Explora:
creating opportunities for inspirational discovery and the joy of lifelong learning through interactive experiences in science, technology and art.
The Explora Experience

Explora is a new kind of learning place, providing real experiences with real things that put people's learning in their own hands. Explora is part science center, part children's museum, part free-choice school, part grandma's attic, part grandpa's garage, part laboratory, part neighborhood full of interesting people, and part of many people's lives.

Currently, Explora serves more than 220,000 people a year, and presents over 2,700 educational programs to more than 75,000 students from 1,200 schools and organizations. Since 2004 Explora has provided over 10,500 Helping Hand memberships at no cost to families whose children qualified for free or reduced-price school lunches. Explora has collaborated on projects with more than 50 other organizations, including local non-profits, science centers and children's museums from around the country, universities, libraries, senior centers, and city community centers.

Explora is a place where families can get to know each other better, learn together, and share new experiences of the basic processes and materials investigated and used by science, technology and art. Explora's exhibit activities engage people of all ages with small-scale materials and equipment in personal spaces where family and friends can communicate comfortably with each other, manipulate a wide range of physical variables, and develop their own thinking about what they are experiencing.

"I have always loved this museum. I try to come here often. No matter how many times I come to visit, the museum still amazes me, and I learn something new. The best place to learn."
- Visitor's Comment

"Este lugar es uno de los mejores para los niños y adultos también."
- Visitor's Comment

"I think you have a wonderful place of learning for children of all ages. It’s fantastic. Thank you. I’ll have to bring my grandkids here someday."
- Visitor's Comment

"Your staff is wonderfully kind to us."
- Visitor's Comment

"We have a wonderful time every time we come. My kids rave that this is their first choice of places to visit. (I have 4 boys; it is one of the few things they agree on!) Thank you!"
- Visitor's Comment
Community Involvement

One of Explora’s core values is “Community.” We value the diverse community in which we live, and we strive to create an environment where everyone can feel a sense of comfort and belonging. This year Explora continued collaborations with local community organizations, expanded existing partnerships and initiated new ones.

Explora provided workshops for pre-service teachers through its ongoing partnership with the University of New Mexico’s College of Education. Explora also continued to provide Classroom Explorations and Theater Programs for Women and Creativity Month, and summer camp programs along the bosque, at the National Hispanic Cultural Center.

Explora staff worked with scientists from Sandia National Laboratories and with the Labs’ Native American Outreach Committee to prepare Sandia scientists to judge robotics competitions. Sandia National Laboratories also invited the Explora band to play at its Family Day this year.

In a new partnership with NM MESA, Explora developed the On-Site Science and On-Site Surprise challenges for the regional and state competitions. Explora educators traveled all over the state facilitating MESA workshops and competitions.

Explora continued to provide programs for the New Day Shelter, the Laguna Rainbow Center, Río Rancho Public Schools SAFE after-school programs, the Rotary Family Fun Fiesta, the NM Children, Youth and Families Department’s Adoption Exchange, Zia Solar Car Day organized by PNM, the Celebra la Ciencia Coalition, The Albuquerque Astronomical Society, and again Explora worked with KNME and Albuquerque Public Schools to provide Science Crawl.

Believing that everyone in our community should have the chance to participate in Explora and to contribute to the relationships we develop over time, this year Explora has provided over 2,300 Helping Hand memberships at no cost to low-income families in our community.
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Amanda Miera Colburn, Secretary

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**Board of Directors: Calendar Years 2008 and 2009**

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<td>Adelmo “Del” Archuleta</td>
<td>President Molzen-Corbin &amp; Associates 2008</td>
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<td>Randy Burge</td>
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<td>Recreation Coordinator Parks and Recreation Department Bernalillo County 2008, 2009</td>
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<td>Director Cultural Services Department City of Albuquerque 2008</td>
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<td>Bernadette Miera</td>
<td>Neighborhood Program Coordinator Bernalillo County 2009</td>
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<td>President Peacock Myers, P.C. 2009</td>
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<td>Max Ramirez</td>
<td>Member Representative Advisory Council Sawmill Neighborhood Association 2008, 2009</td>
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<td>J. Stephen Rottler</td>
<td>Vice President of Science and Technology Sandia National Laboratories 2008, 2009</td>
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<td>Rick Scott</td>
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<td>JoLou Trujillo-Ottino</td>
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<td>Pauline Gubbels</td>
<td>Former State Representative Albuquerque 2008, 2009</td>
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**Visitor’s Comments**

“Me encantó. Ojalá que cada ciudad tuviera algo así para los niños.”
- Visitor’s Comment

“We drove from Boulder, CO just to come here. Who needs Disneyland when you’ve got Explora? Thanks.”
- Visitor’s Comment
In May 2009 Explora purchased nine acres of nearby land for future development of its educational mission. Explora has set up a separate corporation to manage the property with financing separate from Explora’s operating budget. Over the next few years the board and staff of Explora will elaborate details of a long-term vision. At the heart of this new vision is a park-like complex of environmentally sustainable, small-scale educational facilities that form a place of lifelong learning for thousands of people of all ages.

