WELCOME

our mission:
To spark a lifelong love of learning through the power of play.

This mission is realized through the enriching experiences that children have in the museum. All exhibits and programs are based on the principle of STEAM – Science Technology, Engineering Arts and Math together with social/emotional development and sensory development. Wonderscope helps develop the whole child and works to ensure that every child will be ready for school. We are an informal learning partner and resource while also being a regional attraction for Kansas City.

a note from roxane

Each day at Wonderscope, we open our doors to children and families and provide them with an opportunity to learn, grow and play. At the heart of what we do is play! We know that play is the universal language of children and essential in the development of each child’s brain. Play is the vehicle used by all children to learn.

All of us at Wonderscope are fortunate to work in an environment where our days are filled with the joy and laughter of young children. We have the wonderful opportunity to observe as they discover, explore and create their world. We hear the delight, and we see the wonder of their learning.

2016 was a big year for us! Renovations, new programs and more partners helped boost attendance and membership. We undertook several remodeling projects, including new paint and flooring in the main halls and each exhibit space. New programs and pop-up activities fueled excitement and spontaneity – and we welcomed more members and guests than ever before.

These improvements and activities are a direct result of your support and commitment to our mission to spark a lifelong love of learning through the power of play. Through grants, volunteers and other donations, you helped breathe life back into Wonderscope! As we move forward, we are committed to being a resource to our community, an informal learning partner as well as a regional attraction. We want to ensure that all children have the opportunity to learn and find success in school and beyond. We want our next generation to be the best that they can be.

Thank you for supporting our efforts, the next generation and our future leaders! Together, we can continue to make Kansas City a great place to live, work, learn and play.

Thank you for taking this journey with us – but we are not done yet…

Roxane Hill
Executive Director
2016 by the numbers

- **Museum Memberships** – 1,133
- **Total Attendance** – 68,072
- **School Field Trips** – 5,488 Children
- **Birthday Parties** – 2,772 Children

**Online Engagement » Share Your Experience**

- **1,383 Facebook Fans**
  - Follow @wonderscopemuseum
- **566 Twitter Followers**
  - Follow @wonderscopeKC
- **145 Instagram Followers**
  - Follow @wonderscopekc

New + Improved

In 2016, Wonderscope experienced renewed interest in our programs and exhibits thanks, in part, to new partnerships that jump-started over $150,000 in renovations and upgrades. Inside and out, the museum shines with new paint, flooring, outdoor awnings, planters and more.

- **All exhibits** were freshly painted, and the exhibits on the building’s east side received new solar blinds.
- **Farm to Market** – On April 1, the new market opened, and we added costumes and a beehive to the farm, completing this exhibit.
- **ARTWorks** – New Plexiglass child-height easels allow children to paint directly on their surface. And, new arts and crafts tables and chairs enhance the room’s functionality.
- **Tinkerspace** – Renovated with more space for different building materials.
- **H2oh Room** – A fishing pond together with a new water table with tubes and funnels are a huge hit!
- **Small Wonders** – Completely updated this space from paint to flooring to new equipment for pre-walkers, a fun caterpillar tunnel, a tree house, and rocking toys that are important for vestibular motion for brain development. New books, puzzles and many other fine motor activities make this a special place.
- **Wonder Gym** – We transformed the Underwater Sea Adventure into this gross motor exhibit with a climbing wall, slide, tunnels, hop scotch mat, and balance beams.
- **Reading Nook** – Everyone needs a little “down time,” and our new reading nook is just the place.
inspiring young minds

Starting in the summer, we launched programming to enhance the visitor experience and included it with admission:

• During the summer months, imaginary play was inspired by visits from a nurse and veterinarian. Gardeners led an outdoor garden program every Friday. Children enjoyed treasure hunts, searched for insects, and planted and harvested vegetables and herbs.

• We hosted a weekly cooking class just for kids.

• Since the summer programs were so well received, we added ongoing programs in the fall. Now Tuesday through Friday, we offer: Circle Time, Music and Movement, Art, and Storytime with a craft activity.

We also added “pop-up” activities, which occurred in the different exhibit spaces. For example, children were delighted with a picnic in the farm exhibit; they weighed and measured “babies” and “puppies” in the nursery and vet exhibits; played Lego matching games in Tinkerspace; and ran an obstacle course in the Wonder Gym.

