¡explora!

Annual Report
July 2011 - June 2012
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 234,000 people a year, and presents over 2,500 educational programs to more than 72,000 students from schools and other organizations. Since 2004 Explora has provided over 18,900 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.
Community Involvement

Explora values the numerous collaborations fostered with local community organizations to create engaging learning experiences for people of all ages in science, art and technology. Explora strives to expand its existing partnerships as well as develop new ones. This year, one of our new partnerships was with the University of New Mexico Service Corps, in which university students worked alongside Explora educators to learn about our inquiry-based pedagogy and assisted with a number of programs, including after-school clubs.

Explora collaborated with other organizations in our community to provide programs and activities for: Celebraron la Cienta at the New Mexico State Fair; Cuidando los Niños; KNME Science Café; The New Mexico Children, Youth and Families Department’s Adoption Exchange; Youth Development, Inc. (YDI); Growing Up Thinking Scientifically (GUTS); New Pathways; Bear Canyon Senior Center; Corrales Community Library; OASIS for lifelong learners over 50; ABQ-GED; and more. We also worked with 516 Arts and ISEA2012: Machine Wilderness, the International Symposium on Electronic Art, held in Albuquerque, in which artists in residence worked with Explora youth interns to create mural projects that combined traditional art with an augmented-reality phone application.

Explora hosted a number of organizations and special events, including PNM Zia Solar Car Day; Explora Adult Nights with The Albuquerque Astronomical Society (TAAS) and the HAM radio operators; TAAS’s Telescope Amnesty Day; Teacher Open House; KNME Science Crawl for middle school students; and events with the Museum Cooperative Council, United Way, and Life Roots. For Women and Creativity Month, Explora once again collaborated with the National Hispanic Cultural Center to provide weekend educational programs and theater programs. Explora also worked with the American Chemical Society and its local chapter to provide hands-on activities for National Chemistry Week.

One of Explora’s core values is community. We make great efforts to provide opportunities for all New Mexicans, including low-income families, to access quality learning experiences. This year, we provided over 3,200 no-cost Helping Hand family memberships to welcome these families into the Explora educational community.

“I really love Explora. It is one of my favorite places.”
- Visitor’s Comment
Many teachers and early childhood care providers participated in Explora’s professional development opportunities this year. Teachers in the Albuquerque Public Schools Indian Education Department, at Juan de Oñate Elementary in Gallup, at G.W. Stout Elementary in Silver City, at Santa Fe Community College, and at the Early Childhood Learning Center in Las Vegas all participated in workshops on teaching inquiry science. Explora educators also presented science education sessions at the National Conference on Common Core State Standards and at the Association of Science-Technology Centers annual conference.

Early childhood care providers looking for ways to fulfill required training hours now have a new option. This year Explora was certified by the UNM Continuing Education Cariño Training and Technical Assistance Program in three early childhood education competency areas: Learning Environment and Curriculum Implementation; Child Growth, Development and Learning; and Professionalism. Explora began offering science-rich workshops that fulfill 1.5 required early childhood training hours. Each workshop takes an inquiry approach to learning and involves every participant in active exploration of physical materials that can be applied immediately in their classroom settings. The early childhood care providers investigated the nature of light in a program called "Crazy Light," discovered qualities of the forest through digging in the soil in "Ecology of the Forest," and explored art/science connections by using pigments to make their own paints in "Pigments of Your Imagination." One participant commented, "I've learned many new things that I can now pass on to the children I work with in science/art."

Another new venture this year was the Explora Teacher Professional Development Initiative, in partnership with Intel. Over spring break, teachers from all over the state attended a workshop at Explora, where they participated in "How to Put on a Science Fair" trainings and met local STEM stakeholders. This teacher professional development initiative provides New Mexico teachers with intensive training and follow-up mentoring to build their capacities for providing inquiry-based STEM experiences and to increase the number of underrepresented...
students with access to science fair competitions and similar learning experiences. One teacher wrote, "Great experience! It was really fun to learn about all the ways I can incorporate inquiry learning in my class—it really helped shift my paradigm on how I think about science and what I can do to make these experiences happen in my classroom." This project is ongoing, and long-term relationships are being built between participating teachers and Explora educators.

Explora was excited to continue its participation in the National Science Foundation-funded project, Girls RISE (Raising Interest in Science and Engineering) Museum Network. This project, led by the Miami Science Museum, builds a national alliance of science centers committed to strengthening the professional capacity of informal science educators to engage girls in science and engineering. Explora serves as a regional hub for the project, and Explora educators hosted a professional development workshop for science center professionals throughout our region. The workshop engaged these educators in program development that considers girls’ prior experiences and cultures in efforts to create programming that initiates and maintains girls’ interest in science and engineering studies and careers.

