Science Center Superheroes

“Life at the Intersection of Passion and Practice”

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Science Center Superheroes: Part Deux

“Life at the Intersection of Passion and Practice”

Sunday, September 30
Concurrent Session 10:15 am – 11:30 am (Room 15)
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.
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** *(5 min)*
  
  Superheroes, Intrapreneurs, Change Agents

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

• **Breakout Tables** *(20 min)*
  
  Deeper dive into each superpower

• **Q&A** *(5 min)*
  
  Your thoughts?
Reflection Questions

1. Who are your superheroes (define attributes)?

2. How do you support their passion and promote good practice?

3. How can we acknowledge their work and recognize their impact?
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
+
practice
Organizational Change
Entrepreneur vs. Intrapreneur
Jenn Barlup
COSI, Columbus

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Today I am discussing the Qualities of a Superhero!
Superhero Qualities

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Superhero Qualities

“It’s not enough to be against something. You have to be for something better.”

-Tony Stark

#8 Futurism
Heroes look ahead.
Superhero Qualities

#8 Futurism
Heroes look ahead.

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Superhero Qualities

Moral of the story: Our employees cannot do it alone.

“...no single individual, no matter how brilliant, can take a game-changing innovation all the way from idea to reality. Innovation has to be a company-wide endeavor, supported from top to bottom by systems, structures, and a company culture that nurtures transformative ideas and products.”


#8 Futurism
Heroes look ahead.
Superhero Qualities

"The Avengers. It’s what we call ourselves. Sort of a team. Earth’s mightiest heroes type thing."

-Tony Stark

#4 Unity
Heroes must unite forces and fight as one.
Superhero Qualities

#4 Unity
Heroes might unite forces and fight as one.

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Superhero Qualities

Moral of the story: small teams make sense!

“[top companies] find that smaller teams are a natural way for humans to work. Research shows that we spend two orders of magnitude more time with people near our desk than with those more than 50 meters away. Top companies are built around systems that encourage teams and individuals to meet each other, share information transparently, and move from team to team depending on the issue to be addressed.


#4 Unity
Heroes might unite forces and fight as one.
Superhero Qualities

“If it means interfering in an ensconced, outdated system, to help just one woman, man or child… I’m willing to accept the consequences.”
- Wonder Woman

#1 Responsibility

Because with great power comes great responsibility.
Superhero Qualities

#1 Responsibility
Because with great power comes great responsibility.

Reworked repair ticket process leading to faster repair times.

Speeding up repairs by building repair stock.

Reinstituted call log system.

Working to create maintenance logs and processes.

But really - culture is key!
Superhero Qualities

Moral of the story: a sense of responsibility, and connection to the mission can provide great purpose.

“discontent turns into a movement when a voice arises that provides a positive vision and a path forward that’s within the power of the crowd.”


#1 Responsibility

Because with great power comes great responsibility.
Superhero Qualities


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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 Hall of Justice!
What is the Hall of Justice?
An Open Space, Serendipitous Workspace for Superheroes!

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ASTC 2018
Annual Conference
Aka - Your Museum Floor
He has done over 1,000 portraits.
The Unseen Collaborators

Dylan Knuth, Exhibits Engineer

Nadav Hochman, Digital Arts Project Director
And the story continues......
How to Build a Hall of Justice

Moral of the Story: *Great ideas are happening all over the institution*

My lesson: Can I find a better way to hear them? *Pitching a “Pitch Day” to the rest of senior leadership to find a way to surface more of these ideas in our institution.*
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: Akiko Minaga
Explo Superhero: Susie Wright
Call to Action: Takeaways

- Inspire
- Focus
- Guide/lead
- Inclusiveness
- Risk taker

Science Center Superheroes: Part Deux
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?
Mihaly Csikszentmihalyi

How do we FLOW?
“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 [freakin’] roof.” (Kotler, 2014)
FLOW

Diagram showing the relationship between Challenge level and Skill level, with various states such as Anxiety, Arousal, Flow, Worry, Control, Apathy, Boredom, and Relaxation.
When you know where you are going, how to get there, and WHO you are going with -- HOLD On!

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DESTINATION MOON

THE APOLLO 11 MISSION

On July 20, 1969, as the world watched, Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin became the first humans to walk on another world. Above them, Michael Collins circled the Moon in the Columbia, Columbia. In just eight years, the United States had gone from a word. "One small step for man, one giant leap for mankind." Why did the United States send astronauts to the Moon? And what did we do? #DestinationMoon

Smithsonian

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NOW SHOWING

DESTINATION MOON

COMING SOON

“EASY RIDER”
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LUNAR MODULE HAS LANDED ON MOON
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MAKE A MOON MAP

In the late 18th century, cartographers had to put together a lunar puzzle when they created their first Moon maps and charts. They assembled multiple photographs taken from telescopes to create one united together map. These same maps were used to select lunar landing sites for the Apollo missions.

TRY THIS

Puzzle up the craters and other geological features to create one map.
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Our Superheroes FLEW:

Speed - FASTER

Altitude - HIGHER

Range - FARThER

Agility - QUICKER
HIGHER
Kristina Hampton
Altitude - HIGHER
FASTER
Chris Lucas

Speed - FASTER
FARTHER
Neville Crenshaw
Range - FARTHER
QUICKER
Kelly Floyd
Agility - QUICKER
Takeaways...

Speed - FASTER

Altitude - HIGHER

Range - FARTHER

Agility - QUICKER
Break-out Tables (20 min)

*Discover your superheroes!*
Breakout Table Questions

1. Who are your Science Center Superheroes?

2. How will you support their passion and practice?
Q&A (5 min)
Science Center Superheroes
“Life at the Intersection of Passion and Persistence”

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