

BFK Rocket Report

🚀 Creating a dynamic, community-focused learning environment 🚀



New Exhibit Sponsored by Children's Wisconsin

Playing with toy food has always been popular at the Building for Kids. One of our most popular exhibits when the museum opened was a Mini Mart where kids could do their grocery shopping. While the exhibits have changed over the years, the museum has continued to have food-themed exhibits, from stores to restaurants to kitchens. Now, we are excited to take that theme to the next level with our new exhibit, Food to Grow sponsored by Children's Wisconsin!

In this exhibit, kids and their grown-ups can explore the whole food system from planting a seed to consuming its fruit.

Farm - Milk a cow, collect some eggs, and harvest your crop at the Farm.

Food Pantry - Stop by the Food Pantry and pick up essentials like milk, rice, chicken, and more.

Farm Market - Select some fresh fruits and vegetables at the Farm Market. Weigh out the produce and pay at the cash register.

Kitchen - Prepare a meal with a diverse variety of ingredients in the Kitchen. Take a look at the recipe book to learn about different meals and the array of ingredients used to make them.

Table - Enjoy a delicious and nutritious meal of your making around the Table with family and friends!



After collecting food from the Farm, Food Pantry, and Farm Market, kids can bring their grocery bag of food back to the kitchen where the smart exhibit will ensure they have a wide variety of fruits, vegetables, grains, proteins, and dairy. Then, it will also recommend a recipe to cook that uses the ingredients already in their bag.

Join us for the grand opening!

Food to Grow will open **Friday, October 6 at 4pm**. To celebrate, we're hosting a free admission evening sponsored by Children's Wisconsin from 4 - 8pm. We hope you can join us for this special event!

Sponsored by



With additional support from:



BFK Opens New Exhibit

In July, the BFK opened a new music-themed exhibit, *Follow the Beat to East Asia!*

In this exhibit, families can explore the role percussion music plays in the cultures of China, Japan, and South Korea. Play a tune with chimes, blocks, gongs, and more in the Chinese section of the exhibit. Then, tap out a beat on Japanese taiko drums or make daitokuji bowls sing. In the South Korea section, practice your K-Pop dance moves or jam out on janggu drums!

As part of this new exhibit, the BFK has invited different East Asian cultural groups to host programming in the space including a South Korean Samulnori performance, a Japanese dance demonstration by high school students from our sister city, Kanonji, Japan, and a peek into various components of Chinese cultural with the Northeast Wisconsin Chinese Association (NEWCA).

Follow the Beat to East Asia will be open through the Summer of 2024. This exhibit was created by the Freeman Foundation as part of their Asian Culture Exhibit Series.



FREEMAN FOUNDATION
Asian Culture Exhibit Series

Administered by Association of Children's Museums



Diversity Discovery Free Day

Saturday, September 23: 9am - 4pm



All are invited to join us for Diversity Discovery Free Day on Saturday, September 23. Admission is free from 9am - 4pm.

Diversity Discovery Free Day is in partnership with Rhythms of the World and IndUS of Fox Valley.

Some of our 2023 community partners:



14th Annual BFK Children's Parade

Presented by ThedaCare



Thank you to everyone who joined us in July for the 14th annual BFK Children's Parade presented by ThedaCare!

Over 1,000 kids and their grown-ups watched or participated in this year's Parade. We are so grateful for this opportunity to showcase the creativity, imagination, and confidence of the kids in our community.

Director's Digest

Summer has been an exciting season at the Building for Kids! We are grateful so many of you spent part of your summer with us and are eagerly looking forward to all that is to come this fall.

Over the past few months, our visitors may have noticed quite a few updates to our facility, including new flooring, new lighting, and new exhibit components. I recommend everyone try out our new Bernoulli Blower in partnership with AZCO and located next to Move It. Check it out and see what tricks you can perform with the balls suspended in the air. This past month, we also opened a brand new temporary exhibit - Follow the Beat to East Asia - in partnership with the Association of Children's Museums and the Freeman Foundation. We are thankful for our local partners who have hosted programming in the space to help bring the exhibit to life for kids and their grown-ups through performance and engagement.

