

## **An Artist Walks Into a Science Museum . . .**

### **Approaches for Bringing Artists and Visitors Together**

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#### **Pacific Science Center - Seattle, Washington**

**Carolina Chambers, Portal to the Public Project Coordinator-** [cchambers@pacsci.org](mailto:cchambers@pacsci.org)

- Location: Size: 250+ staff members, serving nearly 1 million people annually
- Pacific Science Center's Artist in Residence (AiR) program provides local artists with the opportunity to explore STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) content through access to scientific resources and practitioners. The focus of the AiR program is "open studio hours," during which artists pursue their creative practice in a public space while engaging in open-ended conversations with visitors about their ideas and artistic process. This project was made possible in part by the Institute of Museum and Library Services

#### **Denver Museum of Nature & Science- Denver, Colorado**

**Eric Godoy, Community Programs Coordinator-** [Eric.Godoy@dmns.org](mailto:Eric.Godoy@dmns.org)

- Size: 500+ Full-time and part-time staff members, serving more than 2 million people annually.
- Since 2017, as part of Denver Arts Week, the Denver Museum of Nature & Science has hosted an innovative event called DioramART, which transforms the world-renowned wildlife dioramas with activations by Colorado creatives that marry art + science + nature. This event aims to awe, entertain, and mesmerize Museum guests with the creativity of Colorado artists and artistic groups while elevating the specimens and locales in our stunning dioramas. Past activations have included modern dance, sculptural installations, storytelling, soundscape explorations, and animation.

#### **Natural History Museum of Utah- Salt Lake City, Utah**

**Paulmichael Maxfield, Public Programs Coordinator-** [pmaxfield@nhmu.utah.edu](mailto:pmaxfield@nhmu.utah.edu)

- Size: 100,000 square feet, 300,000 museum visitors per year, plus robust state-wide reach, 215+ staff, \$11 million annual budget
- While the major focus of NHMU programming are science-based, its primary mission is to illuminate the natural world and the place of humans within it. For many, the most direct link to such illumination is through expressions of art—whether observed, experienced, or created. Art-based programming not only makes the science and nature content in the museum more accessible, but it expands and deepens the breadth of our audiences.

#### **Oakland Museum of California- Oakland, California**

**Cesar Cueva, Visitor Services Manager-** [cesarthe2nd@gmail.com](mailto:cesarthe2nd@gmail.com)

- Location: Oakland, California
- Size: 100+ staff, ~500,000 museum visitors served per year
- OMCA's most well-known and popular program is their Friday Nights @ OMCA, which happens every Friday Night with a food trucks, DJs, live bands, dance classes, and visual arts activities. Known as the "Museum of the People," OMCA cultivates its community by reaching out to local artists to provide the art and entertainment for these events.