In the past year, the Exploreum Science Center connected 140,000 visitors from 43 states, Puerto Rico and the District of Columbia with science in ways that ignite curiosity and bridge the gap between formal classroom and self-directed learning. Early exposure to inspirational, hands-on science education increases a child’s engagement and interest in STEM subjects. The umbrella under which STEM jobs fall keeps expanding, but the value of STEM goes beyond preparing our future workforce—there are aspects of STEM in almost everything we do. That is why we’re pleased to share with you some of the Exploreum’s highlights of the past year. As you read, keep in mind that the success of our programs and the numbers we report, while important, are more than just anecdotes—they represent children learning, families participating, and our communities benefiting in ways that will yield results for years to come.

**21,479,040 Feet**
Over the course of the year we had 1,356 IMAX showings with approximately 21,479,040 feet of film running through our projector. That is a distance long enough to reach from Mobile, Alabama to Dublin, Ireland!

**1,895 Miles**
In the last fiscal year we have travelled more than 1,800 miles with our Science To Go Outreach Program. The farthest location we have travelled to date is Bay County Library in Panama City, Florida.

**300 Pre-K Teachers**
The Exploreum hosted more than 300 Pre-K teachers for the annual Pre-K Convention this fall. Educators were treated to a variety of special programming and workshops including three Little Discovery sessions.

**24,000 Airplanes**
Participants in the Airbus Engineering Flight Challenge created 24,000 paper planes as they attempted to design one that could fly in a straight line through four hoops that are 10 feet off the ground.

**150+ Dissections**
These are not only done with our elementary, middle, and high school students, but we also perform dissections with Cardiac and Vascular Institute of Ultrasound, and Bishop State Community College.

**1280 Camp Hours**
Exploreum Summer Camps are one of our most popular stand-alone programs. This year our educators taught 32 camps, over a period of 8 weeks, for a total of 1280 hours!
The Exploreum has partnered with AM/NS Calvert, ExxonMobil and the Mobile Area Education Foundation to bring us a new and improved ExploreTEC lab for STEM education. New desktop computers, 3-D printers, and Raspberry Pis with an assortment of robotics parts will inspire ingenuity and equip students with technological skills that are essential to our future.

COMING SOON!

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Little Discoveries and Little Symphonies

In the past year, more than 2,500 preschoolers participated in Little Discoveries and Little Symphonies classes, and 349 teachers received early childhood STEM training from Exploreum educators.

Little Discoveries classes for pre-school aged children are held twice a week, and every lesson begins with a story that’s used as a launching point for the day’s topic. Children are sometimes directly engaged in an activity, such as making fossils with air dry clay. Other times, a demonstration is more appropriate. For example, the Little Discoveries educator will perform experiments with liquid nitrogen and balloons while the children try other means to make balloons larger and smaller.

Little Symphonies is music-focused; while learning the fundamentals of music and how to play basic instruments such as the recorder, children in Little Symphonies also learn basic math concepts, including fractions and counting. The year concludes with a performance given by the children for their caregivers, parents and guests.

Science to Go Outreach Program

The Exploreum’s Science to Go van traveled more than 1,800 miles last year, and STEM lessons were held as far away as Panama City, Florida.

The strong sense of curiosity and inquisitiveness that children show during early childhood are often lost during their elementary school years. That’s why we provide elementary school children with interactive lessons that show them the fun side of the STEM coursework and keep them engaged through middle school and beyond. But, not every school or community group can bring its students to the Exploreum, so we take our programming to them with our Science to Go Outreach Program.

Science to Go provides on-site science education at schools, festivals, libraries, and more. Demonstrations are conducted by expert educators who use equipment and chemicals that are not common in most schools, and experiments are done in ways that are more extreme, which makes them more engaging and memorable. Subjects such Black Hole Vortex, Crater Creators, Use it or Lose it, and Anatomy of an Athlete spark students’ interest and inspire them to learn more. Live animal demonstrations reveal the science behind animal behaviors. And post-session activities enable teachers to build on the students’ Science to Go learning.

ExploreTEC Engineering Lab

ExploreTEC is a state-of-the-art lab in which students, industry personnel and the general public can learn more about technology and engineering. Workshops and experience packages include subjects such as 3D design, civil engineering, game design and rapid prototyping. Last year, ExploreTEC reached 1119 people who wanted to delve into the world of engineering.

THANK YOU! YOUR SUPPORT MADE 2018 A SUCCESS!