Utilizing a 'train the trainers' approach, Explora worked with staff at Santa Fe Community College and the New Mexico Public Education Department. This professional development enabled college staff to train and mentor their students as they facilitated high-quality science and engineering activities in after-school programs for younger students.

Explora continued workshops for local scientists to prepare presentations and hands-on activities that demonstrate their work to visitors in Explora’s Portal to the Public (PoP) project. PoP began as a NSF-funded three-year collaborative project in 2008, and Explora has continued this award-winning project locally, engaging Albuquerque-area scientists in face-to-face interactions with public audiences in unique and effective ways. Explora is grateful to our PoP scientists for taking the time to engage with our community about the science happening right here in New Mexico.
Explora Serves New Mexico
Reaching out to schools and communities

Communities Served by Explora
January 2004 – June 2012

- Experienced Programs at Explora
- Explora Program Outreach Sites
- Explora Exhibit Outreach Sites
Education

This year school groups from all over the state participated in Explora’s Exhibit Explorations and classroom programs, like "Play Ball!," in which students used flexible tracks and a variety of balls to make discoveries about the effect of mass on collisions and the ways to affect velocity, and "Water on the Move," in which students designed, built and tested aquifer models to track contaminants, water tables and well levels. Explora educators provided over 2,500 educational programs to more than 72,000 students this year and have served all 33 New Mexico counties and 95% of New Mexico’s school districts. We saw groups from as far away as Grady, Las Cruces, Farmington, Dulce, Cimarron, Alamagordo, Zuni, the Navajo Nation, Abiquiu, Vanderwagen, Lumberton, Quemado and many more. Students even visited Explora from El Paso and Amarillo, Texas; Durango, Colorado; Ganado, Chinle and Window Rock, Arizona; and even Minto, Alaska!

When students couldn’t get to us, we traveled to them. Explora provided outreach education programs to schools in Taos, Farmington, Gallup, Espanola, Roswell, Jemez, Kirtland, Silver City, Las Cruces, Grants and Santa Fe. Explora also facilitated activities at the Corrales Community Library; the Laguna Rainbow Center; Children’s Day at the Mexican Consulate, the New Mexico State Fair, and the American Indian Science and Engineering Society Science Fair. Explora educators also served as judges at the Central NM Science and Engineering Research Challenge, a local Home School Science Fair, and the Manzano Day School Science Fair. Students from NM MESA’s western region participated in Explora workshops on designing boats, bridges and cars in preparation for the statewide MESA Day competition.

Additionally, Explora continued to offer many popular semester-long programs, like Growing a Scientist™ for preschoolers and their adult caregivers and Science to Grow On™ for students in kindergarten through third grade. Explora continued its Home School Explorations series for students in kindergarten through eighth grade and Robo Task Force for students in the third through seventh grade, and for the first time ever, Explora’s robotics club entered the international RoboRAVE competition. Explora continued its commitment to providing full-length, science-themed plays with its production of Radium Girls by D. W. Gregory.

Explora collaborated with the APS Title I program to provide Family Science Nights at Explora for families attending Title I, Provision 2 schools. These special evenings provided students, teachers, principals and the students’ extended families the opportunity to investigate Explora’s exhibit activities in a safe, bilingual environment.

"A wonderful day of science for the class and myself. It gave me some great ideas!"

- Teacher’s Comment
Explora’s Board of Directors

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"Explora is a great place to visit. We include it on every trip to Albuquerque. Thank you for always making it a great experience!"
- Visitor’s Comment

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"¡Me encanta! I am happy that you guys are doing a great job!"
- Visitor’s Comment
Youth Intern Program

Hundreds of young children and their families were directly affected this year by the work of Explora’s thirty teen interns. The Youth Intern Program prepares high-achieving, low-income teens to educate elementary school children through programs in science, technology and art. After working with Explora educators to learn several Classroom Explorations, the youth interns provided these explorations to students in City of Albuquerque after-school programs, to students at Alice King Community School, and to family groups at Explora during the teens’ weekend Adventures in Science programs. The teens also contributed to our community by facilitating activities at the Carnuel Parade and Fiesta, Cosmic Carnival, Lockheed Martin/Sandia National Labs’ New Mexico Hydrogen Fuels Challenge, South Valley Pride Day, and the City of Albuquerque Summerfest.

