

# BFK Rocket Report



Exploring and understanding our community through play



## Celebrating Culture and Community Week with **Molly of Denali**

Title Sponsor



Molly of Denali is planning a trip to the Building for Kids and so should you! Join us November 7 - 12 for a week full of programs and events.

As an Alaskan Native and star of her own PBS Kids show, Molly of Denali will help us celebrate Native American Heritage Month with Celebrating Culture and Community Week, sponsored by TDS Telecom. Throughout this week-long event, kids and their families are invited to come celebrate their own culture, explore informational texts, and experience local native stories and traditions.

### Daily Programming

Every day, we'll host special programming in the museum that is included with daily admission. Through the support of a Wisconsin Humanities Grant, the BFK is partnering with First Nations Outreach to curate a series of storytellers who will lead storytimes at 10am. Then, Molly of Denali will join us at 2pm each day for an activity based off the PBS Kids show.

### After-Hours Events

In addition to daily programming, educators are invited to join us for a PBS Educator Resource Night. During the event, we'll view a screening of the new PBS documentary, *Electa Quinney: Mohican Teacher & Mentor*, access resources offered by PBS, and learn about engagement opportunities with the BFK.

We'll also host a Playdate with Molly, an after-hours event for kids and their families. Molly's last night at the museum will be celebrated with food, storytimes, activities, play, and lots of opportunities to meet Molly of Denali!

## Celebrating Culture and Community Week Schedule

November 7 - 12

### Daily Programming

- 10am - Native American Storyteller
- 2pm - Activity with Molly of Denali

### After-Hours Events

- Tuesday, November 7 at 4:30pm - PBS Educator Resource Night
- Saturday, November 11 at 5pm - Playdate with Molly of Denali

For a full schedule of the week's events, including more information and how to register, visit [buildingforkids.org](https://buildingforkids.org)



## Meet our Storytellers

Through daily storytimes, these local tribal members will share a variety of traditional stories as we explore the many facets of indigenous culture and folklore in our area.



Brian Jackson



Joey Awonohopay



Larry Madden



Shelling Dekker



Barbara Wisneski



Andi Cloud

# Food to Grow

## Programming Series

In early October, the Building for Kids opened a new permanent exhibit, Food to Grow, sponsored by Children's Wisconsin. In this exhibit, kids and their grown-ups can explore the whole food system, from the farm to a farm market and from a food pantry to the kitchen.

In addition to the new exhibit, the BFK has also begun implementing the Food to Grow Initiative, a program series that will consist of daily programming in the exhibit as well as a field trip experience and family cooking workshops. These programs will explore concepts such as identifying foods that nourish our bodies, understanding where our food comes from, sharing how food plays a role in our lives, and learning how food impacts the whole community.

Below are some of the types of daily food exploration programming visitors will experience in the exhibit.

Friends in Food - Food experts from around the community, including nutritionists, chefs, farmers, grocers, and more, will join us to help us learn how food connects our community.

Produce Prep & Taste Test - We'll learn how to prepare



and serve different kinds of produce as well as try new foods.

Food Journaling - Families are invited to share their food stories, such as what they ate for dinner last night, what their favorite meal is, or how food brings their family together.

Food You Grow - We'll explore where our food comes from by planting seeds for visitors to take home or to grow in our hydroponics farm.

To help better understand the impact of the Food to Grow Initiative in our community, the BFK will be working with Dr. Mark Jenike, a nutritional anthropologist from Lawrence University. During this two-year study, Dr. Jenike will evaluate the effect of the various programs to inform the long-term efforts to impact food culture, food choice, and food sourcing for kids and their grown-ups who visit the BFK.

This project was made possible in part by the Institute of Museum and Library Services.

# Museum Learners

## New Field Trip Experience

This fall, we launched a new field trip experience, Museum Learners. We believe that some of the most impactful learning happens through play, and we wanted to make sure that our field trips reflected that philosophy. Our exhibits are intentionally designed to foster child-led discovery, experimentation, and collaboration, and our new Museum Learners series takes full advantage of our unique space.

As part of this new field trip series, we are offering a Museum Learners + experience. During this field trip, students will explore the museum's exhibits and engage in educator-led activities - all through the lens of a topic chosen by their teacher.

We have a wide range of topics available, including coding & robotics, elements of art, forces & simple machines, states of matter, and more. All topics are in line with the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction's Academic Standards.

Through a field trip to the BFK, students will learn how these various concepts impact the world around them and their everyday lives.

Easily book a field trip online today!



# Curiosity Chat

Thursday, November 9: 8:30 – 9:30am

You're invited to our November Curiosity Chat, an opportunity for us to share what's happening at the BFK with our community.

In November, we'll share an overview of the organization's strategic plan, highlight 2023's accomplishments, and cast a vision for our next steps.

