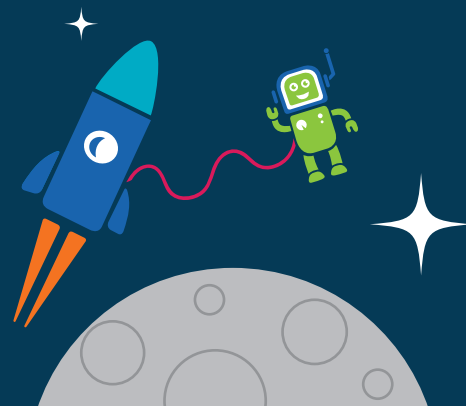


BFK Rocket Report



Explorer Camps

Hands-on Learning Camps

The Building for Kids has launched new after-school, drop-off camps! These Explorer Camps for kids in 1st, 2nd, or 3rd grade are designed to provide hands-on learning opportunities beyond the classroom through open-ended play time in the museum and facilitated STEM, Art, and Mindfulness programming on a weekly basis.

The BFK recently took part in a 2-year longitudinal study to see how museum enrichment impacted early elementary school children. Based on the results of this research, we can see that weekly after-school museum enrichment is associated with improved social self-confidence and academic success in science, math, and reading as compared to the control group.



Explorer Camp sessions meet weekly on Tuesdays or Thursdays for 8 weeks at a time. A typical daily schedule will look like:

- 3:00-4:00 PM: Drop-off & Supervised Open Play in the museum
- 4:00-5:00 PM: STEM or Arts Programming
- 5:00-6:00 PM: Pick-up & Supervised Open Play in the museum

To ensure Explorer Camps are accessible to all, the BFK is happy to work with families to overcome transportation and cost barriers.

To help keep all campers safe, the Building for Kids works closely with local public health officials to ensure our operations exceed current CDC guidelines to protect our participants and our community. Each session is capped at 30 students, and masks are required for all Explorer Camp attendees and Building for Kids staff.

In 2021, after-school Explorer Camps are FREE for museum members and \$25 per multi-week camp for non-members.

Stay tuned for news in October about Saturday Explorer Camps!

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Member Spotlight

Check out our updated
Doll Hospital Exhibit!

To register your child for an Explorer Camp,
visit buildingforkids.org/explorer-camps/

RUN! JUMP! FLY! ADVENTURES IN ACTION

Presented locally by



Traveling Exhibit - September 17 - January 2

Where can you surf, snowboard, rock climb, and more all in one day? The BFK's new traveling exhibit, Run! Jump! Fly! Adventures in Action™! This traveling exhibit, presented locally by Children's Wisconsin, encourages a healthy and active lifestyle by introducing kids and families to a variety of fun-filled activities that test their balance, strength, coordination, and endurance.

In this exhibit, families can:

- **Surf** some waves and **snowboard** down a mountain using balance boards and a video projector
- Be inspired by animal stances as they learn the art of **kung fu**
- Traverse through a **climbing canyon** on trails with varying difficulties
- Ride a **flycycle** - a bike that flaps its wings as you pedal

Also in the exhibit is a yoga station, strength center, dance club, and a toddler pyramid for our youngest visitors to get in on the action.

With so many different activities, Run! Jump! Fly! encourages families to explore new activities and discover new ways to add physical activity to their daily lives, creating healthy habits that will follow them into the future.



"Any time we can create fun and engaging ways for kids and families to learn healthy habits together in our community, it's a win-win for all," said Katie Horrigan, director of Education and Outreach for Children's Wisconsin. "This new exhibit will offer the opportunity for kids to try new things and to learn about the importance of physical activity for their physical and emotional health."

Run! Jump! Fly! is open now until January 2 at the Building for Kids. Register for a play session and come check it out for yourself!

Run! Jump! Fly! was created by Minnesota Children's Museum and is sponsored nationally by General Mills and locally by Children's Wisconsin and Jeweler's Mutual.



Doll Hospital Exhibit Refresh

On September 15, we reopened to the public our completely renovated Doll Hospital sponsored by ThedaCare. The updated exhibit includes many new components such as an examination table, scale, and an interactive x-ray puzzle. Additionally, the Doll Hospital has a new handwashing exhibit component sponsored by the Rotary Club of Appleton in honor of Dr. John and Sally Mielke. This component teaches kids how to properly wash their hands using an LED light display and voice prompts.

"A very important aspect of this exhibit, that ThedaCare is proud to support, is imaginative play. Pretend play encourages problem solving, and if children are playing with others, it builds social and emotional skills. The Doll Hospital shows kids they can be anything they want to be—just by pretending."