Explora has developed a unique approach to science education that incorporates practices from many disciplines and institutions. Drawing on core values and pedagogy developed through Explora’s education and exhibits programs, Explora’s learning park will provide twenty-first century models of education for everyone. This new kind of learning place may advance the science of education through research by science education practitioners. It may develop new curriculum and educational materials, new models of educational exhibits and science education through the arts.

The learning park may host activities for Explora’s partnerships with science centers and educational institutions around the world, and for western hemispheric cooperation in informal science education. Utilizing all of its resources, it may provide professional development in science education, early childhood and caregiver education, a full-spectrum program focused on innovation in science, technology, engineering and math education for school-aged students, daytime and evening programs for working adults and seniors and for learning communities with shared, special interests.

Explora’s learning park will be a place where people of all ages and backgrounds go by choice to meet and talk and learn with others about matters of mutual interest, to meditate, to play, to think freely, to challenge each other, to experiment with new things and new ideas, to exercise mind and body; it will be a place that preserves and enhances our relationships with nature and culture, and with each other as thoughtful, curious and enthusiastic human beings for many generations of learners to come.
Explora’s 2008-2009 Guide to Educational Programs was distributed all over New Mexico and featured over 200 Classroom Explorations and Theater Programs, like “Get Your Motor Running,” in which students manipulate variables to improve the performance of handmade motors, and “Eratosthenes’ Shadow,” a theater performance that concludes with audience members going outside to take measurements to calculate the circumference of Earth. More than 75,000 students from 1,200 schools and organizations participated in programs this year.

Explora continued to offer Growing a Scientist™ for preschoolers and their adult caregivers and began the new Science to Grow On™ for students in kindergarten through third grade. The Home School Explorations series continued, as did the after-school club, Robo Task Force.

The Explora Theater opened two science plays this year. Thread of Life by Rita Nachtmann told the story of Rosalind Franklin’s role in the discovery of the DNA double helix, and Rain Dance by Lanford Wilson portrayed one tense night in Los Alamos as scientists awaited the results of the Trinity test. Both productions were well received by audiences and critics.

Many teachers, pre-service teachers and community center staff members participated in professional development at Explora. Explora continued its long-term partnership with Kirtland Elementary School, providing workshops for the faculty, ongoing programs for students, and peer mentoring between Explora educators and Kirtland teachers. Explora educators also provided monthly science workshops and materials kits to the after-school staff at the Rio Rancho Public Schools SAFE program.

Explora piloted the Growing a Scientist program statewide with early childhood educators from Santo Domingo Head Start, University of New Mexico Valencia Child Development Center and Shining Stars Preschool in Rio Rancho. Their educators attended multiple professional development workshops at Explora to learn how to facilitate the Growing a Scientist program for families in their communities. Explora provided the curriculum, materials kits, and one-on-one support for implementing the program at each site.

Explora educators also provided a series of four professional development workshops for scientists as part of the National Science Foundation-funded project Portal to the Public (PoP). After participating in the workshop series and developing activities related to their current work, these PoP scientists shared their activities with the public on the exhibit floor during weekend programs.
Statewide Outreach

Students in Carrizozo, Laguna, Roswell, Silver City, Grady, Gallup, Shiprock, Ruidoso, Cuba, Dexter, Hagerman, Tierra Amarilla, Las Vegas, Alamogordo and other towns greeted the “Explora en movimiento” vans as Explora educators arrived at their schools with experiential Classroom Exploration programs in both English and Spanish. Students and teachers expressed thanks for the opportunity to experience Explora’s programs in their own neighborhoods. A teacher from Lordsburg wrote, “I just wanted you to know the impact you made on the children’s lives. As we discuss different science concepts, they now have a quicker, more accurate grasp because of the hands-on activities you provided.”

Participation in annual events also continued. Explora educators facilitated science activities at Goddard Days in Roswell and at the New Mexico State Fair with the Celebra la Ciencia Coalition. Monthly programs were facilitated for the elders at the Laguna Rainbow Center, and weekly after-school science clubs were run at two Rio Rancho schools.

