

09/10 Annual Report



KOHL CHILDREN'S
MUSEUM

Welcome

Kohl Children's Museum of Greater Chicago, Inc.
2100 Patriot Boulevard
Glenview, Illinois 60026
Tel: (847) 832-6600
Fax: (847) 724-6469
www.kohlchildrensmuseum.org

OUR VISION

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

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.

SUPPORT US

If you would like more information about supporting Kohl Children's Museum of Greater Chicago, please contact our development office at (847) 832-6911.

Dear Friends,

We are so pleased to send you this Annual Report as a friend of Kohl Children's Museum of Greater Chicago, the region's premier early learning destination and resource for children, their families, and educators. Your investment in our work has enabled us to accomplish many great things on behalf of small children and we remain the proud and grateful recipients of your philanthropic support.

Research has confirmed our belief that quality early childhood enrichment opportunities, such as those that we provide at the Museum, are critical for every child's success. For more than 25 years, we have worked to promote the power of play in learning, and our efforts have been recognized on a state and national level. Still, our commitment to our community's children, particularly those who are considered at risk, has never been stronger.

While it is true that there are children who come through our doors who are well-served by enrichment offerings that begin at an early age, there are also an increasing number of children within our service area whose life circumstances preclude a Museum visit. We simply cannot let their childhood pass us by.

If necessity is truly the mother of all invention, then we can and must turn the current challenges that we are all facing into opportunities to create and innovate, nurture and prepare, and support and teach. The children who depend on us as part of a larger community of caring adults deserve nothing less.

As such, we commit the majority of our annual contributed income each year to programs that directly serve the early learning needs of our region's most vulnerable children. Because of friends like you, we have developed partnerships with childcare centers, public schools, and social service agencies across the Chicagoland area and served a record number of children in crisis through our outreach programs in the last year.

These programs include our flagship outreach effort, Early Childhood Connections, which transforms the classroom and childcare environment for children at risk by providing support and resources to their teachers and parents; the Children's Hospital Project, which brings art, literacy, math and science activities to children who are in short- and long-term care at area children's hospitals, and provides them with a sense of normalcy while they undergo intensive medical treatments; and Play for All, which offers critical private time for children with special needs and their families to experience our accessible exhibits and activities.

Our outreach efforts take place throughout the course of the year and represent a significant part of our greater vision to nurture a love of learning in young children through our everyday offerings. From Art Adventures and Daily Discoveries, Kraft Healthy Families, Powered by Nature, and the Traveling Exhibit Seed Program, we are hard at work to ensure that all children who come to us – as well as those that we deliver our services to – have access to rich learning experiences that they need and deserve.

As our museum matures, we remain committed to offering quality exhibits and programs for our youngest children, nurturing their innate curiosities, and supporting their parents and teachers. We do this for all children, and we do this in large measure with your help.

Thank you for giving us the honor and the privilege of your support.

W. Fritz Souder
Chairman of the Board

Sheridan Turner
President and CEO

Highlights



Thanks to your generosity, we welcomed more than 330,000 visitors through our doors in 2009-10, including 7,800 member families and 10,000 outreach program participants. Herewith, we are pleased to share some of the Museum stories that were made possible by the support of funding partners like you:

Art Adventures and Daily Discoveries

These daily programs, offered in our *Adventures in Art* and *Habitat Park* exhibits, engage children and adults alike in activities that explore concepts in art, math, and science that help lay a foundation for future learning. Art Adventures and Daily Discoveries are generously supported by Anderson Pest Solutions; Gigunda Group, Inc.; The Grandy Fund; Illinois Arts Council; JPMorgan Chase Foundation; the Morgan Stanley Foundation; the Daniel F. & Ada L. Rice Foundation; and Tetra Pak.

