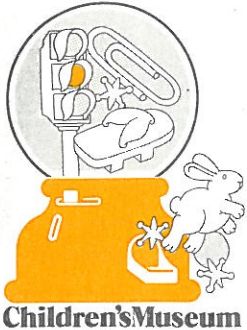


FACTS AND FIGURES

ABOUT

THE BOSTON CHILDREN'S MUSEUM

1983



Museum Wharf
300 Congress Street
Boston, MA 02210
(617) 426-6500

PHILOSOPHY

I see and I forget.
I hear and I remember.
I do and I understand.

A simple philosophy. Dynamic results. It reflects the approach to learning which characterizes exhibits, programs and special events at The Boston Children's Museum. We ask visitors to "Please touch" our participatory exhibits. Programs are designed with active learning in mind.

Says director Michael Spock, "The Museum is committed to helping everyone learn from an increasingly tough and demanding world through direct experience with real materials."

At the Museum opportunities for learning are many and varied. But they share a common philosophy which encourages visitors to pose questions, unravel mysteries and discover the unexpected.

STRUCTURE

An independent, non-profit organization, The Children's Museum has a 27-member Board of Trustees (governing body) and 68 Corporators (voting body).

The experiential learning so vital to this institution takes place in two distinct, yet closely related divisions of the Museum.

In the Exhibit Center new ideas surprise and delight with each exhibit. One million LEGO bricks need only hands and imagination. Golfballs are sent "roller-coastering" in RACEWAYS and fascinating illusions are created in MIRRORS. Visitors broadcast news on WKID-TV and descend underground in CITYSLICE. They can work the assembly line in FACTORY, blow fantastic bubbles in SMALL SCIENCE, or dress up in old clothes in GRANDPARENTS' HOUSE. After a visit to the Fort

Point Health Clinic kids can shop at the Congress Street Superette in WORK. Pre-schoolers love PLAY-SPACE, while COMPUTERS challenge everyone to games. Visitors can stroll through an authentic JAPANESE HOUSE from Kyoto or see how Native Americans live in WE'RE STILL HERE. Other exhibits include LIVING THINGS, HOW MOVIES MOVE, and the RUTH HARMONY GREEN HALL OF TOYS.

In the Resource Center visitors learn more about what they liked best in the Exhibit Center. Books, games and artifacts, carefully grouped in "Studies", carry the learner beyond the initial impact of new ideas to greater understanding.

A third division, Support Services, is peopled with behind-the-scenes staff in our offices: business, membership and development, fund-raising, and public relations, collections, and operations.

****SPECIAL SERVICES & PROGRAMS****

We have a strong commitment to our community as demonstrated through such programs as:

- Free School & Community Group Visits
- Sponsored Admissions Policy
- Free Friday Nights
- Special Needs Field Trips
- Low-cost Training & Workshops
- East Asian Studies Outreach
- Internships
- Kit Rentals
- Ethnic Festivals
- Youth Work Experience
- Detours

****VISITORS****

The Children's Museum serves about 600,000 people annually.

400,000 adults and children visit the Exhibit Center.

200,000 teachers, parents and children -- in over 100 communities -- are served through our Resource Center multiplier outreach programs.

Approximately 500 museum professionals visit the Museum each year.

****STAFF****

Director -- Michael Spock
Associate Director -- Phyllis O'Connell
Director, Exhibit Center -- Elaine Heumann Gurian
Director, Resource Center -- Patricia Cornu

83 part-time and full-time employees
14 interpreters who work with exhibits
40 volunteers

****FINANCIAL****

The Children's Museum has a 1983 operating budget of \$2,000,000. This places us in the top 5% of all museums in the country, and among Boston's top ten cultural institutions.

Where does the money come from?

75% of the budget will be "earned".

- 40% from admissions
- 35% from memberships, leases, workshop fees, kit rentals, royalties, service contracts.

25% of the budget will be raised through contributions.

- 17% Foundation & Trust Funds
- 5% Contributor Appeal
- 2½% Corporate Contributions
- ½% State & Federal Grants

****COLLECTIONS****

The Boston Children's Museum houses many fascinating objects in its collections. A cultural collection of about 30,000 objects represents the rich diversity of people and cultures which make up our world. A natural history collection includes about 20,000 objects such as fossils, shells and minerals, as well as birds, mammals and reptiles.

"Study Storage" is a model method of open storage allowing visitors to closely examine collection items without harming them.

****MEMBERSHIPS****

The Museum has about 4,000 members. Economy Memberships are for families & individuals (\$20 for first person, \$5 for each additional person). Library Memberships are for libraries to circulate among their patrons (\$300). School and Community Groups may purchase staff memberships (\$200). Corporate Memberships provide discounted tickets for employees, clients or sponsored admissions.

****HISTORY****

It all began in 1913. A farsighted group of university and classroom teachers founded The Children's Museum on the conviction that learning need not be confined within a four-walled classroom. The six decades since the Museum's founding have repeatedly proven this true.

1962 marked the initiation of new director Michael Spock's policy of hands-on, participatory learning. As the idea of hands-on learning spread, the Museum was cast into the national spotlight as a leader in innovative education.

In 1979 the Museum changed its place and its pace. The move from the Jamaica Plain neighborhood of Boston to a more central location on the city's waterfront, brought significant changes. Exhibit space tripled from 7,000 to 21,000 square feet. Attendance leaped 250% during the first year at Museum Wharf.

Four years later the Museum is well-settled, but still completing its building programs in its renovated 6-story brick and timber warehouse. In 1982 the Museum bought the portion of the building formerly occupied by the Museum of Transportation.

Financial support for the move and completion is provided by a 2-part capital campaign begun in 1975 designed to ultimately raise 8.5 million by 1985.

Throughout the years and the changes it is dedication to the idea that "I do and I understand" which guarantees continuity of all that is best about The Children's Museum.

****LOCATION****

The Boston Children's Museum
Museum Wharf, 300 Congress St.
Boston, MA 02210

What's Up Line (617) 426-8855

We're easy to reach on Boston's waterfront.

- 1) From North: Expressway (Rte 3) south to High St/Congress St. exit, third left on to Congress Street
- 2) From West: Mass Pike (Rte 90) to Expressway (Rte 3) north, Atlantic/Northern Ave. exit, over Northern Ave. bridge.
- 3) From South: Expressway (Rte 3) north, Atlantic/Northern Ave. exit, over Northern Ave. bridge.
- 4) Within Boston: MBTA Red Line to South Station.

Follow Museum Wharf signs displaying a milk bottle, our landmark.

****HOURS & ADMISSION****

July 1-Labor Day: daily 10-5; Friday until 9.
Rest of Year: Tuesday-Sunday, 10-5; Friday until 9.
Closed Mondays except Boston school holidays and vacations.
Closed Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's.

Children (2-15) & senior citizens	Adm. \$3.00
Adults	Adm. \$4.00
Friday 6-9 PM	Adm. Free!

****GROUPS****

All non-profit school and community groups from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts are free with a reservation by an appropriation from the state legislature funded through the Department of Education.

All other groups pay \$3.00 per child (2-15). Accompanying adults are admitted free.