



Fact Sheet

The mission of Providence Children's Museum is to inspire learning through active play and exploration. The Museum creates and presents interactive exhibits designed to meet the developmental needs of children ages one to 11.

Providence Children's Museum is a private non-profit organization governed by a volunteer Board of Directors whose policies are administered by a professional staff of 30.

Rhode Island's only museum for children, their families and teachers opened to the public in 1977 in Pawtucket where it operated for 20 years.

In October 1997, after having completed a \$3 million capital campaign, the Children's Museum opened its new, much larger, quarters in Providence's jewelry district. Over a million children and adults have visited the Museum in its South Street location.

In 2009, the Museum welcomed more than 167,000 visitors. Audience studies show that more than one-third of all Rhode Island children and over 20 percent of all children within a 30-mile radius visit the Museum at least once a year.

The Museum welcomes parents as active participants in their children's learning, works with teachers to develop programs that support school curricula, and partners with childcare providers to promote quality out-of-school time.

The Board of Directors is committed to ensuring the Museum is accessible —physically, financially and culturally —to all children. Discounts for schools, ample opportunities for free admission and grant-funded programs for special audiences keep the Museum affordable.

Families Together, a nationally acclaimed partnership with RI Department of Children, Youth and Families, provides positive shared experiences for court-separated families. Families Together was a finalist for the prestigious Innovations in American Government Award of the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University and has been honored with the Association of Children's Museum's Promising Practice Replication Award.

Providence Children's Museum is an AmeriCorps site. AmeriCorps members implement Museum programs for underprivileged children in partnership with Head Start and inner city community centers.

Students from colleges and universities from throughout New England and beyond earn academic credit or work/study funds through internships at the Museum.

The Museum has a 2010 operating budget of \$1.8 million. Forty percent of that is earned through admission and program fees, membership dues and gift shop sales. The balance is contributed by businesses, individuals and foundations and through government grants and special events.

In 2010 the Museum completed the Play Works Campaign, successfully raising \$1.5 million for capital projects, including three new learning environments and major capital improvements to its historic building.