Space is limited. Please **RSVP to [events@buildingforkids.org](mailto:events@buildingforkids.org)** by Tuesday, November 7.



## Director's Digest

The energy around the Building for Kids is always contagious. This Fall it seems even more so with the launch of a much-anticipated new permanent exhibit, Food to Grow. Combined with the re-imagined field trip programming, Museum Learners, there has never been a better time to join us at the museum.

Over the past few months, we have worked intentionally and in partnership with local tribal members to co-create programming that represents and celebrates the voices of Wisconsin First Nations. The programming during the upcoming Celebrating Culture and Community Week is just the beginning as we work to better understand, elevate, and represent the history of the land on which we reside and the peoples that have stewarded it through the generations.

We are focused on curating deeply-engaging learning environments and long-lasting experiences as we work to address emerging needs throughout our community. Over the coming months, we are looking ahead to several exhibit refresh and re-imagine processes and some exciting new community collaborations that we can't wait to share more about.

As a non-profit, member-governed organization, the Building for Kids Children's Museum achieves this impact not only through the support generated from admissions and memberships, but also by relying on the support of our community to subsidize the cost of a visit for every family in our community. In fact, admissions and memberships account for only a fraction of the costs to operate this incredible museum. The remaining gap, along with funds to support our Access for All Scholarship program, comes through the generosity of our community.



As we enter this season of giving, we hope that you will consider including the Building for Kids in your charitable giving plans. One of the easiest ways to support this work is through a sustaining, monthly gift. We've made it even easier by including a QR code which you can scan with your smartphone and be taken directly to the sustaining contributions page on our website.

Your on-going support of \$10/month has the power to sponsor a membership, providing discovery and resilience for a family in a time of need or supporting evidence-based intervention for a child struggling with social self-confidence or barriers to academic achievement. Please consider becoming a sustaining supporter today.

With your partnership, we can continue to provide high-quality, intergenerational play and learning experiences here in our community.

Thank you,

Oliver Zornow  
Executive Director  
[ozornow@buildingforkids.org](mailto:ozornow@buildingforkids.org)



### Play It Forward

General Admission Fee: \$11  
BFK Cost per Visitor: \$15



**25%** of all family memberships are supported by Access for All Scholarships





## Upcoming Events

November 11  
5:00 – 7:00pm

### *Playdate with Molly of Denali*

Molly's final night at the museum will be celebrated with food and stories and lots of appearances from Molly!

December 2  
8:00 – 10:00am

### *Breakfast with the Grinch*

Join the Grinch for breakfast at the BFK! Plus, enjoy storytimes, themed activities, and lots of opportunities to meet the Grinch!

December 31  
9:00am – 4:00pm

### *BFK New Year*

Ring in the New Year with countdowns, ball drops, confetti tosses, and parades throughout the day!

For more information about these and other upcoming events, visit [buildingforkids.org](http://buildingforkids.org).

## Meet the Board

### Ethan Haas

*Board Member since 2022*

#### 1. Why did you join the Board?

As a member of this community and a parent myself, I find the BFK's mission to be very impactful and incredibly important. The BFK is one of only a few institutions in our community which provides interactive exhibits and educational programs that engage children and their families in playful learning experiences. Developing skills of curiosity, creativity, and problem-solving in future generations through early childhood development is essential to creating vibrant communities.

#### 2. What has kept you engaged on the Board?

Non-profits have numerous challenges and opportunities. The BFK is blessed with a great leadership team and board which collaborate extremely well to take on these challenges and prioritize these opportunities. Together, we are able to take on complex issues and develop creative and innovative solutions. It has been exciting and fun to see those solutions come to life at the BFK. Plus, engaging with a diverse group of board members and dealing with the unique challenges faced by BFK has broadened my perspective and enhanced my problem-solving abilities.

#### 3. Why does the BFK matter to the community?

The BFK is both at the geographical and figurative heart of Appleton, a true



cornerstone of downtown. Sustaining a vibrant downtown is important, and the BFK is an essential ingredient to make that happen. Children are the future pillars of any community, and investing in their early development ensures a more competent, informed, and socially responsible future workforce and citizenry. The BFK's programs often engage and educate both adults and children, which not only supports the child's development but also strengthens family bonds and creates better inter-family communication skills.

#### 4. How has the BFK impacted your life?

My son loves going to the BFK, and it has served a critical role in his own growth and development. Like many in our community, he has even had two of his birthday parties at the museum. My role at the BFK has provided me much greater insight into the importance of every citizen engaging more in their communities as well as the influence each of us can have. Non-profits, like the BFK, are making a significant impact, and it does not take much from volunteers and supporters to magnify those tangible results.

## Board of Directors

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