

# The Children's Museum of Indianapolis

CREATED IN 1925. MOVED TO CURRENT LOCATION IN 1946.

## Level 3

**The Power of Children**—Anne Frank, Ruby Bridges, and Ryan White were typical children who found themselves in extraordinary circumstances. Travel through each child's life to discover what made them heroes of the 20th century, and how children today can make a difference.

**Race Car**—This authentic 2000 IndyCar show car invites children to climb inside and imagine themselves on the track.

## Level 4

**ScienceWorks in the Dow Science Center**—Dedicated to the natural and physical sciences, *ScienceWorks* features a fresh water pond, an interactive watershed table, rock climbing, and a construction site.

**SciencePort: Gateway to Extraordinary Learning**—This interactive science program in *ScienceWorks* encourages families and school groups to work with each other to better understand scientific concepts. SciencePort is a family-friendly experience that fosters interaction and accommodates many learning styles.

## Biotechnology Learning Center—

Discover the history and science behind plant biotechnology through hands-on demonstrations and activities in *ScienceWorks* in the Dow Science Center.

## Carousel Wishes and Dreams—

Experience the wonder of the Carousel and the magic of imagination. Enjoy a mirror maze, a tree house, a walk-in kaleidoscope, toy trains, a pretend soda shop, and a playhouse. The Carousel is wheelchair accessible.

**Mastodon**—Found in Greenfield, Ind., this mastodon skeleton is approximately 12,500 years old.

**Ball Dollhouse**—Intricate furniture and detailed interiors.

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## The Facts Behind the Museum

The Children's Museum of Indianapolis is a nonprofit institution [501 (c)(3)] committed to creating extraordinary family learning experiences that have the power to transform the lives of children and families. The 472,900 square-foot facility houses 11 major galleries. Visitors can explore the physical and natural sciences, history, world cultures, the arts, see how dinosaurs lived 65 million years ago in *Dinosphere: Now You're in Their World®*, discover *National*

**Annual Attendance:** More than 1.2 million. Each year the museum welcomes more than 165,000 visitors at reduced or free admission through the Access Pass and Foster Family Membership Programs, Neighborhood Nights, The Children's Museum Neighborhood Club, and Target Free Family Nights.

**Funding:** The Children's Museum is a nonprofit institution with revenues from: investment income; contributions and grants by individuals, foundations, corporations, and local, state, and federal government agencies; earned income; program and workshop income; and memberships and admission income.

**Budget:** Total museum budget was \$25.5 million in 2011.

- 46% support from endowment
- 11% contributions and grants from individuals, foundations, corporations, The Children's Museum Guild, and government organizations
- 9% museum store, leased restaurant and facility rentals, program and activity fees
- 34% admission and membership fees, museum tours, program and activity fees

**Governance:** An independent, nonprofit institution with a 35-member board of trustees.

**Facility:** Museum established in 1925. Opened to public in 1926. Moved to current location in 1946.

**1976 expansion:** Main building. \$9 million, 225,000 square feet, designed by Wright, Porteous and Lowe.



*Geographic Treasures of the Earth*, and examine children's impact in history in *The Power of Children: Making a Difference*. Situated on 19 acres of land, the museum presents hundreds of programs each year.

**Mission:** To create extraordinary learning experiences across the arts, sciences, and humanities that have the power to transform the lives of children and families.

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**1988 additions:** Welcome Center, SpaceQuest® Planetarium, additional classroom space and new galleries for special exhibits. \$16 million, 80,000 square feet, all designed by Woollen, Molzan and Partners, Inc.

**1996 additions:** CineDome™ theater and Allen W. Clowes Festival Park. \$14 million, 32,000 square feet, designed by Browning Day Mullins Dierdorf Inc.

**2004 additions:** *Dinosphere: Now You're in Their World®* and parking garage. \$57 million, 46,000-square-foot expansion and renovation of CineDome and addition of 293,200-square-foot parking garage designed by Ratio Architects.

**2006 addition:** *Fireworks of Glass*. \$4.5 million, 43-foot-tall tower, glass ceiling, and hands-on exhibit area containing 4,800 pieces of glass designed by artist Dale Chihuly. Interior by Ratio Architects and ceiling construction provided by Shiel Sexton, Inc.