Explora also traveled exhibits to the Silver City Museum, G. W. Stout Elementary School in Silver City, Bradbury Science Museum in Los Alamos, Raton Museum, Truth or Consequences Library, Los Vecinos Community Center in Tijeras, Carver Public Library in Clovis and Octavia Fellin Public Library in Gallup. Visitors to Farmington’s E³ Children’s Museum and Science Center also continue to enjoy exhibits on long-term loan from Explora.

Seasonal Camps

Explora offered day camps during Albuquerque Public Schools’ winter, spring and summer vacations. More than 1,220 five- to fifteen-year-olds participated in these seasonal camp programs, and 110 Helping Hand scholarships were provided to interested low-income students. These camp programs, some of which were taught in Spanish, were developed by Explora educators and provided students time for extended inquiry into a variety of topics in science, technology and art.
Explora's Youth Intern Program prepares thirty high-achieving, low-income teens from local schools to facilitate educational science programs for younger children in their communities, directly affecting the lives of hundreds of younger children. The youth interns provide programs to students in various City of Albuquerque community center after-school programs, to large groups of all ages at local fairs and festivals and to family groups at Explora during the teens' weekend Adventures in Science programs.

Each youth intern is paired with an Explora staff member who serves as a mentor, supporting the student’s job skill development and helping the student enroll in higher education. The interns also have opportunities to participate in other unique projects, like the National Science Foundation-funded Learning Places, in which they worked with Explora's Exhibits Group to design and construct a mobile learning place for use on outreach. In another National Science Foundation-funded project, Science Firsthand, the interns are paired with working scientists to pursue investigations of mutual interest.

"The Youth Intern Program at Explora has helped me to become more open to new things and new experiences. When I taught my first program, I was terrified. The thought of getting up in front of a group was scary, but the more I did it, I realized I was having no real problems. Explora isn’t just learning experiences for children, but for anyone, no matter how old you are! Working with children and my peers has been a joyous, unforgettable experience. I wouldn’t trade it for anything.”

- Jeanette Arroyo, Youth Intern

"Explora is a great, fun place where I learn something new every day. I’ve been able to participate in so many exciting activities that Explora offers, like teaching “Acids and Bases” and going to St. Louis to visit another science center. The staff here is awesome and willing to help you all the time. It’s so fun to see people of all ages discover new things. I’m happy to have had this experience.”

- Carlos Perez, Youth Intern

"Being a youth intern is special to me, because you get to experience so many things with children and adults from 0-100. It’s fun experimenting with them, because it doesn’t matter how young or old you are, you WILL have fun at Explora. Also, I enjoy working with younger children in educational programs. I’ve met kids from my community and from all over the country, and it’s great seeing their expressions when they figure something out. And not only do the visitors learn from you, you learn from them.”

- Minerva Borunda, Youth Intern
Explora is committed to lifelong learning for everyone. It realizes this commitment through creating ever-expanding learning opportunities for people of all ages, backgrounds and economic conditions.

Explora’s exhibit activities are developed for repeated use by multigenerational family groups. Sixty-one percent of Explora’s member families visit these exhibits four or more times a year. Over 260 families visit 20 or more times a year. Nearly half of Explora’s memberships belong to low-income families.

Explora’s transactive exhibits and programs are grounded in fundamental human experiences with things like water, moving air, light, sound, gravity, chemical change, systems and motion. They are designed to accommodate multiple and unpredictable outcomes, so that everyone can experiment on the basis of their own thinking.

Family Science Nights provide opportunities for extended families to investigate Explora’s exhibit activities in a bilingual environment. Adult Nights give adults on their own the same opportunities. Explora’s multilingual staff and bilingual signage ensure that a family’s home language is a learning asset at Explora.

Explora continually strives to make its exhibits and programs available and accessible to the broadest possible range of people. Explora provides experiential learning opportunities ranging from exhibit and program activities for preschool children and their caregivers to a science club for elders, from practicums for college students to workshops for high school students, paraprofessionals, in-service teachers, museum professionals, and scientists from local corporations, Sandia National Labs and the University of New Mexico.

Explora communicates science through the arts. Explora’s band plays sing-along science songs at public events and for elementary schools. Explora produces classic, science-themed plays in its theater and provides after-school programs in technology-based, multimedia art.

Explora prepares teenaged interns to facilitate science with children and adults. Explora’s staff travels bilingual programs and exhibits to small communities all over the state. And at home, in its thoughtful building in Albuquerque, Explora maintains a place of learning where everyone can feel a sense of intellectual challenge, personal growth, comfort and belonging. Explora is a synergistic ensemble of science for all.

