

Heather Disher

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Submitter

Renee Simpson

Submission Date

Feb 16, 2024 2:37 PM

Tax Exempt Status

YES

Service Area

Fallbrook

Will no less than 80% of the program recipients live within the communities of Fallbrook, Rainbow, Bonsall or De Luz?

YES

Collaborative/Joint Application

NO

Organization Information

Legal Name

San Diego Children's Discovery Museum

DBA (if Applicable)

N/A

Contact Information

Contact Name

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Title

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Organization Physical Address

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Board of Directors



Board of Directors Contact List Updated O... .pdf

70.92 KB

Financial Documents - Audit



FY2023 - AuditedFinancials.pdf

371.23 KB

Financial Documents - P&L and Balance Sheet



SDCDM FY23 Financial Statements.pdf

68.6 KB

Financial Documents - 990



FY22 990 SDCDM.pdf

328.18 KB

Organization's Mission Statement

San Diego Children's Discovery Museum (SDCDM) sparks a love of learning so ALL children can discover their wildest dreams.

Organization's Vision Statement

Our vision for the future is to be the leaders in inventive early childhood learning. We aim to support children the most impacted by early childhood educational disparities during the earliest years when it matters most. Our Values

We believe in learning through hands-on play.

We believe in nurturing kind hearts and curious minds.

We believe in educational opportunities that are inclusive and open to all.

Organization History & Accomplishments

In 1999, Escondido parents came together to create a community learning space to foster children's creativity and exploration. This led to the creation of the Escondido Children's Museum in 2000, which later evolved into the San Diego Children's Discovery Museum. Having outgrown two facilities, we now accommodate over 100,000 visitors annually. With a holistic approach, we provide early childhood resources and educational opportunities to establish a strong foundation for lifelong success for young children. Recent fiscal year highlights include:

Served 103,287 families and children.

Provided subsidized access to 20,000 families in need.

Hosted 80,843 visitors, including 1,751 students on field trips.

Created over 10,000 STEM and literacy kits for underserved communities.

Engaged students from five grade levels in partnerships with 10 school districts.

Introduced 8 new exhibits and hosted 46 special events.

Provided 2,000+ hours of volunteer service.

Hosted the first STEMposium with 100 educators and thought leaders.

Our Mobile Children's Museum reached 10,393 children, with 90% from underserved communities. A 2021 CSU San Marcos study found that the program had a Total Economic Impact of \$3.8 million and a \$1.94 Positive Impact per dollar spent, validating our impact on the community.

Teachers often tell us they rely on SDCDM for STEM education and note that students in their districts would have limited access to STEM enrichment without us. Recent survey findings reveal high satisfaction among students and teachers with the Mobile Children's Museum programming. Teachers unanimously report that students enjoyed the Mobile Museum experiences, with 88% fully engaged. While 40% feel their school's STEM resources are lacking, 85% believe the Mobile Children's Museum significantly enhances their curriculum and learning standards. Positive teacher quotes highlight the effectiveness of activities for specific age groups, describing the experience as the "best day ever" and praising the well-organized workshops with friendly presenters.

Program Name/Title

Access for All Mobile Children’s Museum Scholarships for Fallbrook Children

Brief Program Description

The Mobile Children's Museum is a traveling STEM educational program. Access for All scholarships funded by this grant will ensure EVERY child in Pre-Kindergarten, Transitional Kindergarten, and Kindergarten at all Fallbrook Union School District schools, an estimated 900 children ages 4-6 years old, will benefit from the program.

Is this a new initiative/service or established program within your organization?

Established Program

Did this program receive FRHD CHC - Grant funding last funding cycle (FY 23.24).

NO

Describe the impact of the program to date. Briefly explain how the service/intervention has worked - include cumulative metrics from the Q1 and Q2 Impact reports.

In the most recent fiscal year, our Mobile Children's Museum reached 10,393 children, with 90% from underserved communities. A 2021 CSU San Marcos study found that the program had a Total Economic Impact of \$3.8 million and a \$1.94 Positive Impact per dollar spent, validating our impact on the community.

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Quotes: "My students had a lot of fun and said it was the best day ever! Thank you for providing a fun and enriching experience for our first graders."

"The Workshop was well-organized, with materials ready to go. Both presenters were very friendly and knew how to talk to kids (even little ones in TK!)."

