



**FORT WORTH MUSEUM**  
SCIENCE AND HISTORY

*Learning through Innovation*

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**Fort Worth Museum of Science and History**  
**Features Innovation Studios for Discovery Learning**  
*Newly Constructed Museum Opens Friday Nov. 20, 2009*

FORT WORTH, TEXAS – Promoting learning through discovery is the mission of the newly constructed Fort Worth Museum of Science and History (FWMSH). That’s why the Museum’s five Innovation Studios are located in the central heart of the building.

“Our goal is to bring learning through discovery to the forefront of this Museum,” said Museum of Science and History President Van A. Romans. “When I came on board as president of the museum five years ago, the rich learning environments and programs were hidden away downstairs. In this new facility, we brought learning upstairs into a contemporary, open environment where our guests can participate and observe learning as it is happening.”

Targeting guests age 9 and older, Innovation Studios are five flexible spaces dedicated to offering lifelong learning experiences for every guest. Not only will guests be involved with programs and projects inside the studios benefit, but because of the huge glass walls, all Museum guests have the opportunity to learn through observation.

“Innovation Studios are based on our 70-year-old heritage of educational programming and partnership excellence,” said Museum of Science and History Executive Vice President, Innovation Colleen Blair. “Respectful of our guests’ unique identities, the Studios offer multi-disciplinary experiences and materials meant to illicit curiosity, wonder, intrigue, and inspiration.”

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Innovation Studios will enable a wide spectrum of educators and community leaders to collaborate and access Museum resources and programs. Studios also will provide community access to high-quality learning tools and technologies while supporting expanded community and international engagement through distance learning.

In recognition of the family’s generous gift to the Museum’s campaign to construct the new building, the gallery space inside the studio area will be known as the Paul E. Andrews, Jr. Foundation Gallery.

Each of the following five Studios build on core capacities of Museum educational excellence and a rich heritage of collaboration and partnership.

1. **Doodler Studio** – replicates the discovery approach to learning through a unique combination of natural and physical sciences, history and anthropology with artistic interpretations.
2. **Designer Studio** – builds on the tradition of the ‘Hands-on Science Exhibition’ and flexible learning environment designed to support guests’ exploration in an open-ended, inquiry-based manner.
3. **Inventor Studio** – houses the Museum’s CommunItY Studios which are funded through a National Science Foundation grant, and focus on tinkering with technology and digital technologies.
4. **Imaginer Studio** – serves as a resource center for families, teachers and caregivers designed to enhance the Museum experience through additional resources.
5. **Explorer Studio** – houses the Museum’s “Distance Learning” program, where students can experience virtually, the Museum’s collections and can engage in hands-on experiences without leaving their classrooms.

“Each Studio space is designed for specific programs,” said Blair. “Active, bright, whimsical, inspirational – each Studio is unique to the learner it will entice.”

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Studio experiences are included in the Museum admission price for each guest, and Studios are active during Museum hours.

### **About the Museum**

Located at 1600 Gendy Street, the Fort Worth Museum of Science and History is open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., every day except Thanksgiving, Christmas Eve, and Christmas Days. For more information about the Museum visit [www.fortworthmuseum.org](http://www.fortworthmuseum.org) or call 817-255-9300.

In 1939, the Fort Worth Council of Administrative Women in Education presented a successful proposal to the City Council for the creation of a children's museum in Fort Worth. Chartered with the State of Texas in 1941 as the “Fort Worth Children’s Museum,” the new \$80 million FWMSH campus marks the culmination of an extensive multi-year fund-raising campaign following a comprehensive planning effort. Dedicated to life-long learning and anchored by its rich collections, the Museum engages school children and adult visitors through creative, vibrant programs and exhibits interpreting science and the history of Texas and the Southwest. For more than six decades, the FWMSH has provided learning opportunities for tens of thousands of area children annually among its million visitors each year, making it one of the most popular cultural attractions in North Texas.

The new Museum building, created by internationally acclaimed architects Legorreta + Legorreta with Gideon Toal, is located in the heart of Fort Worth’s Cultural District. The world-class, 166,000 square-foot facility features a collection of new, interactive exhibits and programs developed by the Museum’s staff and a team of nationally recognized designers in support of the Museum’s dedication to informal, discovery-based learning for all.

The new Museum’s environment of learning comprises state-of-the-art interactive exhibitions and components including: Energy Blast; the Fort Worth Children’s Museum; the Cattle Raisers Museum; the Noble Planetarium; Omni IMAX® Theater; DinoLabs/DinoDig® – featuring the State Dinosaur of Texas, *Paluxysaurus jonesi*; Innovation Studios/Innovation Gallery; and the 60-year-old Museum School.