



FORT WORTH MUSEUM
SCIENCE AND HISTORY

Learning through Innovation

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Fort Worth Museum of Science and History Features Fort Worth Children's Museum

Gallery Pays Homage to Museum's Legacy

FORT WORTH, TEXAS – The Fort Worth Children's Museum within the newly constructed Fort Worth Museum of Science and History (FWMSH) harkens back to the Museum's humble beginnings in a house on Summit Street. The FWMSH was chartered as the Fort Worth Children's Museum in 1941.

The Children's Museum gallery targets the Museum's youngest guests – age birth to 8 – and those who care for them. The purpose is to encourage opportunities for children to play, knowing that at this age level, children are learning through play.

“Play is their work, and our goal is to provide developmentally appropriate opportunities for all children,” said Museum Senior Vice President, Education Kit Goolsby. “To that end, this gallery has both an indoor and an outdoor experience.”

Inside the Children's Museum is a healthy kids clinic, an infant/toddler developmental space, a parent resource room that will also serve as a multi-purpose space, a family restroom, a nursing room for mothers, and a natural science space.

“Our natural science space will exhibit one of our largest fully articulated specimens from the natural science collection,” said Goolsby. “It's a Galapagos turtle that will be in a large dome so our young guests can see it from all angles.”

Live reptiles and amphibians will be a central element of the Children's Museum. They will be placed in their living environments so that children can observe and learn about their daily habits.

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Fort Worth Museum of Science and History – Children’s Museum
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The Children’s Museum features an indoor block-building site where children can construct a train, and the kids grocery.

Outside is a brilliant pink – Rosa Mexicano – pergola designed by Ricardo Legorreta. Underneath the pergola is the outdoor construction exhibit where children can actually build a project. The outdoor experience also includes several innovative water play stations.

The entryway to the Children’s Museum is a reproduction of the dragon head that greeted guests to the Museum on Summit in the 1940s and 1950s. “We have also repurposed some of the glass bubble tubes that used to be in the museum on Montgomery Street,” added Goolsby.

“One of the most significant aspects of the Children’s Museum is that it is an opportunity for children and their parents or caregivers to play together,” said Museum of Science and History President Van A. Romans. “This gives adults the chance to focus one hundred percent on the child without distraction. These shared experiences create memories that are the foundation for learning.”

Two major donors to the Museum’s capital campaign to construct the new building will be recognized through signage associated with the Fort Worth Children’s Museum. Brushed aluminum lettering outside the main entrance to the Children’s Museum will designate the space the “Anne T. and Robert M. Bass Gallery.” Similar lettering will designate the outdoor areas as the “Mr. and Mrs. John Kleinheinz Courtyard.”

About The Museum

The Fort Worth Museum of Science and History is open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., every day except Thanksgiving, Christmas Eve, and Christmas Days. For more information about the Museum visit www.fortworthmuseum.org or call 817-255-9300.

In 1939, the Fort Worth Council of Administrative Women in Education presented a successful proposal to the City Council for the creation of a children's museum in Fort Worth. Chartered with the State of Texas in 1941 as the “Fort Worth Children’s Museum,” the new \$80

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million FWMSH campus marks the culmination of an extensive multi-year fund-raising campaign following a comprehensive planning effort. Dedicated to life-long learning and anchored by its rich collections, the Museum engages school children and adult visitors through creative, vibrant programs and exhibits interpreting science and the history of Texas and the Southwest. For more than six decades, the FWMSH has provided learning opportunities for tens of thousands of area children annually among its million visitors each year, making it one of the most popular cultural attractions in North Texas.

The new Museum building, created by internationally acclaimed architects Legorreta + Legorreta with Gideon Toal, is located in the heart of Fort Worth’s Cultural District. The world-class, 166,000 square-foot facility features a collection of new, interactive exhibits and programs developed by the Museum’s staff and a team of nationally recognized designers in support of the Museum’s dedication to informal, discovery-based learning for all.

The new Museum’s environment of learning comprises state-of-the-art interactive exhibitions and components including: Energy Blast; the Fort Worth Children’s Museum; the Cattle Raisers Museum; the Noble Planetarium; Omni IMAX® Theater; DinoLabs/DinoDig® – featuring the State Dinosaur of Texas, *Paluxysaurus jonesi*; Innovation Studios/Innovation Gallery; and the 60-year-old Museum School.