The Power of Small: A Strategic Advantage

Lara Litchfield-Kimber, Mid-Hudson Children’s Museum

Cara Lesser, KID Museum

Lisa Regalla, Bay Area Discovery Museum

Charlie Trautmann, Sciencenter

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Mid-Hudson Children’s Museum
Poughkeepsie, NY (USA)
By the Numbers

Annual Budget: $989,000

Annual Attendance: 80,000 visitors

Sq. Ft. of Exhibits Space: 6,500

Number of Staff: 12
Mission

Empower every child with the skills to invent the future with creativity, curiosity, and compassion.
Approach

- Creative learning space for kids and families, schools and educators
- Focus on fostering creativity and global citizenship through maker learning
- Serve as innovation lab and community catalyst to reimagine learning for the 21st century
KID Museum’s Learning Philosophy

- Initiative: I set (my own) goals and take steps to achieve them.
- Collaboration: I share what I know, help when I can, and accept help when I need it.
- Exploration: I try new things and look closely at the world in order to learn.
- Skill Building: I practice doing things that will help me achieve my goals.
- Perseverance: I keep trying when things are hard.
- Reflection: I learn from my experiences.
- Empathy: I consider other people’s perspectives.
- Imagination: I think about all possibilities.

MIND OF A MAKER
Empowering kids as creative problem-solvers, curious, continuous learners, and global citizens & changemakers.
The Power of Small

- 7500 SF in public library
- 30 staff members (20 FTEs)
- $2.7M annual operating budget
- 55K visits annually
- District-wide partnership with 165K student school system
- 52% students served from under-resourced communities
- Demonstrated impact
KID Museum’s Invention Studio Impact

Evidence of Impact

Harvard University’s PEAR Institute found that Invention Studio students made significant gains in STEM and 21st century skills, exceeding the impact of other programs nationally.

- Science Interest: KID Museum’s Invention Studio Program 93% vs. STEM Enrichment Programs Nationally 80%
- Science Enjoyment: KID Museum’s Invention Studio Program 77% vs. STEM Enrichment Programs Nationally 58%
- Perseverance: KID Museum’s Invention Studio Program 83% vs. STEM Enrichment Programs Nationally 77%
- Critical Thinking: KID Museum’s Invention Studio Program 90% vs. STEM Enrichment Programs Nationally 78%
Impact through Partnership

- Leverage the power of a small, nimble nonprofit in partnership with the reach and impact of school system
- Meaningful collaborative design with teachers, principals and district leaders
- Iterative process consistent with our learning philosophy
- Trust and relationship-building are foundational
- Recognize that change will be fast and slow; stay open & optimistic
- Don’t be afraid to start
Small on Wheels: BADM’s Try it Truck
Lisa Regalla, Director of STEM Learning & Innovation
lregalla@badm.org
Our mission is to transform research into early learning experiences that inspire creative problem solving
BayAreaDiscoveryMuseum.org / Facebook & Instagram: @BayAreaDiscoveryMuseum / Twitter: @BADM_org

Annual visitation - 350k
Budget - $7.5mm
Sq ft (indoor) - 15,125
Staff - 53 FT, 44 PT
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Total children: 11,400
Total adults: 3,900
Total children: 11,400

PERCENT OF PARTICIPATING STUDENTS BY COUNTY

- SAN FRANCISCO: 12%
- SAN MATEO: 18%
- MARIN: 8%
- CONTRA COSTA: 18%
- ALAMEDA: 15%
- SONOMA: 5%
- NAPA: 1%
- SANTA CLARA: 23%
Charlie Trautmann
Executive Director,
Emeritus
Sciencenter
Ithaca, NY
Overview of the Sciencenter

Size: 32K SF, Exhibits 10K SF
Core staff: 27
Budget: $3 million
Attendance: 100 K
Some Characteristics of Small

A. Flatter organization structure
B. Faster decision making
C. Broader measures of success
D. Closer to community
Power of Small

Deep Community Collaboration:  
*The Discovery Trail*
Reflection Question

As a leader, how can you strategically leverage “small?”
Reflection Question

How can we design for flexibility to maximize success?
Reflection Question

What aspects of your partnerships have been most successful in promoting broader community impact?