

Museums for America: Learning Experiences

Below are examples of recently funded projects that support activities in the Museums for America Learning Experiences category.

California

San Jose Children's Discovery Museum - San Jose, CA

Year: 2012

Amount: \$150,000

Grant: Museums for America - Engaging Communities

Children's Discovery Museum of San Jose will engage in an exploration of the cultural, social, and economic practices of food production and consumption in Silicon Valley through Family Foodways. The museum will transform its spaces to address food literacy: The Kids' Cafe will become a sustainable food site featuring locally grown produce; Kids' Garden will expand into a demonstration garden, serving as a food source for the cafe; and throughout exhibitions, new interpretive strategies and interactive experiences will support learning about local food sustainability. Family Foodways goal is to become an environmentally sustainable museum food service model, demonstrating an economically viable business model while providing affordable, nutritious, and appealing options for diverse visitors, while linking the experience to the core exhibitions and the overall museum experience.

San Diego Society of Natural History - San Diego, CA

Year: 2012

Amount: \$141,829

Grant: Museums for America - Engaging Communities

The San Diego Natural History Museum emphasizes the use of collections-based research to better understand the biodiversity of southern California and the peninsula of Baja California. The museum will use this grant to create a website for the Herpetology Atlas of Peninsular California for the purpose of delivering collections information in an integrated format centered on geospatial data. The Herpetology Atlas will integrate over 76,000 voucher specimens, representing over 19,000 geo-referenced localities. In addition, the Herpetology Atlas has over 20,000 digital photographs, over 12,000 scanned pages of historical field notes discussing the distribution of amphibians and reptiles, and 483 scanned historical publications (12,731 pages) from science publications.

Colorado

Denver Art Museum - Denver, CO

Year: 2012

Amount: \$147,216

Grant: Museums for America - Engaging Communities

The Denver Art Museum will present Thread, a celebration of textile art across collections that coincides with the opening of new textile art galleries at the museum. This suite of exhibits, in-gallery activities, and programming provides a unique opportunity to test optimal methods of adult visitor engagement. The museum education team will develop three types of in-gallery activities inspired by textile objects on view and aimed at adult visitors: Creative Process Stations that offer activities related to technical mastery and artists' conceptual processes;

Hotspots, manned art-making stops designed to illuminate artists' creative processes and encourage visitors' creativity; and new content created to connect visitors with the creative process through a smartphone application.

Florida

Museum of Science - Miami, FL

Year: 2012

Amount: \$149,955

Grant: Museums for America - Engaging Communities

The Miami Science Museum will develop an exhibit addressing the intellectual needs of adults who accompany young children (aged three to six) to science exhibitions. The core exhibit will focus on the Everglades. The adult section focuses on hydrology and ecology, the importance of this unique natural resource, and efforts to restore the natural water flow. For children, the exhibit will feature a water and sand flow table allowing them to develop early science thinking skills. The goal is to provide access to science for young learners while simultaneously providing rich learning opportunities for adults, thereby optimizing outcomes for multigenerational audiences.

Maryland

Trustees of the Walters Art Gallery - Baltimore, MD

Year: 2012

Amount: \$111,615

Grant: Museums for America - Engaging Communities

The Walters Art Museum will support American Visions: Engaging the Community with American Art, a 23-month program designed to foster meaningful visitor experiences with the museum's collection. By creating emotional and intellectual connections between audiences and works of art, the museum brings 18th- and 19th-century America to life. The museum will engage visitors through a series of activities including a special exhibition, with a publication, on the painter Richard Caton Woodville; public programs for school, family, and adult audiences; educational and interpretive materials; a companion student exhibition; an interactive resource to use online and in the permanent collection galleries; and the digitization of over 600 American works of art that will be made freely accessible.

Massachusetts

Concord Antiquarian Society - Concord, MA

Year: 2012

Amount: \$140,979

Grant: Museums for America - Engaging Communities

The Concord Antiquarian Society will present Early Spring: Phenology and Henry David Thoreau, an exhibit and program drawing from its collection of Thoreau-related material. The exhibit will examine the relationship between climate and natural phenomenon, exploring Thoreau's 19th-century observations and comparing them to contemporary studies of Concord. It includes items never shown together before, showcasing Thoreau's herbarium specimens, a survey of Walden Pond, field notes, and journal. The project has three goals: to help students, teachers, and the public learn about phenology (the study of the relationship between climate and biology) and understand its value to climate research; use the museum's collection to increase

understanding of Thoreau as a thinker and scientist; and create a sustainable framework that enables visitors to explore Thoreau and the natural environment.