WonderPalooza showcased entertaining musical guests and amazing children’s presentations. Allegro Children’s Choir and Miller Marley dancers performed together with our regular visitors, Mr. Stinky Feet and Fire Dog. Theatre for Young America also inspired young audiences.

Research shows that children acquire knowledge experientially through play, exploration and discovery.

Play is the vital activity that children use to learn about and interact with their world and gain the mental, physical and social skills necessary to succeed in their adult lives.

“Play is the highest form of research.”

– Albert Einstein

Research shows that children acquire knowledge experientially through play, exploration and discovery.
special friends

Operating in a retrofitted school building isn't always easy. Thanks to the generosity of these special businesses and foundations, Wonderscope created fulfilling experiences for families:

• Metro Air serviced our air conditioning units.
• Shaw Electric repaired several light fixtures throughout the museum.
• As part of an Eagle Scout project, a local Boy Scout troop built us a new reception desk.
• Five Lowe’s stores teamed up to help us renovate the museum. Their work included:
  • New art room sink
  • Freshly painted exhibit walls
  • Removed a wall in Tinkerspace so that it was more open for building activities
  • Updated utility room and added laundry facilities
  • New break room and conference room for staff use
• A.T. Switzer donated their services and equipment to paint the interior halls.
• HCA Midwest nurse and Fairway Animal Hospital vet visited during the summer to enhance children’s imaginary play.

GRANTS THAT ALLOWED MANY OF THESE CHANGES:

• Sunderland Foundation – flooring
• H & R Block Foundation – ARTWorks and H2oh
• Bank of America/US Trusts and Curry Family Foundation – Wonder Gym and solar blinds
• Mariner Foundation – new point of sale system
• Hudson Family Foundation – Small Wonders

let’s play and learn!

Frequent guest and board member Kate Kincaid-Longhauser shares why her family enjoys Wonderscope:

Q. Why does your family come to Wonderscope?
A. Because we love it! The kids can freely play and explore activities that help develop both their social and emotional development. As a mom, I feel relieved when we go. I know my kids are learning and growing through their pretend play, climbing, painting and building.

Q. How do your children react when you share that they are coming to Wonderscope?
A. When I let Nora and Jack know we are going to Wonderscope they truly throw their arms up in the air and yell “yeah” and proceed to ask what activities we will do. I love it! It makes me smile and melts my heart!

Q. What are your children’s favorite activities at the Museum?
A. It’s hard to name only a few. Nora enjoys ARTWorks. She likes to paint, color, glue and create her little masterpieces. She also loves the activities that require more gross motor skills, like the rock climbing wall. Jack, on the other hand, enjoys the Raceway. We build new tracks together and watch the balls race down them. He also loves the Farm where he can collect the hay bales, chicken eggs or pick vegetables from the garden.
major donors +
board of directors

**Major Donors**

$50,000+
- Hall Family Foundation
- Sunderland Foundation
- V&H Foundation

$25,000 to $49,999
- Hudson Foundation

$10,000 to $24,999
- Bank of America
- City of Shawnee
- Curry Family Foundation
- H&R Block Foundation
- Junior League of Kansas City
- Sam Price Foundation

Under $9,999
- ArtsKC
- Flynn Companies
- Mariner Financial
- MetroAir
- Muriel McBrien Kauffman Foundation
- Oppensteins Brothers Foundation
- Royals Charities

**2016 Officers**

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- Dan Zmijewski – Past Chair
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- Aaron Siders – Secretary
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- Betty Paulsell
- Independent Science Consultant
- Olga Pitenko
- Tikitu
- Ken Schoefer, LEED AP, DBIA
- Burns & McDonnell
- Sally Stanton
- Community Volunteer

**REVENUE**

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**NOTES ABOUT 2016**

**Revenue** – In 2016 we focused our efforts on securing funds to re-invest in the programs, exhibits and building of the museum. Over $150,000 was invested, primarily from foundation grants, to make improvements to the building and to all exhibits. We increased community and member outreach with programming and new elements.

**Expenses** – Expenses reflected the many upgrades made to the museum and the exhibits. We were successful in meeting the increased attendance by increasing staff while maintaining the budget.

+ Play is a critical path to those experiences that form a foundation for future learning.

+ To develop the area of the brain responsible for higher-order thinking, children need to have rich experiences that stimulate all of their senses.
Sparking a lifelong love of learning through the power of play.

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www.wonderscope.org