

KidsQuest Children's Museum 2015 Annual Report



3,751 **KidsQuest Members**

180,393 Total Served Museum Visitors | Outreach Participants

5,079 Free or discounted admissions and memberships \$1 Third Thursday Night | King County Library Systems | Bellevue Lifespring Sound Mental Health | Museums for All (EBT card holders) | KidsQuest Scholarships

712 Free or discounted military admissions

Blue Star Museums | Gold Star Museums | Veteran's Day Discount | Military Discount

A Letter from the President

KidsQuest's mission is to create learning through the power of play and exploration that connects children to their communities and the world. But how does an organization create learning? By creating opportunities. By investing in new programs like Low Sensory Evenings, which gives kids with sensory sensitivities the opportunity to explore the museum at their own pace. By building new exhibits like the Back to the Drawing Board Gallery which allows children to experiment with open-ended art. By increasing free public outreach so that families can experience the magic of KidsQuest at their local park, even if they can't visit the museum.

Learning is a path, not a destination. As we continue to dream up new opportunities in our current Factoria home, we are also designing and building our new permanent home. What exhibit components will help our families learn best? How can we design a space that works with our current programs and future programs? We are infinitely grateful for all of our donors, members, and friends that support us along this path, and we look forward to creating learning opportunities for many years to come.



Programming

In 2015, KidsQuest focused on serving and supporting the whole family. We introduced several new programs this year to help support local families in different ways:

Low Sensory Evenings are a free monthly opportunity for kids with sensory sensitivities to visit the museum without the crowds. KidsQuest limits attendance for this event, and turns down the ambient noise and light. These evenings are especially appropriate for children with autism and/or Sensory Processing Disorder, but Low Sensory Evenings are open to children with any type of special need and their families.

Parents' Night Out offers parents a drop-off opportunity so they can have a night to themselves to run errands, reconnect with their partner, or just have some much needed downtime. These monthly events offer a themed science or art activity in line with KidsQuest's other educational programs. Kids are fed, get a chance to tackle a project with KidsQuest's staff, and have the opportunity for free play.

KidsQuest also formed several new partnerships with local organizations this year. Partnerships allow us to expand our current offerings with the help of outside experts. New partnerships include:

- LEGO® Engineering with Bricks 4 Kidz
- Brain Science Basics and Living Laboratory with I-LABS (The Institute for Learning & Brain Sciences at the University of Washington)
- Ceramics workshops with Studio2You
- Dinner & Dancing with 3rd Shift Dance
- Dental Screenings with the University of Washington Center for Pediatric Dentistry
- Play and Learn Evening with Chinese Information and Service Center

Finally, KidsQuest addressed a whole new audience with **Recess on the Rocks**. Recess is an adults-only event designed to engage Eastside grown-ups and showcase KidsQuest as a community resource (and not just for kids!). Recent college grads, empty nesters, and parents looking for a fun date night enjoyed after-hours access to KidsQuest's hands-on exhibits at this fun event, plus cocktails, food trucks, and themed activities designed with grown-ups in mind.

> "Thank you for the low sensory evening! Our autistic son had a blast + we noticed a whole different level of focus compared to our usual visits. Please do again!"

New Exhibits in 2015

KidsQuest relocated its Book Nook this year in order to make room for a brand new exhibit, the **Back to the Drawing Board Gallery**. Children of all ages become artists and art aficionados in this introductory art gallery. On the wet art wall kids can explore paint on a vertical surface, finger paint with shaving cream, use spray bottles to experiment with color mixing, and more. Chalk drawings come to life on the Kinetic Chalk Wall with a hand crank interface that makes drawings move. And in the Chalk Frames kids can fill the gallery wall with their creations, then put on an art opening for their friends, parents, and fellow artists! This is an open-ended activity area where kids become both artists and art patrons.

KidsQuest also introduced the popular **Colorful Car Collection Case** this year. In this collection, kids are the curators. Kids are invited to arrange, sort and the display the cars as they see fit. Through this process they will exercise their sorting skills, learn basic math, and experiment with color and light. Then they can take the cars for a spin down the racetrack - the perfect introduction to physics!



Outreach

Every year KidsQuest continues to grow beyond the borders of Factoria. In 2015 we increased our Field Trip to Go programs by 17%, serving 14% more students. This was in part due to a partnership with the Bellevue School District Summer School Program, which brought KidsQuest Educators to Bellevue schools four afternoons a week for a month.

Field Trip to Go Program



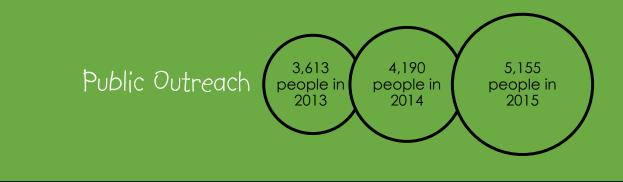
5,039 people in 2013

6,212 people in 2014

7,084 people in 2015

KidsQuest's growing Field Trip to Go program did not put a damper on our on-site field trips either. In 2015 we saw 83 school groups (2,447 students), a 9% increase in visits over 2014, and a 13% increase in kids.

We also partnered with the Downtown Seattle Association and Bellevue's Parks & Community Services Department to offer Science in the Park, a free outreach program at local parks around Seattle and Bellevue. This new program allows us to reach a more diverse audience that may not have the opportunity to visit the museum or experience a Field Trip to Go at their school. Science in the Park increased our public outreach offerings by 138% and grew our audience by nearly 1,000 people.







2015 Annual Operating Budget

Revenue

Expenses

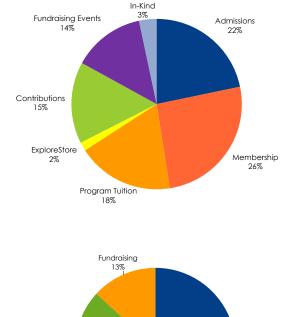
Programs

Fundraising

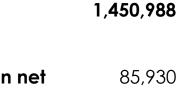
Total:

Management

Contributions	212,429
Fundraising events	187,572
In-kind	45,576
Admissions	297,965
Membership	353,593
Programs	251,508
ExploreStore	22,499
Total:	1,365,058

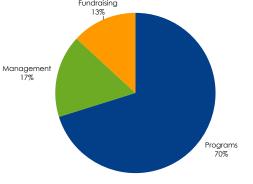


Change in net



1,018,115 242,066

190,807



BizQuest

With more and more families and businesses moving to downtown Bellevue including the Museum – KidsQuest introduced a new annual event designed to bring community members together for a valuable discussion. On June 4th KidsQuest hosted its inaugural BizQuest breakfast at the Bellevue Club. BizQuest offers the chance to hear from and engage with local leaders as they share their expertise and perspective on issues challenging families in today's workforce via a dynamic panel discussion. Our inaugural panel featured executives from Expedia, Tetra Tech and Taco Time NW and the event raised over \$30,000 in support of KidsQuest Children's Museum.

WELCOME

New Museum Update:

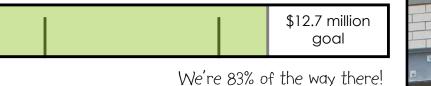
\$10,482,018 million

raised so far

БКҮ/АСК

In 2015 we focused on planning and designing the new museum in preparation for construction to start in 2016. The aesthetic direction of each of the exhibits galleries was finalized, as were the exhibit activities (ie: what visitors will be interacting and experimenting with in each exhibit). We chose the building finishes (counters, floors, walls, etc), and redesigned the climber in the atrium.

VR843D



Individual Donors

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