“We think that all the stuff here is amazing. We have never seen anything like it. We learned so much thanks to you! Thank you!”
- Visitor’s Comment

“Fantastic experience for kids and parents.”
- Visitor’s Comment

“This is the most wonderful place for all ages.”
- Visitor’s Comment

“We think that all the stuff here is amazing. We have never seen anything like it. We learned so much thanks to you! Thank you!”
- Visitor’s Comment

“Me gusta porque aprendo mucho”.
- Visitor’s Comment
Exhibits

This past year Explora opened a new exhibit area, *KneeHiSci – al aire libre/Outdoors*. This area provides little ones and their families a special place for outdoor investigations. Young visitors can experiment with pendulum behavior, explore water pressure, and sift through soil to discover and examine elements from nature.

The Exhibits Group also was busy prototyping new exhibit activities for *Agua de la vida; La vida del agua/Water of Life; Life of Water*. Understanding and appreciating the special characteristics of water is especially important here in New Mexico. That is why Explora is committed to redeveloping water exhibit activities about every five years, to give visitors new opportunities to add breadth and depth to their experiences with water.
Early Science Learning

Science learning starts at any age, but the future is waiting for our youngest learners. Explora develops exhibits and programs to engage the activity, perception, imagination and thought of children beginning to explore and understand the world.

All of Explora’s exhibits, along with music and stories, are reserved for Toddler Time every Monday morning. Programs like Growing a Scientist support young children and caregivers in learning to investigate science with ordinary things in their neighborhoods and kitchens. Explora has begun a pilot project to provide professional education workshops, curriculum and materials for early childhood learning centers around New Mexico.

An outdoor area for knee-high science has joined the recently redeveloped indoor space that emphasizes science learning activities for preschool children and their caregivers. These areas contain activities of sufficient scope and creative possibility to also stimulate the interest and curiosity of grandparents, parents, aunts, uncles, cousins and friends.

This scope of engagement encourages children and adults to become collaborative partners in learning science. Explora tries to have things for young children to do everywhere, and to develop exhibits that, because of their wide range of manipulative possibilities, adapt to children as they grow. Through its exhibits and programs, Explora is working toward an educationally rich and supportive future for our youngest learners.
“What a fabulous place! The children (and adults) of New Mexico are so lucky to have a wonderful, playful, educational museum like this. I want to make a duplicate and send it to Montana so the children there can learn just like the kids in NM can learn. Thank You.”
- Visitor’s Comment

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“Gracias por ofrecer un lugar creativo y educativo para todos nuestros hijos”.
- Visitor’s Comment

“I love Explora! It is so much fun to watch children as they ‘get it’—especially when we have been coming for years—I can really see the growth. Thank you for the inspiration!”
- Visitor’s Comment

Explora is a private nonprofit organization operating in a unique private/public partnership with the City of Albuquerque.

Explora es una organización privada no lucrativa operando en asociación privada/pública única con la Ciudad de Albuquerque.
"I have lived in 14 cities in the last 10 years, so I am a kids' museum expert. Explora is by far the best. Everyone has fun, and everyone learns!"
- Visitor's Comment

"¡Perfecto!".
- Visitor's Comment

"Thanks. This is a very EDUCATIONAL and fun place to be at with my friends and family! I can’t wait to come back!"
- Visitor's Comment

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"This has been the best hands-on museum my family and I have ever been to. Your staff does a wonderful job. Congratulations."
- Visitor's Comment

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"Es un lugar muy divertido no importa la edad".
- Visitor's Comment

"As a grandparent, I could not be more impressed with the variety of exhibits to stimulate the minds of children. Wish we had something like this in Los Angeles."
- Visitor's Comment
**Individual Donors**

Explora is fortunate to have the support of many families and individuals both within and beyond New Mexico's borders. Our thanks to the following contributors for their financial support:

Betsy Adamson  
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Memorial funds and gifts support Explora's mission in memory of family and friends.

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- Peter Froning Memorial Fund
- Thames H. Wedgewood Memorial Fund

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“Amazing—wonderful. Stimulating to the imagination of children young and old. Thank you for such a wonderful place!”

- Visitor's Comment

“Amazing—wonderful. Stimulating to the imagination of children young and old. Thank you for such a wonderful place!”

- Visitor's Comment

“Amazing—wonderful. Stimulating to the imagination of children young and old. Thank you for such a wonderful place!”

- Visitor's Comment

“I honestly think Explora is amazing. I always learn something! I have an awesome time, even though I’m a teenager.”

- Visitor's Comment
The Galileo Society was established by the Board of Directors of Explora to recognize and honor those who make a significant financial contribution to Explora of $25,000 or more.

The Galileo Society is named for Galileo Galilei, who was born in 1564, the same year as Shakespeare, and who died in 1642, the year Isaac Newton was born.

