EARLY CHILDHOOD CONNECTIONS

Kohl Children's Museum's flagship outreach program, *Early Childhood Connections* (ECC), annually provides high-quality professional development, classroom resources, and field trips to **145** teachers and childcare professionals at no charge to the educators or their students. This year's participants serve more than **2,500** children at-risk of academic failure in low-income, Chicago-area neighborhoods. Each year, over **5,000** free Museum passes also are distributed to participating families as part of ECC. The Museum was recently asked to present the successes associated with ECC and project-based learning at the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) Annual Conference in November 2014.

Cumulative assessments consistently show that ECC leads to both practically and statistically significant positive changes in the use of developmentally appropriate practices for participating teachers and childcare professionals. The vast majority of children in ECC classrooms exhibit appropriate learning behavior and high levels of engagement, particularly promising results given the substantial number of children at-risk for learning difficulties.



UNIVERSAL DESIGN

Kohl Children's Museum was founded on the unshakeable belief that every child deserves to discover **the transformational power of creativity and imagination**. With that in mind, our facility and all Museum exhibits were developed using Universal Design principles that transcend the Americans with Disabilities Act, allowing all guests with any level of physical, visual, auditory, and cognitive ability to experience the Museum and enjoy its offerings.

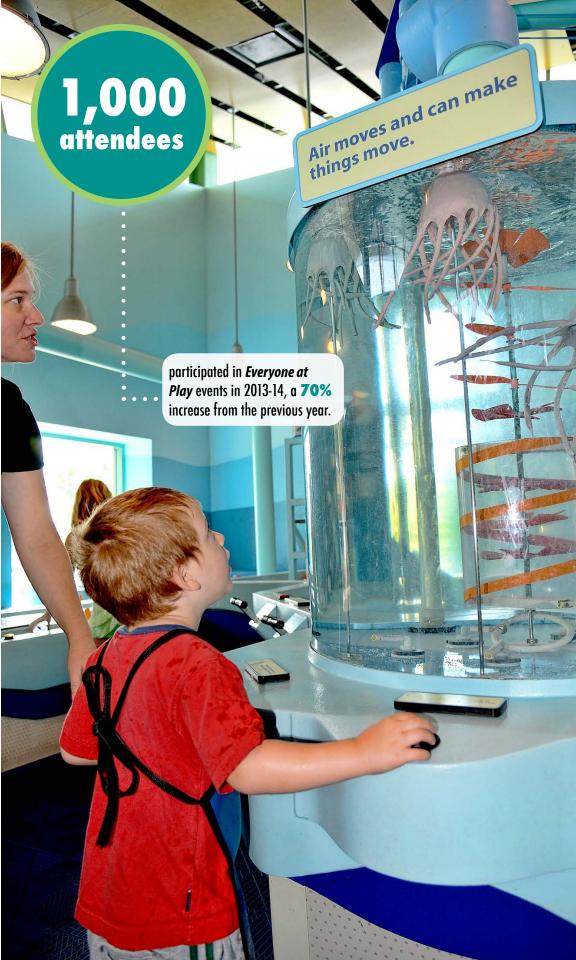
Universal Design makes communications and elements of the Museum's spatial environment easier to use for every child, including those with movement differences, reduced vision and hearing, as well as cognitive impairments. Special attention has been paid to such aspects as labels and signage, accessible routes, and positioning of interactive elements that enhance the Museum experience for everyone.



EVERYONE AT PLAY

Families with children who have special needs repeatedly requested more opportunities for dedicated time in the Museum to allow their families to enjoy the exhibits and programs in an atmosphere that was less crowded, more relaxed, and more conducive to each child's individualized needs. Beginning in 2009, the Museum responded by working collaboratively with community organizations to invite families with children who have special needs to explore the Museum's exhibits while the Museum is closed to the general public — and all free of charge.

Due to growing demand and the generosity of our funders, the Museum will increase the program to a total of **six** *Everyone at Play* **events in 2014-15.**



DANIEL F. AND ADA L. RICE ART STUDIO

Reopened in September 2014, the Museum completely renovated its *Adventures* in *Art* studio to create a hands-on, fully functional, multipurpose visual arts studio where children can learn about and from artists, explore art techniques, and express themselves artistically. Some new hands-on features will include a weaving loom, pottery wheel, and recycled art station.