An Explora staff member is assigned to every youth intern to serve as a mentor, supporting the student’s job performance and helping the student enroll in higher education. Mentors accompanied interns on a trip to the Grand Canyon and Flagstaff, Arizona this year, where interns had their first camping experience and visited local universities and museums. The interns’ work was celebrated this spring during a ceremony marking the passage of new interns into the program and of seniors graduating on to college.

“The Youth Intern Program let me meet new people…and I learned a lot of science I wouldn’t have been able to learn in school. Being around children every time I work and teaching classes makes my day that much brighter. I’ve learned how to work with kids of all ages and have in mind being a teacher.”

- Liz Nevarez, Youth Intern

“The Youth Intern Program allowed me to really get out of my comfort zone around people. I’ve had to force myself to interact in different ways. I’ve learned how to work with kids and how to facilitate well on the exhibit floor.”

- Keaton Sheppard, Youth Intern

“The internship allowed me to gain actual work experience and polished my social skills through facilitation in the museum. At first I was nervous to walk around the museum and talk to people I didn’t know, but now I’ve learned to communicate well with various kinds of people.”

- Helen Yeap, Youth Intern

“Amazing as always. Very helpful and knowledgeable staff. Thank you!”

- Visitor’s Comment

“What a wonderful place to spend an afternoon! Very kid-friendly. Can’t wait to try some of these activities at home and school! Thank you.”

- Visitor’s Comment
Exhibits

This past year, Explora opened a new exhibit area, *Math Moves/Movidas matemáticas!* This area was developed as part of a National Science Foundation-funded project, in which Explora collaborated with three science centers and two research organizations: the Science Museum of Minnesota, Museum of Life and Science in North Carolina, Museum of Science in Boston, the Center for Research in Mathematics and Science Education at San Diego State University, and Technical Education Resource Centers (TERC) in Massachusetts.

*Math Moves/Movidas matemáticas!* features exhibit activities that help visitors of all ages build experiential familiarity with the pre-algebra concepts of ratio and proportion. The exhibits offer opportunities for visitors to physically explore these math concepts with their bodies and senses. This personal exploration provides a physical understanding of math ideas on which visitors can build. Among these new exhibit activities, for example, visitors can use building blocks to scale shapes in three dimensions, compare a partner’s linear motion on a graph, listen to the variation of clicking frequencies of spinning disks, use weights to test different ratios for balancing a number of objects, and much more.

As part of the NSF grant, over the next year and a half, researchers will conduct an ongoing evaluation of the *Math Moves/Movidas matemáticas!* group of exhibits at the collaborating science centers in an effort to learn more about the exhibits’ long-term effectiveness. With the help of selected visitors, researchers will investigate how middle school students, specifically, and their families interact with these math exhibits over time.

"Wow! As ASTC members we have been to lots of museums around the nation. This is the best one we’ve been to, by far! The ability to be creative in discovery makes it a step above! Thank you so much for the superb exhibits!"
- Visitor’s Comment
Explora strives to continue to refine and improve learning opportunities for visitors through evaluating exhibit activities at all phases, from the initial concept through prototyping and fabrication. Further research and evaluation often occurs after installation as well. Explora’s in-house exhibit design and fabrication team members offer their early full-scale prototypes for testing by staff members, and further developed prototypes then undergo observed visitor and staff testing on the exhibit floor.

Explora exhibit developers were busy this year developing and prototyping exhibit activities for a new area called Light, Shadow, Color/Luz, sombra, color. Several of these exhibit activities opened in June 2012, and the full exhibit area opened in August 2012. These exhibit activities enable visitors to experiment with some of the unique properties of light. Visitors can mix colored lights and change the apparent colors of objects, explore fiber optics and transmit light around corners, investigate refracting light with different lenses, and experiment with moving shadows. These activities with light, optics, color and perception offer insight into principles of physics, math and biology.

"A very enjoyable place full of discovery and wonder. A lot learned from your exhibits. Thank you and job well done!"
- Visitor’s Comment

"We had a great family experience!"
- Visitor’s Comment

"With some museums you go to, things are all too simple, and with others everything is too complex. Here things are just right, everything is intriguing!"
- Visitor’s Comment

"A very enjoyable place full of discovery and wonder. A lot learned from your exhibits. Thank you and job well done!"
- Visitor’s Comment
"Had a wonderful day with my dad and brother. We were blinded ... by science! Thanks for making a place for all of us."
- Visitor’s Comment

"Love it! The kids get to explore and use their imagination. It’s so great. Thankful Explora is in our city."
- Visitor’s Comment

"We love Explora! Thanks, NM."
- Visitor’s Comment

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Explora es una organización privada no lucrativa operando en asociación privada/pública única con la Ciudad de Albuquerque.
Corporate Partners