The biggest change to our facility this summer is still ongoing as after more than two years of planning, we prepare to open a new permanent exhibit - Food to Grow - on our first floor in just a few weeks. This exhibit will include many familiar play-patterns in a new, more intentional setting as we seek to explore the whole food system. Visitors will gain a broader understanding of food sourcing, food choice, food equity, and the cultural significance of food. This exhibit is made possible thanks to the leadership support of Children's Wisconsin with additional support from Schreiber Foods and the Fox Cities Convention and Visitors Bureau.

Alongside this new immersive play-based learning environment, we will be working with community partners to deploy a robust series of programs called the Food to Grow Initiative, funded in part by a nearly \$200,000 competitive federal grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services. At its core, this work will develop knowledge, skills, and attitudes around sourcing, preparing, and consuming a variety of nutritionally valuable foods among children and their grown-ups. Stay tuned for more information about how this program series will come to life for daily visitors and in



small group workshops.

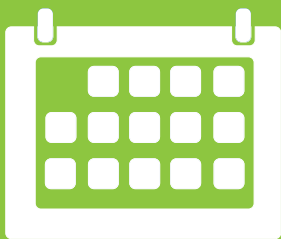
The Food to Grow Initiative will join the incredible set of programs and play-based learning environments at the Building for Kids that support the growth and development of our children and their community. We are so grateful to our members, visitors, advocates, volunteers, donors, and community leaders that make it possible for us to continue to innovate while inspiring discovery and building resilience here in the Fox Cities and beyond.

Wishing everyone a wonderful fall and upcoming school year!

Best,

Oliver Zornow
Executive Director
ozornow@buildingforkids.org





Upcoming Free Events

September 23
9:00am – 4:00pm

Diversity Discovery Free Day

Explore the elements of diversity that make our community stronger. Free museum admission!

October 6
4:00 – 8:00pm

Food to Grow Exhibit Opening & Free Night

Join us for a free admission evening sponsored by Children's Wisconsin as we celebrate the grand opening of our new Food to Grow exhibit!

October 20
4:00 – 8:00pm

Balanced Bodies Free Night

Enjoy a night of free admission as we explore how we nourish and care for our minds and bodies!

For more information about these and other upcoming events, visit buildingforkids.org.

Member Spotlight

The Stern Family *Members since 2017*

1. Why did you become members of the Building for Kids?

It's a great place to bring our kids to play and explore. We appreciate that the BFK encourages adults to play alongside their kids and help them learn. Additionally, with the wide variety of programs, there's something for all ages, which is important for our family.

2. What do you enjoy most about visiting the Building for Kids?

Our oldest daughter loves the art studio, our two boys really like the BFK Jet and Move It, and the baby hasn't decided what she likes best yet. What we (the adults) like is that no matter where we are in the BFK, there are lots of opportunities for creativity, fun, and learning something new.

3. What has the Building for Kids meant to your family?

The Building for Kids has meant a lot to our family, because our kids have grown up going there. Our youngest son took his first steps in Babies & Toddlers Around the World, so that will always be a special memory. I also have many memories of my kids all playing together throughout the museum, which was fun to see.



4. Why is the Building for Kids an important part of our community?

As part of her job in early education, Amy attends the Appleton 4K community nights at the BFK. She appreciates that the BFK gives kids an opportunity to interact with their parents and peers in an educational setting apart from school. Additionally, the BFK is a great way to welcome families to our community and showcase the tremendous value that we place on supporting the growth and development of kids.

5. Is there anything else you want to share?

We've been able to interact with the BFK in a variety of different ways – birthday parties, community 4K nights, field trips, camps, adults-only nights, New Year's Eve events, the Children's Parade, and character theme nights to name a few. Take advantage of everything that the BFK has to offer, because there's a lot going on here, and it's such a fantastic place to simply have fun with the kids!

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