The Background
In 2015, COSI was awarded an NSF Pathways grant to explore museum practices for preschool dual language learners. In partnership with The Ohio State University, the Expanding Repertoires project had three interconnected activities:

- Convenings of museum practitioners
- Deep exploration of one city
- A national needs assessment

The Study
A needs assessment measures the discrepancy between current state and desired state.

This needs assessment worked with ASTC and ACM to survey science centers and children’s museums about their perceived need and practices related to linguistic inclusiveness for preschool children.

We received…
61 usable questionnaires
...from museums across the US.

Museums in Service to Young Multi-Lingual Learners
A National Needs Assessment

Museums have a desire to serve multi-lingual learners and communities but often lack understanding of the engagement necessary to do so and/or lack institutional commitment to expand their impact in this way.

Result
Moderately low intensity of current relationships with multi-lingual communities, yet… Members of local multi-lingual communities was the highest cited resource.

Result
Moderately high prioritization of service to multi-lingual children and families, yet… Moderately low intensity of current relationships with multi-lingual communities.

Result
Building staff capacity for serving multi-lingual children and families was a consistent theme in the data, yet… The meaning of “staff capacity” is unclear.

Members of local multi-lingual communities.