“We were so excited for the mobile exhibit visit! Because of our distance away from the city, our children sometimes miss out on educational experiences. We were so pleased that they were able to problem solve, work on cooperation and have some good old-fashioned fun with your engineering tasks. It was great to see the teamwork, inclusion and creative thinking that arose from their play!” - Teacher, Julian Elementary

Funding Amount Being Requested **20000**

Program Information - Type **Time Bound**

Time Bound Program Dates **2024-08-01
2025-06-30**

Projected number of residents that will directly benefit (participant/client) from this program. **952**

Target Population - Age

	Percent of program participants	Estimated number of participants
Children (infants to 12)	100	952
Young Adults (13-17)		
Adults (18-60)		
Seniors (60+)		
We do not collect this data (indicate with 100%)*		

Target Population not collected - Age **N/A**

Target Population - Gender

	Percent of program participants
Female	
Male	
Non-binary	
Unknown*	100

*Target Population - Gender **We do not directly collect gender data on program participants. This information can be obtained from Ed Data and School District records.**

Target Population - Income Level

	Percent of program participants
Extremely Low-Income Limits, ceiling of \$32,100	

	Percent of program participants
Very Low (50%) Income Limits, ceiling of \$53,500	
Low (80%) Income Limits, ceiling of \$85,600	
Higher Than Listed Limits	
We do not collect this data (indicate with 100%)*	100

*Target Population - Income Level

While we do not directly collect demographic data on program participants, information obtained from Ed Data and School District records indicate that 73% of Fallbrook Union Elementary School District students identify as BIPOC, with 64% being Hispanic or Latino. In the 2022-2023 school year, 75% of students were classified as English learners, foster youth, or eligible for free/reduced-price meals during enrollment counts.

Fallbrook Union Elementary School District provides a kindergarten through eighth-grade education to students across nine school sites, including two schools located aboard Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton. Located in the northern-most part of San Diego County, FUESD provides a wide-ranging set of educational opportunities to a culturally diverse population of students.

What language(s) can this program accommodate:

English

Spanish

What demographic group does this program predominately serve:

Youth - school based

Program/Services Description - Social Determinants of Health

Education Access & Quality (Early Childhood Education and Development, Enrollment in Higher Education, High School Graduation, Language and Literacy)

Social Determinants of Health - Education Access and Quality

The Mobile Children's Museum directly addresses the Social Determinant of Health (SDOH) related to Education Access and Quality by actively working to increase educational opportunities and support the academic success of Fallbrook children and adolescents. Recognizing that higher levels of education contribute to better health outcomes and longer life expectancy, our program is designed to bridge educational gaps for underserved communities.

Children from low-income families, those with disabilities, and those facing social discrimination often encounter challenges in academic achievement. The Mobile Children's Museum focuses on providing high-quality STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) education, ensuring that children have access to engaging learning experiences. By fostering over 50 fluencies for preschoolers through 5th graders, the program aims to enhance academic performance and prepare them for future educational milestones. The Access for All scholarships offered by the Mobile Children's Museum significantly reduce the financial burden on families, making STEM education accessible to those who need it the most. The program addresses transportation and resource challenges that often hinder educational access by bringing the museum learning experience directly into marginalized, economically disadvantaged, and geographically under-resourced communities.

Through these interventions, the Mobile Children's Museum contributes to increased educational opportunities and supports the overall well-being of children and adolescents. By investing in high-quality early

childhood education programs and reducing barriers to STEM education, the program lays the foundation for improved academic success and lessens the potential health disparities associated with lower educational attainment.

Statement of Need/Problem

Research shows that children who engage in playful, high-quality early childhood educational enrichment activities like those featured in this proposal are more likely to achieve positive outcomes in the long run. Play-based, hands-on STEM educational experiences, like SDCDM's Mobile Children's Museum, can lead to deeper learning and discovering new concepts and academic interests.

STEM education is often neglected at the preschool and elementary school levels as most teachers are unlikely to have a STEM background and face curriculum and structural barriers as well as a lack of support and resources. Community resources, such as STEM programs offered by educators outside the classroom, have been cited as an ideal solution to increase STEM learning by the National Association for Education of Young Children's professional standards published in their best practices.

California Department of Education's 2021 report, *The Powerful Role of Play in Early Education*, reveals that decades of research show that through play, children learn a breadth of social-emotional, cognitive, and physical skills and essential dispositions for learning. According to Tony Thurmond, CA State Superintendent of Public Instruction, comprehensive evidence confirms that play-based learning is the most effective approach for supporting children's health, learning, and overall well-being.

LEGO Foundation's The White Paper, *Learning through play: a review of the evidence*, states that through active engagement with ideas and knowledge, and also with the world at large, we see children as better prepared to deal with tomorrow's reality - a reality of their own making. From this perspective, learning through play is crucial for positive, healthy development.

One of the most pressing needs of our community is to prepare young children for future success. San Diego Children's Discovery Museum's Mobile Children Museum proudly offers educational programming that does just that!

How are other organizations addressing this need in the community?

Within the community, the San Diego Children's Discovery Museum's Mobile Children's Museum stands out as a unique and innovative offering in early childhood education. Being one of only three children's museums nationwide with a Mobile Children's Museum and the only educator-led Mobile Children's Museum in San Diego County, our program is distinct in our approach to delivering enriching, hands-on, and immersive learning experiences directly to marginalized, economically disadvantaged, and geographically under-resourced communities.

