

Building Discovery

THE KANSAS CHILDREN'S DISCOVERY CENTER



the
Kansas
Children's

DISCOVERY
Center

The need is real and the time is now.

The Kansas Children's Discovery Center believes play is powerful, and quality play experiences are transformational for children and families. In the first 12 years of operation, the nonprofit children's museum has brought joy to more than one million visitors from Kansas and beyond. With our current building consistently at capacity, we are on the cusp of an exciting new chapter in our mission to ignite children's passion for learning.

Our vision is to create an experience where every child can find exciting opportunities to explore, experiment, and learn. To achieve this, we are eager to build three new learning lab classrooms that blend indoor and outdoor learning environments. These cutting-edge learning labs will serve as hubs of innovation and be the foundation for STEAM learning camps and programs for school-aged children. New exhibit space designed for traveling and permanent exhibitions will be added. Enhancing safety and accessibility will be realized through additions of a nursing nook, sensory room, field trip entrance, workshop, and storm shelter.

Our hope is you'll join with us to build a greater environment of discovery for the next generation of thinkers, dreamers, entrepreneurs, and leaders.

Dené Mosier

President and CEO

Kent Palmberg

Board Chair



"The Kansas Children's Discovery Center is not only a great partner in the community, but as a nationally renowned children's museum, they are a driver of Topeka tourism. They are a champion for children and families, improving access to the highest quality, hands-on, interactive learning opportunities available through play and exploration."

Matt Pivarnik

CEO, Greater Topeka Partnership

Growing Discovery



120,000 to 150,000

Annual Attendance
Projection



1,900 to 2,200

Annual Member Families
Projection

Project Impact



Build Greater Discovery

- An artful, cohesive addition to the north of the current building will more than double the size of the museum from 15,000 to over 30,000 square feet.
- An iconic indoor climbing structure anchored by the tallest climbable sunflower in the world, at two stories tall, will draw tourism and excite visitors of all ages.
- Eleven new exhibit experiences exploring science, water power, civic engagement, dramatic play, and more to inspire learning.



Enhance the Learning Environment

- Three new learning lab classrooms that will create space for quality, STEAM-based childcare for school-age children.
- A 3,000 square foot traveling exhibit gallery to enable the museum to host any traveling exhibit from around the United States.
- Indoor-outdoor learning space connecting a state-of-the-art teaching kitchen with an intergenerational, accessible garden.
- Kansas-themed learning opportunities integrated throughout exhibit spaces to excite the next generation of Kansas leaders and innovators.
- An inventive makerspace that will enable curious children to tinker, explore, and create in a collaborative environment.



Improve Safety and Accessibility

- A secondary entrance will reduce congestion at main entrance to welcome the 10,000+ school children attending field trips each year.
- Caregivers and nursing mothers will be able to utilize a private room for lactation, pumping, or medical needs.
- A sensory room for children experiencing sensory deregulation will enable them to regulate and return to enjoying the museum.
- A storm shelter will provide peace of mind for families, knowing their children are safe in all weather conditions.





Community Investment



1 Million Visitors Since 2011

coming from all 50 states and 23 countries



120,000 Visitors

came to the Discovery Center in 2023, with **50,000 visitors** being welcomed through free or reduced admission in our Access Programs, and more than 1 in 4 visiting from outside Shawnee County.



\$5.8 Million

in annual economic impact to the greater Topeka region

Project Budget

Construction Expenses	\$8,420,000
Architectural Fees (8.15%)	\$686,230
New Exhibits	\$2,100,000
Total	\$11,206,230



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