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"Que mis hijos se divierten mucho
y les encanta este lugar. Y que ellos
se van bien contentos para mi casa".
- Visitor’s Comment

"Explora is the BEST! We come from Denver every spring break to
your museum. We have visited many science museums in the US and
many other countries, but nothing comes close to what you offer here
as far as the hands-on exhibits are concerned!! We love you!!"
- Visitor’s Comment
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Urban Enhancement Trust Fund of the City of Albuquerque
United Way of Central New Mexico Community Fund

“It was great to see all students learning and having fun.”
- Teacher’s Comment

“The children were very attentive and involved with the materials. They were very excited as new materials came out. Many wanted to be scientists when they grow up. Thank you. We really appreciate your outreach program. Many of our children would not have this opportunity without you coming to us.”
- Teacher’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:

17 anonymous donors
Betsy Adamson
Natalie Adolph and Andrew McDowell
Steve Armbricht
Robert G. Armstrong
Ron Beauchamp and Cecilia Navarrete
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Shu-Fong Yu and Kenny Wang
Andy and Liz Zucker

Memorials

Memorial funds and gifts support Explora’s mission in memory of family and friends.

Memorial Funds

Alan C. Buck Memorial Fund
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Edith Perkins Menning Memorial Fund
Thames H. Wedgegood Memorial Fund
Eric Andrew Youngberg Memorial Fund

Memorial Gifts

Gift in memory of Aida Alva Gerdes
Gifts in memory of Vidal Oaxaca
Gifts in memory of Bill Reuler
Gift in memory of Robbie Robledo

“This is a fabulously beautiful place for both children and adults. Thank you very much!”
- 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 Galileo Society recognizes those who help Explora bring scientific understanding to our community and its families.

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 da Vinci Society recognizes those who help Explora bring the diversity of human experiences in science, technology and art to our community and its families.

New da Vinci Society members, Donna and Mike Mullane

"It showed us how exciting science can be and was a great spark for extended learning in our class."
- Teacher’s Comment

"I love it here so much I want to scream!"
- Visitor’s Comment

**Galileo Society**
Louis and Stacy Abruzzo
Adelmo "Del" and Rebecca Archuleta
Don and Dianne Chalmers
Kay Collins
Jim and Geri Cramer
Gertrude Dazzo
Leonard and Patricia Duda
Jane and Michael Flax
Dee and Ruth Friesen
Matt and Pauline Gubbels
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William and Jan Kelcher
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
Paul Tatter
Larry D. Willard

**da Vinci Society**
Don and Dianne Chalmers
Kay Collins
Matt and Pauline Gubbels
Mike and Donna Mullane
Deborah Peacock and Nathan Korn
Elizabeth R. Quinn
"It allowed students to put experience behind words. It’s more meaningful. Thank you!"
- Teacher’s Comment

"Awesome Awesome Awesome. There is so much to do. My wife and I had as much fun as the kids."
- Visitor’s Comment

"Explora is the BEST MUSEUM IN THE WORLD!!!"
- Visitor’s Comment

Statement of Finances

Explora dollar allocations for the fiscal year 2011-2012 from audited year-end financial reports.

### Revenues

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<th>Description</th>
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<td>Earned Income*</td>
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<td>Foundation Grants</td>
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<td>Corporate Gifts and Grants</td>
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<td>Local, State and Federal Government</td>
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<td>Total Revenue</td>
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*Includes program fees, admissions, memberships, rentals and store sales

### Functional Expenses

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<tr>
<td>Exhibits</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Expenses</td>
<td>$3,483,671</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net</td>
<td>($92,032)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Year-End Operating Cash and Cash Equivalents** $463,290

**Includes temporarily and permanently restricted fund balances
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 Volunteer Coordinator at 505.224.8362.

**Volunteers**

Volunteers are an integral part of Explora. Currently volunteers can be found in every work group, whether they are helping visitors enjoy the exhibits, assisting educators in the labs or taking part in theater explorations. Sometimes they work behind the scenes, providing support for facilities, exhibits, or the administrative and external relations offices.

This year 220 volunteers have donated 16,598 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, South Valley Academy, Amy Biehl High School, Rio Grande High School and other local high schools. Other volunteers include local scientists in the Portal to the Public program, and local actors in Explora theater productions.

Explora has active volunteers associated with Youth Development, Inc., the City of Albuquerque Retired and Senior Volunteer Program, ARCA, and the City of Albuquerque Job Mentor Program. Explora is very appreciative and proud to have such strong support from our community.