Museum of Fine Arts, Boston - Boston, MA

Year: 2012

Amount: \$150,000

Grant: Museums for America - Engaging Communities

The Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, will implement its Ambassador Program, which will provide Boston-area university students with competitive work-study positions at the museum. Those accepted into the program will complete an intensive orientation and training, after which they will take on customer service roles within the museum for a year. Ambassadors will provide museum visitors with a helpful understanding of the museum's collections and operations, and they will gain valuable career skills and knowledge that will benefit each of them academically and professionally.

Springfield Library and Museums Association - Springfield, MA

Year: 2012

Amount: \$150,000

Grant: Museums for America - Engaging Communities

The Springfield Museums will exhibit The Amazing World of Dr. Seuss, a permanent, interactive, bilingual exhibition designed to promote joy in reading and introduce children and their families to the stories of Springfield-born author Theodor Seuss Geisel. The 3,200-square-foot exhibition will provide opportunities to explore new sounds and vocabulary, play rhyming games, invent stories, and engage in activities that encourage teamwork and creative thinking. Interactivity is deeply embedded in the exhibition, both in the real world of the galleries and in its multimedia technology. The exhibition and related programming will target the needs of economically disadvantaged Springfield children.

New York

Museum of the City of New York - New York, NY

Year: 2012

Amount: \$150,000

Grant: Museums for America - Engaging Communities

Museum of the City of New York will redesign its website in order to increase public access to the museum and provide a richer online experience to its diverse and growing audience. The museum's 2003 strategic plan launched a series of projects, including a capital project; the advancement of the stewardship of the museum's collections; and the launch of ambitious new exhibitions, publications, and public and educational programs. The redesigned website advances key strategic goals of accessibility, visibility, and mission enhancement. With an effective online presence, the museum will continue to build an engaged audience.

New York Botanical Garden - Bronx, NY

Year: 2012

Amount: \$132,000

Grant: Museums for America - Engaging Communities

New York Botanical Garden's Everett Children's Adventure Garden opened in 1998 to teach children (aged seven to twelve) fundamental lessons in plant science. The garden has 12 acres of indoor and outdoor inquiry-based learning galleries, hands-on interactive exhibits, immersive natural environments, and programming. The New York Botanical Garden will conduct a detailed and comprehensive one-year evaluation study of the garden. The goals of the project include completing a thorough evaluation of the existing exhibit and landscape, researching the emerging theory that STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) experiences can occur in a nature play setting, and evaluating the effectiveness of proposed new exhibits and space design. The proposed project will serve three core audiences: parents/caregivers and their children, teachers and students, and teen docents.

Pennsylvania

Wagner Free Institute of Science - Philadelphia, PA

Year: 2012

Amount: \$111,987

Grant: Museums for America - Engaging Communities

Wagner Free Institute of Science's Science, Nature and Art in Philadelphia (SNAP) is an out-of-school science program for middle school students that aims to increase academic achievement, decrease youth involvement in delinquent behavior, and improve youth attitudes. The museum will incorporate many of the essential components of the Wagner's successful children's education programs for elementary school children but at a more complex level appropriate to middle school students. Planned activities involve standards-based, hands-on science activities and will require cooperative small-group work. Students will learn science process skills and will engage in learning activities that require different levels of structured critical thinking. The program will target the low-income community surrounding the museum, where many of the institute's current participants live.

Washington

Seattle Art Museum - Seattle, WA

Year: 2012

Amount: \$140,000

Grant: Museums for America - Engaging Communities

Grant funds will support the Seattle Art Museum Teen Programs, which serve approximately 1,825 teens. Teen Programs offers a continuum of involvement ranging from exposure experiences, workshops, and participation in a teen advisory group. The project is designed to engage teens and build confidence in their leadership abilities by creating teen-curated and facilitated programs. It includes outreach efforts to increase the number of teens participating to 2,500 and assessment and measurement tools to chart the impact of the program. This program is designed to increase the achievement of Seattle students.