Galileo, a mathematician, astronomer, physicist and philosopher, was the founder of modern experimental science. His contributions to science and understanding of the physical universe changed the world forever.

The da Vinci Society was established by the Board of Directors of Explora to recognize and honor those who make a significant financial contribution to Explora of $100,000 or more.

The da Vinci Society is named for Leonardo da Vinci, who was born in 1452 and who became the icon of the Renaissance.

Da Vinci, a scientist, engineer and artist, made contributions to sculpture, painting, anatomy, physiology, medicine, natural history, optics, acoustics, astronomy, botany, geology, hydraulics and mathematics.

The Galileo Society and the da Vinci Society recognize those who help bring scientific understanding and the diversity of human experiences in science, technology and art to our community and its families.

**Galileo Society**

Louis and Stacy Abruzzo  
Don and Dianne Chalmers  
Kay Collins  
Jim and Geri Cramer  
Gertrude Dazzo  
Leonard and Patricia Duda  
Jane and Michael Flax  
Matt and Pauline Gubbels  
H. B. and Lucille Horn  
William and Jan Keleher  
Robert A. Levin  
Mike and Donna Mullane  
Bob and Betsy Murphy  
Deborah Peacock and Nathan Korn  
Elizabeth R. Quinn  
Jack and Donna Rust  
Betty Sabo  
Larry D. Willard

**da Vinci Society**

Don and Dianne Chalmers  
Matt and Pauline Gubbels  
Deborah Peacock and Nathan Korn  
Elizabeth R. Quinn
Statement of Finances

Explora dollar allocations for the fiscal year 2008-2009 from audited year-end financial reports.

### Revenues

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Earned Income*</td>
<td>$1,729,367</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foundation Grants</td>
<td>$93,700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corporate Gifts and Grants</td>
<td>$184,182</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contributions</td>
<td>$119,404</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Local, State and Federal Government</td>
<td>$1,706,424</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Revenue</strong></td>
<td>$3,833,077</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Includes program fees, admissions, memberships, rentals and store sales

### Functional Expenses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Exhibits</td>
<td>$488,003</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Programs</td>
<td>$1,428,036</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Operations</td>
<td>$1,240,090</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General and Administrative Costs</td>
<td>$775,107</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Expenses</strong></td>
<td>$3,931,236</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Net</strong></td>
<td>($98,159)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Year-End Operating Cash and Cash Equivalents** $850,543

**Includes temporarily and permanently restricted fund balances
Volunteers

Volunteers have been an integral part of Explora since its inception. Currently volunteers can be found in every work group, helping visitors enjoy the exhibits or assisting educators in the labs and in the theater. They work behind the scenes, building and repairing exhibits and providing support in the administrative and external relations offices. Volunteer efforts continue to thrive in the Portal to the Public community scientist program as well as in theater productions.

This year 214 volunteers have donated 14,681 hours to Explora. Some of our volunteers are students from service learning programs at Central New Mexico Community College, the University of New Mexico, Colorado College and many Albuquerque area high schools. Explora has active volunteers associated with Youth Development, Inc., the City of Albuquerque Retired and Senior Volunteer Program, the local section of the American Chemical Society, and ARCA. Explora is very appreciative and proud to have such strong support from our community.

“¡A mí y a mis hijos nos gustó mucho!”
- Visitor’s Comment

“Thank you for your friendly volunteers and staff.”
- Visitor’s Comment

Explora has made every effort to list our donors and volunteers accurately and in the manner requested. We regret any errors that inadvertently may have been made and would appreciate receiving any corrections or comments. Please contact us by calling the Development and External Relations Director at 505.224.8364.

Robyn Admire
Carlos Aldridge
Kristy Aldridge
Cynthia Alfiniti
Donivan Alley
Andrea Ambrosini
Adrienne Appello
Jessica Aragon
Nathan Araiza
Rebekah Aranda
Adelmo “Del” Archuleta
Steve Armbrecht
Alan Armijo
Amaal Bahraq
Shana Baker
Sean Barre
Augusta Barron
Toney Begay
Mel Bernstein
Marge Bernstein
Justin Bleta
Jason Brown
Penny Brown
Ian Burch
Randy Burge
Michael Cadigan
Vanessa Calzada
Malynda Cappelle
Elizabeth Cardiel
This was such an awesome experience. The workers and employees are very nice, patient and helpful. We wish there was a place like this in all cities throughout the U.S. Keep up the great work! From young to old . . . we all had fun and learned!

- Visitor’s Comment

“A love science, so Explora rocks. You make me happy.”

- Visitor’s Comment