**Volunteers**

Marc-Aver Accilien  
Alexis Alire  
Ricky Alire  
Donivan Alley  
Andrea Ambrosini  
Suraiya Amershi  
Adrienne Appello  
Adelmo "Del" Archuleta  
Steve Armbrecht  
Alan Armijo  
Genaro Arzate  
Matthew Atencio  
Laisha Avila  
Karen Ayala  
Julia Baca  
Diana Balakrishnan  
John C. Barber  
Lena Baxley  
Michael Bernauer  
Cliff Bieberman
Nathan Bockisch
Ted Borek
Mandisa Bradley
Jason Brown
Marlene Brown
Samantha Brown
Randy Burge
Andrew Caloca
Malcolm Carroll
Christopher Chase
Charles Chavez
Amanda Miera Colburn
Ken Cole
Marta Cooperstein
Noah Cooperstein
Kainoa Correa
Carlos Cox
Maria Cruz
Samuel Cruz
Erica da Silva Miranda
Linda Dailleboust
Mary Jo Daniel
Polly Davis
Ellis Dawson
Rubin De La Rue
Patrick DeBonis
Dave Dell
Sara desJardins
Adam Dickson
Brian Drinville
Len Duda
Samsara Durvasula
Sandra Faust
Lailah Fischer
Jane Flax
Tom Foley
Sulema Frias
Pearlarcola Fryar
Moises Gabaldón
Catalina Gallagher
Arlene Gallegos
Diego Gallegos
Rudy García
Rey Garduño
Duane Gasper
Marla Gavurnik
Jane Geist
Jim Gill
Caitlin Goss
Pauline Gubbels
David Haaland
Erica Harcum
Julie Heinrich
Tim Hendry
Robin Marshment Henry
Bernadette Hernandez-Sanchez
David Hsi
Stephen Jett
Rocki Jian
Patrick Johnson
Dennis Jontz
Robert Jung
Hannah Kesner
Benjamin Keyohara
Richard Kominowski
Roger Kramer
Joel Krukar
Michael Lathrop
Diane Lidke
Teresa Longo
Katherine Looney
Miguel Angel Santillanes López
Taña Lowden
Shalini Low-Nam
Helen Lund
Caleb Mackey
Evangeline Mackey
Thomas Mackey
Jeffrey Mahn
Elijah Maldonado
Jerry Manzanares
Kayleigh Marcilla
Augustine Marquez
Asia Martin
Elijah Martinez
Rachel McCallister
Ashley McGinley
Bernadette Miera
Joel D. Miller
Raven Montoya
Michael Mortimer
Carol Musrey
Stephen Myers
Christine Newville
Melissa Ober
Larry O’Hanlon
Debbie O’Malley
Isaac Ortiz
Rebecca Otero
Tito Pacheco
Olga Park
Howard Passell
Kajal (Nimika) Patel
Deborah Peacock
Ashley Peck
Clara Perez
Phillip Perez
Curtis Peters
Kaylyn Peters
Leslie Phinney
Maggie Ramirez
Marissa Reno
Will Ribbons
Angie Rios
Beatriz "Betty" Rivera
Jesse Rivera
Darren Romero
Louis Romero
J. Stephen Rottler
Joan Rueckhaus
Kenneth Ruthardt
Siena Sanderson
Joe Sandoval
Janice Saxe
Jayson Schreffler
Fred Schwab
Samantha Schwartz
Rick Scott
Alina Shelly
Kenneth Shepard
Malcolm Siegel
Joe Sievert
Tom Sittler
Donavon Smith
Mark Smith
RoseAna Snow
Rob Sorensen
Ann Sosman
Barry Spletzer
Erik Spoerke
Otto Stangl
Beth Stelle
Gary Stone
Larry Sur
Kim Tackett
Ethan Temple
Vince Tidwell
Sasha Tiernan
Evelyn Tinkham
DesiRay Torrez
Wayne M. Trott
Tiffany Trujillo
JoLou Trujillo-Ottino
Jeff Tsao
Leena Vallejos
Alexander Van Sant
Cecelia Venuk
Jenette Vigil
Daniel Weeks
Kyle West
Austin White
Kristin Wilde
Josephine Wilkes
Carl Willis
Brad Winter
Adam Wise
Aaron Wynn
Ann-Marie Yaroslaski
Reiko Yazzie
Rebecca Ziegler

“Esta muy bien divertido y al gusto de los niños y de grande también. Se divierte mucho. Es la verdad”.
- Visitor’s Comment

“I like Explora so much I smiled big.”
- Visitor’s Comment
Explora:
creating opportunities
for inspirational discovery and
the joy of lifelong learning
through interactive experiences
in science, technology and art.