Science Center Superheroes

“Life at the Intersection of Passion and Persistence”

https://media.giphy.com/media/J0nJNHnukpJm/giphy-facebook_s.jpg
Session Summary

Operating at the intersection of passion and persistence is a science center superhero. These talented people find creative ways to innovate regardless of politics, personalities, and budget constraints. Find out who the “intrapreneurs” are in your organization and how they get so much done with so little.
Science Center Superheroes

“Life at the Intersection of Passion and Persistence”

Monday, October 23

Concurrent Session 2:30 pm – 3:45 pm (212AB)
Panelists

- Christian Greer
  Saint Louis Science Center
- Jenn Barlup
  COSI, Columbus
- Veronica Garcia-Luis
  Exploratorium
- Gretchen Walker
  The Tech Museum of Innovation
Format

• **Session Intro** *(10 min)*
  Superheroes, Intraprenuers, Change Agents

• **Panelist Presentations** *(45 min)*
  Learn about our Science Center Superheroes

• **Breakout Tables** *(25 min)*
  Deeper dive into each superpower

• **Q&A** *(10 min)*
  Your thoughts?
3 outcomes

*After this session, you will:*

• understand “intrapreneurship”

• learn ways to discover, promote intrapreneurship in your science center

• recognize the potential science center superhero in all of us
passion
+
persistence
Organizational Change
Entrepreneur vs. Intrapreneur
Jenn Barlup
COSI, Columbus, Ohio
Director of Floor Experiences
jbarlup@cosi.org

Communicator/Actress/Project Manager

Today I am discussing a Superhero’s Sidekick!
Sidekicks

- Supportive
- Faithful
- Moral Compass
10 superheroes at work. Take the quiz at weekdone.com
Super Sidekick: Tyler Fox
Refocusing teams in a single bound...

• Guest complaints dropped from 4% to less than 2%

• Mergers of in-building education teams allowed for reductions in costs, and synergy between teams

• Refocus of education managers led to a better quality guest experience
Supporting our Sidekicks

- Recognition
- Opportunity
- Experience
Gretchen Walker
The Tech
Gretchen Walker

The Tech Museum of Innovation
Vice President of Learning (aka Exhibits & Education)
gwalker@thetech.org

Ex-high school teacher turned education PhD dropout turned museum professional on both sides of exhibits & education line.

My superpower is ..... The Bat Cave!
Why you need a Bat Cave?
Bat Cave 1: The Tech Studio
Bat Cave 2: BioTinkering Lab
Tech Superhero: Katie Ozawa
Tech Superhero: Anja Scholze
Bat Cave Architect

Prinda Wanakule
pwanakule@thetech.org

Tour the Bat Caves on Museum Day!

“Exhibit, Prototype, or Program - New Kinds of Spaces on Museum Floors” - Tuesday 2:30
The Tech Main Lobby
How to Build a Bat Cave

Moral of the Story: *Even superheroes can’t go from the idea in their head to full blown implementation*

- Find space
- Outfit it in a way that encourages play and experimentation and allows things to get messy.
- Watch your staff solve problems you didn’t even know you had.
Tech Superhero: Rebekah Nelson
Veronica Garcia-Luis
Exploratorium
Veronica Garcia-Luis

Exploratorium
Project Director, Visitor Research & Evaluation + Director of Diversity Initiative
vgarcia-luis@exploratorium.edu

bilingual educator/evaluator & researcher/D&I
My superpower is ... The Call (to action)!!
When the Call Comes
Call to Action: Super Strengths

- Ideator
- Leader/Guide
- Convener
- Risk taker
- High Follow Through
Call to Action: Challenges

- Communication
- Stress
- Failure
- Power motivation + -
Explo Superhero: Liliana Blanco
Explo Superhero: Eric Dimond
Call to Action: Takeaways

- Inspire
- Focus
- Guide/lead
- Inclusiveness
- Risk taker
Christian Greer
Saint Louis Science Center
Christian Greer

Saint Louis Science Center
Chief Officer for Science + Education + Experience
christian.greer@slsc.org

Project Manager, Astronomy and Space Geek, Learning Technologies, Museum Nerd

My superpower is... The ability to FLY!
Some Superheroes can FLY!
...or at least FLOW.
What’s their secret?
When you know where you are going AND how to get there -- HOLD On!
“Flow” is the term used by researchers for optimal states of consciousness, those peak moments of total absorption where self vanishes, time flies, and all aspects of performance go through the roof.”
(Kotler, 2014)
Mihaly Csikszentmihalyi

How do we FLOW?
“...early 1900s Harvard’s William James began documenting ways the brain can alter consciousness to improve performance. Researchers later discovered a link between mind and body—the fight-or-flight response—that helped explain this amplified performance.” (Kotler, 2014)
FLOW

- Anxiety
- Arousal
- Flow
- Worry
- Control
- Apathy
- Boredom
- Relaxation

Challenge level vs. Skill level diagram.
For those without natural ability...
we may need tools and technology
Four Forces of Flight

http://aviationhumor.net/wp-content/uploads/2014/02/the-four-forces-of-flight.jpg
Christina Carlson
AGILITY
Takeaways...

- Speed
- Altitude
- Agility
- Power
Break-out Tables (25 min)
Discover your superheroes!
Breakout Table Questions

1. Who are your Science Center Superheroes?

2. How will you support their passion and persistence?
Q&A (10 min)
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