ALLSTATE KIDS MATTER

This program takes Museum educators out into the community to early childhood and after-school programs to conduct interactive educational workshops. The Museum also provides two self-guided field trips for an additional **90 children** from our community partner sites to explore Museum exhibits. A new component of this program provides transportation to families in high-need neighborhoods to attend Museum special events, such as Winter Wonderland and Fall Family Festival, which promote active learning between child and parent.





CME EARLY MATH EXPLORERS

Preschool math achievement predicts later achievement in both math and reading in elementary school and beyond. Research shows that doing more mathematics increases oral language abilities, including vocabulary, inference, independence, and grammatical complexity.

In partnership with Erikson Institute and the CME Foundation, Kohl Children's Museum has adapted training to provide professional development to home and center-based childcare professionals in high-need areas. By doing so, the Museum is helping parents and caregivers, children's first teachers, to help them **integrate building blocks of math** into everyday learning experiences and daily activities.

WELLS FARGO MATH COUNTS

Responding to the well-documented importance of high-quality science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) in early childhood learning, Math Counts makes learning about math fun for young children. Connecting literacy and storytelling with appropriate activities that cement concepts such as numerosity, geometry, and algebraic thinking, this interactive program is offered bi-weekly at the Museum.

FITNESS FOR ALL

Childhood obesity has more than doubled in children and quadrupled in adolescents in the past 30 years. The percentage of children aged 6–11 years in the United States who were obese increased from **7% in 1980 to nearly 18% in 2012.** Faced with such a major health concern, Kohl Children's Museum believes very strongly in offering healthy lifestyle and physical fitness programming to the children and families that we serve.

Fitness for All offers gross motor activities in our outdoor Habitat Park exhibit or a program room. Each activity is held for two hours daily, with activities changing every two weeks to encourage continued participation from frequent visitors. Over **3,000 guests** participate in these physical activities over the course of the year, which include bowling, relay races, obstacle courses, and yoga.



GARDEN BUDDIES

In the spring of 2013, Kohl Children's Museum started a new garden program in our two acre outdoor exhibit, *Habitat Park*. We sought guidance from the University of Illinois Extension Master Gardener program and created three raised vegetable beds. Children helped introduce worms to the beds, planted seedlings, learned about how bees help our gardens, and enjoyed the fruits of their labor, delicious beans. The Museum continues programming throughout the growing season, focusing on healthy eating.



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July 1, 2013 - June 30, 2014

We would not be able to achieve our goals without the support of our generous funders. We thank the following donors for their investment in our work and in the futures of all children.

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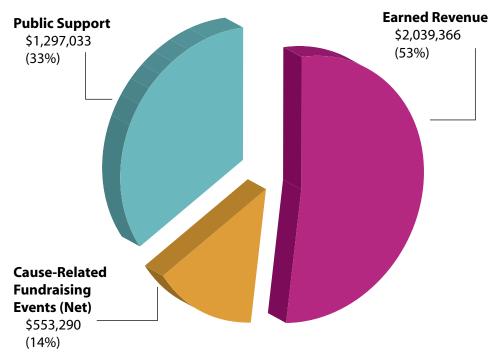
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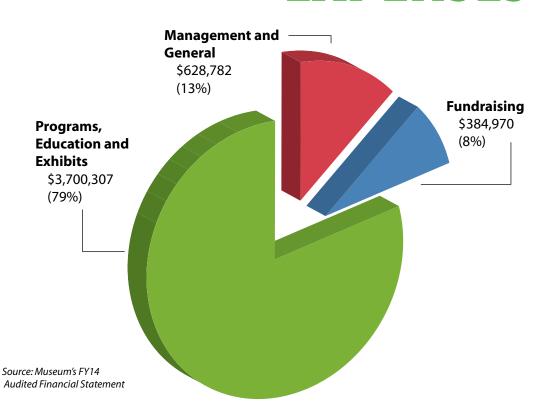
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Manager of Foundation & Government Giving

Morgan Gire

Administrative Assistant

Marketing

Dave Judy

Senior Director of Marketing & Public Relations

Adam Cardoza

Marketing & Communications Associate

Facility & Operations

Curt Adams

Vice President of Facility and Operations

Beverly Hatchett

Custodial Supervisor