Early Childhood Connections

The Museum's flagship outreach program, Early Childhood Connections, brings professional development and resources to teachers and childcare providers serving children who are considered at risk of academic failure and their families. More than seven years of data has shown that this program creates meaningful change in participating classrooms and childcare centers, resulting in formal learning environments that are most conducive to child-centered, child-driven learning. We remain grateful to the following supporters of this important program, which served more than 130 teachers and childcare providers and nearly 6,600 children and family members in public schools and childcare centers in Chicago and Lake County:

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Fund A Need

Our 2009 gala, held in honor of longtime Museum trustee Donna Greenberg, raised nearly \$800,000 towards our most urgent needs, including Fund A Need, a three-pronged approach to serving our region's most vulnerable children. These services range from field trip



scholarships for children who are considered at risk of academic failure through Early Childhood Connections to in-hospital enrichment activities for children who are medically fragile at area children's hospitals and an accessible Museum experience for children with special needs through our Play for All initiative.

We are pleased to express our most sincere thanks to the following contributors:

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We wish to extend an extra special thanks to Glen and Trish Tullman and Family for generously matching the Fund A Need program this year.

International Traveling Exhibit Program

With a grant from the Abbott Fund, we embarked on an exciting new partnership that will result in the *Science + You* traveling exhibit designed to reach audiences on an international scale. We mobilized experts in the early childhood, children's museum, medical, and science fields to brainstorm ideas, develop exhibit concepts and programming to engage children in scientific exploration and discovery. This exhibit will premiere at the Museum in summer 2011, then travel to sites across the globe beginning in 2012.

Kraft Healthy Families and Fitness for All



This year, our Kraft Healthy Families program merged seamlessly into messages driven by the Coalition to Lower Obesity in Chicago's Children (CLOCC) program as we partnered with Chicago Children's Museum, Chicago Public Library, Chicago Public Schools, Children's Memorial Hospital, Parkways Foundation, and Ravinia Festival to promote healthy living and nutrition habits. From shopping lists in

our *Dominick's* exhibit to health Focused Field Trips to fitness activities in *Habitat Park*, Kraft Healthy Families provides tools and resources to children and adults alike, setting a strong foundation for healthy habits that can last a lifetime. This initiative is supported by the Kraft Foods Foundation as part of the Kraft Great Kids program.

Powered by Nature

We launched a new initiative, Powered by Nature, that has been carefully designed to advance our leadership role in environmental literacy opportunities for young children, as well as environmentally sound building and maintenance practices. The first two phases of this project, completed this year, included the addition of a wind and solar energy collection demonstration model in our *Habitat Park* exhibit, prototype exhibit components on the Museum floor, and the installation of 217 fully-functioning solar panels on the roof of the west wing of our facility. The final phase of this project will be complete by 2011 with the fabrication and installation of a new permanent exhibit, funded by The Allstate Foundation, that will deliver key messages about solar and wind power. This important program was funded by ComEd, An Exelon Company; HSBC – North America; Illinois Clean Energy Community Foundation; and the State of Illinois – Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity.



Traveling Exhibit Seed Program

In partnership with the Association of Children's Museums, we surveyed colleagues nationwide to better understand their traveling exhibit content, marketing, and support needs. As a result, we created a roadmap to design and build a new traveling exhibit that will meet the needs of small and emerging museums, engage children and adults alike, and attract new audiences to museums around the country. This program was generously supported by the Institute of Museum and Library Services, a federal agency.

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(7/1/2009 – 6/30/2010)

We would not be able to celebrate 25 years of play and learning 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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Co-chairs Rick and Cate Waddell (left) and Liz and Eric Lefkowsky (right).



Donna Greenberg (2nd from left) poses with the Donna Mia performers.

An Evening to Imagine

October 10, 2009



Fritz Souder, Chairman of the Board of Trustees, greets Sheridan Turner, Museum President & CEO.

Building Blocks for the Future

We extend our sincere thanks to the following donors to the Museum's capital campaign, Building Blocks for the Future, who made our new home possible and touch the lives of hundreds of thousands of children, families and educators through their generous support.

