Science in Play2Go Returns to Kentucky Libraries
Celebrating 150 Years
Re-emerging from COVID
Donor Appreciation
Science in Play2Go Returns to Kentucky Libraries

Science in Play2Go, a travelling exhibit which encourages science learning through play for young children, opened in March in Kenton County after a two-year absence due to the pandemic. Over the course of the year, the exhibit traveled to four more Kentucky counties—Bath, Scott, McCracken, and Kenton.

Of those who visited, 99% of adult caregivers agreed that Science in Play2Go improved their child’s readiness for school. The adults noted in surveys that the exhibit helped them play and learn alongside their children, understand that play is a way to enhance learning, and helped them realize that learning opportunities are everywhere. One caregiver wrote, “I always thought school readiness meant knowing his ABCs, colors, numbers, things like that. I didn’t realize he was learning things he needed while he was playing.”

Teachers who brought field trip classes resoundingly praised Science in Play2Go, with 100% stating that the exhibit will improve their students’ ability to be successful. Over 53% of the teachers had never taken a field trip to the library before. Several noted opportunities to bring new ideas and activities into the classroom. “I loved the open-minded free play that allowed them to be creative and work together,” one teacher wrote, while another stated that the exhibit provided “opportunities to problem solve and let kids figure out on their own. They weren’t afraid to fail and try again!”
Supporters from around the state gathered in March 2022 to celebrate Kentucky Science Center’s sesquicentennial. Founded in 1871 as little more than a cabinet of curiosities inside the Public Library System of Kentucky, Kentucky Science Center has grown over the ensuing 150 years into a regional powerhouse of science learning and the State Science Center of Kentucky.

The 150th celebration was held at the Kentucky International Convention Center. Emmy-award winning journalist and news anchor Jean West served as the master of ceremonies, and the event was attended by over 250 community advocates, including Mayor Greg Fischer, Congressman John Yarmuth (KY-03), long-time donors, and corporate partners. After enjoying a variety of hands-on science activities during the cocktail hour, guests enjoyed a seated dinner and program that highlighted Kentucky Science Center’s decades of mission-driven work to advance science literacy and looked ahead to the major accomplishments just over the horizon for the organization.

Reflecting on the legacy of Kentucky Science Center in a Congressional Proclamation, Congressman Yarmuth remarked that “Kentucky Science Center has been an invaluable resource in advancing [STEAM education] for all who are lucky to pass through its doors, helping us prepare the next generation of leaders”.

Kentucky Science Center reached 100% of Kentucky Counties and 97% of Indiana Counties, impacting 45,885 counties through site programming and outreach.
Re-emerging from COVID

In FY2022, Kentucky Science Center saw a true resurgence in attendance at our Flagship location on Louisville’s Museum Row, a return to large in-person events and programming, and the refurbishment of a beloved Science Center icon.

Following two years of depressed attendance due to the COVID-19 pandemic, FY2022 finished strong with public admissions attendance of 144,303 – nearly double the FY2021 public admissions of 77,591. Guest reviews have also been positive, with one guest remarking: “Really great Science Center, my favorite one so far because my kiddo found so much to do here on all levels.” Another guest stated that they “expected our 9-month-old to be too young to enjoy the Science Museum, but he was full of wonder for hours.”

November 2021 saw the triumphant return of Kentucky Science Center’s regular Science Celebrations with Maker Days. These two-day, themed events give local STEAM professionals and regional businesses the chance to showcase their real-world experience and share valuable career information. Other celebrations followed, with Touch a Truck in May and Dog Days in June, each providing engaging programming for families, schools, and groups.

Lottie the triceratops had been a fixture in Kentucky Science Center’s parking lot throughout the 80’s and 90’s before moving offsite in 2007. However, the dinosaur, created in 1964 for the New York World’s Fair, needed repairs before she could be returned to public view. Thanks to generous donations, we were able to welcome this beloved community icon back with a new perch high above West Washington Street. More than 1500 guests joined us at our first annual Dino Days event to celebrate, and the Courier-Journal ran a lengthy story detailing Lottie’s history on the front page of the Business section.
4 SCIENCE CELEBRATIONS

- Maker Days
- Brain Days
- Engineering Days
- Dog Days

7,004 Attendees
37 Organization Partners

173,432 TOTAL VISITORS

- Field Trips 11,191
- Other Programs 17,938
- Public Admissions 144,303
### Donor Recognition July 1, 2021 - June 20, 2022

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- National Endowment for the Humanities
- PNC Foundation

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