Dr. Abby Smolcich, Pediatrician with ThedaCare Physicians Pediatrics in Darboy



Annual Member Meeting

All members are invited to join us for our annual meeting on October 27th, 2021 from 8:30 am - 9:00 am. During the meeting, we'll present an overview of the organization's strategic plan and elect members to the Board of Directors.

The meeting will take place virtually over Zoom.

If you're interested in attending this virtual meeting, please RSVP to our Office Manager, Alyssa, at anickel@buildingforkids.org by October 25.

Mark your
calendars!



Director's Digest

Happy Fall! With the changing of seasons comes lots of new and exciting changes here at the Building for Kids. Whether you visited a few years ago or just last month, there is something new for everyone to discover.

The most visible changes to the museum are our new exhibits. The Doll Hospital sponsored by ThedaCare was first built in 2015, and this September, we finished a complete refresh, touching every aspect of the exhibit. The new exhibit encourages imaginative play as kids give dolls a check-up and become familiar with what it's like to visit the doctor's office.

Another addition to the BFK is our new traveling exhibit, Run! Jump! Fly! Adventures in Action. We are so grateful to Children's Wisconsin for helping us bring in this exhibit that prioritizes teaching kids and families the importance of physical activity. Whether it's snowboarding, rock climbing, kung fu, or dancing, kids are sure to find a fun way to get active.

Along with our new exhibits, in September we launched new after-school, drop-off camps. We are always looking for new and impactful ways to serve kids and families in our community. We know the pandemic has had a major effect on school-aged children's growth and development. Explorer Camps address these effects by providing hands-on learning that goes beyond the classroom.

We recently participated in a study conducted at the Building for Kids to learn how after-school museum enrichment impacted kids. The research found that kids who spent one day a week playing and learning at the BFK after school had significant increases in social self-confidence and academic success. Through our new Explorer Camps, we're able to help set kids up for success as they



continue to live and learn during a public health crisis. As a special thank you to our members, we are glad to be able to offer these after-school camps to them without cost this Fall.

We're excited to continue watching kids grow through play this Fall and encourage you to come check out all that's new for yourself!

Hope to see you soon!



Oliver Zornow
Executive Director
ozornow@buildingforkids.org



Artist in Residence Program

During August and the first half of September, the BFK welcomed Kara McCanna as our Artist in Residence.

Kara is a professional violinist and luthier. Some of the programs she hosted included:

- Beginner Violin Lessons
- Instrument Making
- Repurposing Instruments into Art



Our current Artist in Residence is Alex with Antix Theatrx. They are hosting Star Camp, a 7-week long family theater camp.

For more information, visit buildingforkids.org

This program is supported in part by a grant from the Wisconsin Arts Board with funds from the State of Wisconsin and the National Endowment for the Arts.

Member Spotlight

The Pinkert Family

Members since 2015

1. Why did you become a member of the BFK?

Our first child was 1 or 2 and we were looking for some outlets which would grow his mind and help him get the wiggles out! The Building for Kids was a great fit. He was free to explore, move, grow, create, and learn. A few of my friends also had BFK memberships so it worked out well to have play dates there too.

2. What do you enjoy most about visiting the BFK?

We now have 3 boys, ages 6, 8, and 10, and all of them enjoy the BFK. They each have favorite exhibits, do hands on activities in the Innovation Lab, and love to create things in the art studio. No matter how many times we come, they always love to repeat their favorites and find something new to enjoy. Being a member allows us the flexibility of short but frequent visits, and we find we fit visits in pretty often during the month.

3. What has the BFK meant to your family?

The BFK is a fun, safe, welcoming community of workers and volunteers who genuinely care about you and your kids. They work hard to keep their exhibits up to date and ever changing. They put together quality programming and hands-on learning stations. The BFK is a staple in our lives.

4. Do you have a favorite memory from the BFK?

Too many to count, but I have really enjoyed getting to know the staff better during the small group activities over the past year. It takes a village to raise a child, and how blessed we are to have a resource like the BFK right in our backyard to help grow our kids.



5. Why is the BFK an important part of our community?

My husband and I are educators, and we are always looking for ways to make learning fun. Bringing your family to a children's museum is probably one of the easiest ways a parent can promote learning and growth through free choice and play. The BFK is a top notch children's museum (we have been to dozens), and is a true asset to the community. It is the perfect place to give your kids an educational outlet where they are having so much fun, they don't even realize they are learning. It is also a great field trip option for schools from around the entire valley area.

6. How has the BFK been a resource for your family during this public health crisis?

We have been so impressed with how the BFK has worked on a phased-in approach to access since this pandemic started. We have picked up take-home kits filled with projects we could do at our own table, have attended small group activities led by great instructors, and now utilize their limited capacity play sessions. In a world that seems "closed," they have felt open and inviting, while still feeling safe, sanitized, and appropriately social distanced. The BFK has been our primary outlet during this challenging time.

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