**2009 additions:** *Take Me There: Egypt*, current Welcome Center, renaming of the previous Welcome Center to Sunburst Atrium, Skywalk over Illinois Street, installation of the *brachiosaurs*, the Seven Wonders sculptures, and renovations to infoZone and the Museum Store. \$20.1 million, 39,900 square feet, designed by Ratio Architects.

**Collections:** The Children's Museum of Indianapolis maintains a collection of more than 120,000 artifacts, the largest of any youth museum in the world.

**Staff and Volunteers:** The Children's Museum employs approximately 200 full-time and 80 part-time staff members.

More than 1,000 adult volunteers, interns, and board members donate more than 73,000 hours annually to a variety of museum projects.

Approximately 30 youth volunteers participate in the Museum Apprentice Program, where they are trained to lead interactive demonstrations and activities for visitors.

Each year, about 500 members of The Children's Museum Guild contribute more than 36,000 volunteer hours and raise over \$500,000 through the annual Haunted House fundraising project.

## Learning Environments

### Lower Level

**Fireworks of Glass**—*Fireworks of Glass* is the largest permanent installation by renowned artist Dale Chihuly and comprises a 43-foot-tall tower and "floating" glass ceiling constructed of 4,800 pieces of blown glass. Below the tower, the Lower Level houses a permanent interactive exhibit where visitors can explore the art of glassblowing.

**National Geographic Treasures of the Earth**—Visitors are immersed in recreations of three renowned archaeological sites: the tomb of ancient Egyptian pharaoh Seti I; the site of China's Terra Cotta Warriors; and the shipwreck of the *Cara Merchant*, a vessel commandeered by accused pirate Captain William Kidd. The exhibit includes a working Archaeology Lab.



**All Aboard!**—In 1868, Reuben Wells designed a 35-foot-long, 55-ton steam engine to conquer Indiana's Madison Hill, the steepest railroad grade in the United States. This powerful locomotive now resides in the museum, where visitors can climb on board for a simulated journey.

**SpaceQuest® Planetarium**—The 130-seat SpaceQuest Planetarium features a DigiStar® 4 full-dome projection system. Special programs focus on stars, deep space, and flight. Shows are available for all ages.

**Lilly Theater** (Ruth Allison Lilly Theater)—Fantasy, comedy, and teaching come together in children's theater. Actors use familiar and surprising stories to engage audiences.

### Level 1

**Water Clock**—While water clocks date back to ancient Egypt and Greece, none can match the museum's for accuracy or innovation. Built by French physicist-turned-artist Bernard Gitton, it's the largest water clock in North America. More than 40 glass pieces comprise the 33-foot-tall clock.

**Dinosphere®: Now You're in Their World**—Children and families are immersed in the sights, sounds, and smells of the Cretaceous Period, 65 million years ago, when dinosaurs last roamed the Earth. *Dinosphere* includes the Paleo Prep Lab, a Dino Dig, and the Mann Properties Dinosaur Art Gallery featuring the John Lanzendorf Collection of Dinosaur Imagery.

### Level 2

**Special Exhibit 1** (Spurlock Special Exhibition Gallery) and **Special Exhibit 2** (Johnson-Weaver Pavilion)—Traveling exhibits from all over the world find a temporary home in the museum's special exhibit galleries.

**Special Exhibit 3** (Eli Lilly Center for Arts Exploration or CFAE) This center is dedicated to the exploration of visual arts, dance, theater, literature, and music. Visitors make their own artworks through workshops, programs, and activities.

**infoZone**—This unique experience combines the museum's strength in sparking interest in a topic with the library's strength in in-depth information. infoZone is a partnership between the museum and the Indianapolis-Marion County Public Library.

**Polar Bear**—An icon for The Children's Museum, the polar bear has been on display since 1964.

**MiniMasterpieces**—See the museum's collection of miniature rooms in Colonial, Victorian, and New England styles.

**Take Me There®: Egypt**—In this immersive exhibit, visitors begin to understand the vibrant life and diverse experiences of children and families in today's Egypt. Visit an Egyptian home, explore the Marketplace, and take part in Egyptian cultural celebrations and traditions.

### Stories from Our Community

Learn about our community through multi-cultural and intergenerational stories.