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\$25,000 TO \$99,999

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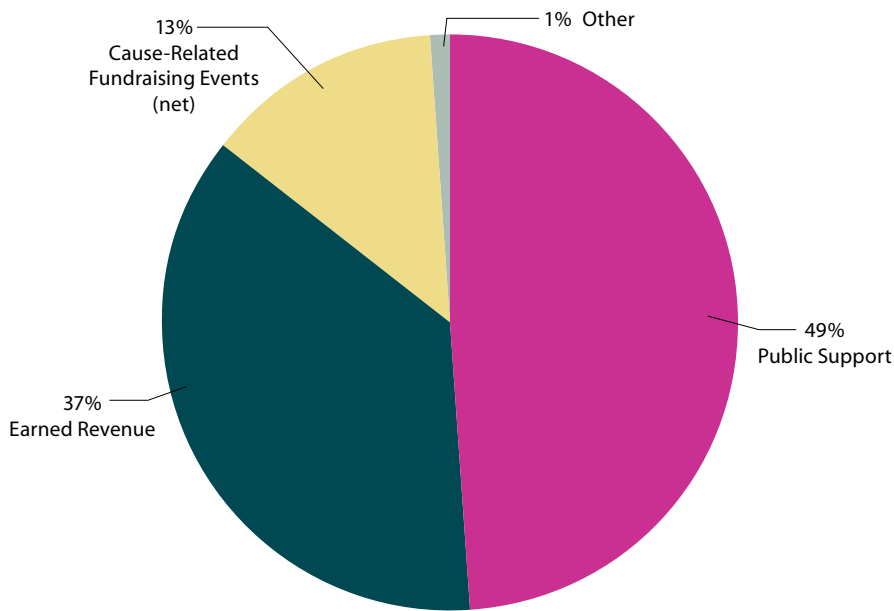
Jeff Froggie, *Custodian*

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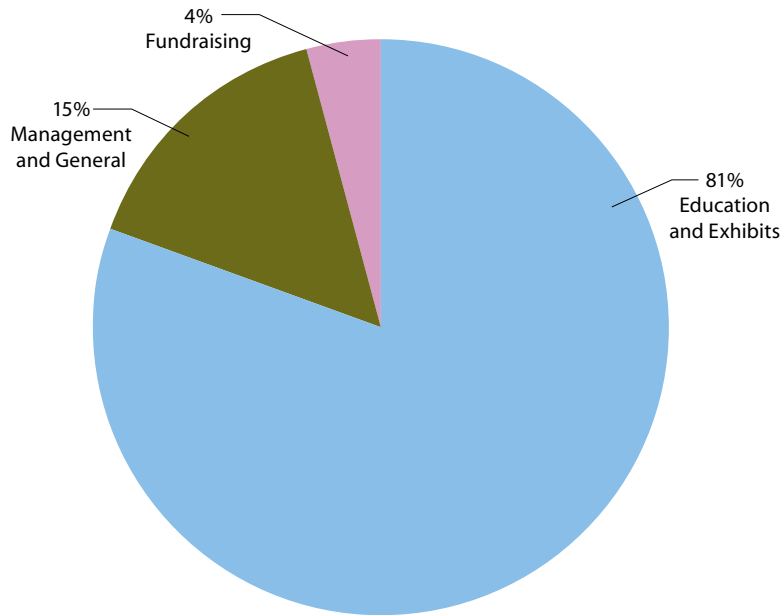
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Revenues



Expenses



For a full copy of the Museum's most recent financial statements, please contact the development office at (847) 832-6911.

It's important for us to be good stewards of the environment in order to maintain a world that our children can enjoy for many years to come. As a silver-level LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certified building, Kohl Children's Museum of Greater Chicago is committed to using environmentally-friendly materials.



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**KOHL CHILDREN'S
MUSEUM**

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