



WonderLab Museum of Science, Health and Technology
308 West Fourth Street, Bloomington, Indiana 47404
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The WonderLab Museum of Science, Health and Technology is a premier center for informal science education and discovery. WonderLab provides opportunities to experience the wonder and excitement of science through interactive exhibits and programs that stimulate curiosity, encourage exploration, connect to the arts and everyday life, and foster lifelong learning.

WonderLab was established in 1995 as a traveling science outreach program coordinated by six volunteers. In 1998, WonderLab opened a small museum in downtown Bloomington. At that time, fundraising was initiated to build a larger, permanent museum on a downtown site donated to WonderLab by the city of Bloomington. The current award-winning museum opened its doors to the public on March 29, 2003. The two-story 15,000-square-foot facility features exhibit galleries, a flexible programming space, gift store, and an adjacent outdoor garden. It is located adjacent to Bloomington's B-Line Trail in the heart of the Bloomington Entertainment and Arts District.

Year 2016 WonderLab At-a-Glance

- **Incorporation Date and Status:** 1995 as a 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization
- **Total people served between 1995 and December 2016:** 1,265,612
- **Museum visitors in 2016:** 80,284 (33% members, 46% nonmembers, 14% groups, 7% rentals/parties)
- **WonderLab is a regional destination:** 28% of general admission visitors and 76% of group admission visitors in 2016 came from beyond Monroe County. The top Indiana counties were Monroe, Marion, Lawrence, Morgan, Johnson, Owen, Greene, Hendricks, Hamilton and Bartholomew Counties.
- **Total served in 2016 at off-site experiences:** 180 individual campers at WonderCamp and 4,174 people at outreach programs
- **Membership:** 1,740 member families, with approximately 73% residing in Monroe County as of Dec. 31.
- **Volunteers:** 783 people volunteered 15,365 hours during 2016
- **Exhibits:** The gallery features over 80 hands-on science exhibits for visitors of all ages. Exhibit areas include the Water Works exhibit, Oliver Winery Grapevine Climber, George and Evelyn Brabson Discovery Garden for preschool children, Bubble-Airium, Hall of Natural Sciences, and exhibits on everyday phenomena such as air, engineering and construction, electricity and magnetism, human body, light and color, gravity and motion, and sound and music. Exhibits are also featured in the Bushnell WonderGarden.
- **Activities and Programs:** WonderLab offers a host of educational and interactive programs, workshops demonstrations and presentations.
- **Award-Winning Museum:** WonderLab has won numerous awards. WonderLab was selected by Parents magazine among the top 25 science centers in the US (2008) and by American Towns Media as the "Best of 25" science museums and centers in the United States (2016).

2017 Hours of Operation: Open to the public on Tues - Thurs, 9 am - 6 pm; Fri - Sat, 9 am - 5 pm; Sun, 1-5 pm. Open from 5 - 8:30 pm at reduced admission fees on the first Friday of each month. Closed Mondays and some holidays. The entire museum is available after close of public hours for private functions.

Admission Fees:
General Admission: Free for museum members / \$8 per child / \$8 per adult
Group Admission: \$5 per child, with separate fees for adult chaperones.

COMMUNITY IMPACT

Educational Resource

WonderLab provides informal science experiences that benefit thousands of **schoolchildren** and help schools address Indiana science standards. Each summer, the museum offers **WonderCamp**, a weeklong science enrichment program for children entering grades K - 6.

To make WonderLab opportunities more accessible to low-income youth and families, WonderLab's **Connecting to the Community** program provides free or greatly reduced group admissions to the museum, free admission for Big Brothers Big Sisters participants and selected other local agencies, and free or partial scholarships for summer science enrichment camps. In addition, the museum provides greatly reduced admission on the First Friday of the month, as well as during special days such as *Dollar Day* and *Martin Luther King, Jr. Day*. WonderLab is a member of the Access Pass Program, a statewide museum partnership that allows qualifying low-income Indiana families the opportunity to visit WonderLab and eight other museums for \$1/person.

Economic Resource

In 2016, WonderLab, which is located in an Urban Enterprise Zone, attracted 80,284 **visitors** to downtown Bloomington from a ten-county region and beyond. WonderLab is a **major destination along the B-Line Trail**, a downtown greenway. According to a museum survey, WonderLab visitors spend over \$450,000 in downtown shops and restaurants annually. All of the surveyed visitors said that WonderLab was **“very important or important to the quality of life in Bloomington.”**

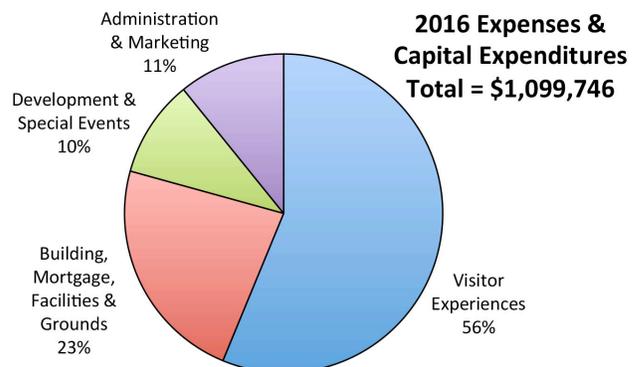
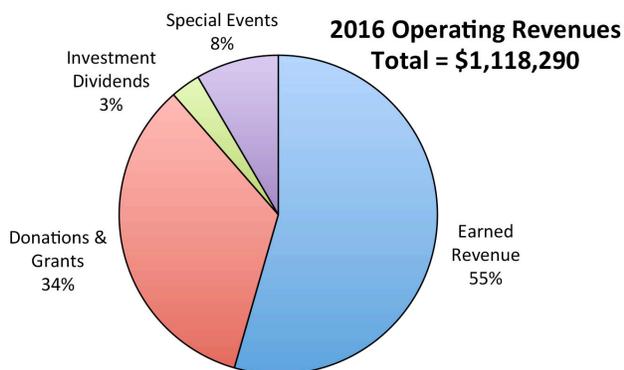
Volunteer Resource

Each year, the museum enriches community life by bringing together almost 800 **teen and adult volunteers** from all parts of the community. WonderLab makes a special effort to offer middle, high school, and college students meaningful opportunities to enhance their workplace skills. Teens are involved as mentors to younger children in WonderLab's summer science camps and as museum guides assisting the public.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

WonderLab relies on **earned revenue** and **philanthropic support**. For every \$1 spent by visitors in the museum, WonderLab must raise an additional \$0.80 through contributions from individuals and businesses, special events, and grants. This reflects a commitment to making WonderLab as affordable as possible to families and schools.

WonderLab does not receive annual appropriations of federal, state or local tax monies for operational support.



For information about making a donation to WonderLab, please contact Sally Takada, Development Director, at (812) 337-1337, ext. 14 or development@wonderlab.org.