While we know the Ruben H. Fleet Center's Fleet has a mobile On the Go educational program, it's crucial to note the differences in our respective programs. Our Mobile Children's Museum goes beyond bringing exhibits and interactive experiences by focusing on the early years (ages 4-6), social-emotional learning and purposeful play. Our approach addresses critical gaps in STEM program funding, fostering early interest in STEM, and enhances problem-solving skills.

Program/Services Description - Program Entry & Follow Up

The Mobile Children's Museum program ensures participant entry through a strategic process designed to remove barriers and facilitate engagement. The Museum education team initiates the process by developing a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the school district. This foundational agreement lays the groundwork for collaboration and outlines the shared objectives between the Mobile Children's Museum and the educational institution.

Following the establishment of an MOU, the Museum collaborates with individual schools within the district to set up mobile visits tailored to complement classroom objectives and align with the school calendar. This personalized approach allows for the seamless integration of Mobile STEM Workshops and Exhibits into the existing educational framework, ensuring

relevance and effectiveness.

Post-visit, the program prioritizes ongoing engagement and impact assessment. Specific follow-up includes post-program surveys to the teachers and maintaining ongoing relationships with the school district. Through this comprehensive approach, the Mobile Children's Museum aims to ignite a passion for learning and STEM, ensuring equal educational opportunities for all participants in underserved communities.

Program/Services Description -
Program Activities

Mobile STEM Workshops offer engaging experiences for Preschool through 3rd-grade children that can be provided grade-specific or general STEM Workshops. The grade-specific STEM workshops focus on Next Generation Science and Common Core Standards.

Our Mobile Exhibits seamlessly integrate science, technology, engineering, arts, and math and are adaptable to a variety of grade levels. Mobile STEM Exhibits explore captivating topics such as Forces, Garden Explorers, Light and Sound, and Water Engineering. Students can engage with interactive exhibits like Snap Circuits, Rokenbok, Rigamajig, or the Light Wall. We offer coding workshops and Ozobots. The Mobile Exhibits provide an immersive STEM learning journey, fostering curiosity and knowledge in young children.

The program addresses the critical need for equitable educational opportunities by removing cost barriers for expanded learning programs. It fills gaps in STEM program funding not typically covered by public funding while complementing the core curriculum. The Mobile Children's Museum aims to foster early interest in STEM, enhance problem-solving skills, and expose children to potential careers in STEM fields.

Exposing children to STEM at a young age supports their overall academic growth and develops early thinking and reasoning skills. The real-life skills that children develop when learning STEM help make them better problem solvers and learners. So it's never too soon to spark an interest in future careers and foster the incredible curiosity and inquisitiveness innate to children.

Access for All Mobile Children's Museum Scholarships: To ensure affordable access to STEM workshops for children in underserved communities, we offer fully funded and subsidized STEM workshops. This initiative removes financial barriers for schools and community groups in marginalized, economically disadvantaged, and geographically under-resourced areas where transportation and educational resource challenges are prevalent. We have found that transporting groups of students across the county to learning institutions can be inordinately expensive - it is far more economical (52% less) for us to go to them.

Research highlights that children from under-resourced communities are disproportionately impacted by academic and social readiness gaps, placing them at higher risk for adverse outcomes. These scholarships champion equity, foster inclusivity, and expand Museum learning to a broader audience. The ultimate objective is to ignite a passion for learning and STEM, ensuring equal educational opportunities for all.

Program Goal

By the end of the 2024-2025 academic year, the Mobile Children's Museum aims to deliver a minimum of 40 STEM workshops to ALL PreK, TK, and Kindergarten students in Fallbrook Union Elementary Schools, impacting over 900 children and ensuring financial inclusivity for all participants through Access for All scholarships. This goal will be evaluated quarterly by assessing program success through structured observations, surveys, and participation metrics, aiming to enhance social-emotional development, academic engagement, and overall effectiveness based on continuous improvement strategies.

Program Objectives &
Measurable Outcomes

SDCDM uses both quantitative and qualitative metrics to measure the success of our mobile programming. Evaluations are analyzed quarterly, and

improvements are made based on the findings. Our mobile museum metrics include the number and ages of children and adults served, post-program survey results from participating teachers and Museum staff members, and program efficacy measured by the engagement level of the children.

The primary goal of the Mobile Children's Museum project is to provide enriching, hands-on, immersive learning experiences, particularly in the field of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics), to children in marginalized, economically disadvantaged, and geographically under-resourced communities.

SMART Goal for Increasing Program Participation:

Achieve a 15% increase in student participation in Mobile Museum experiences among Fallbrook students during the current academic year, measured by comparing the number of participants to the figures recorded in the previous year.

SMART Goal for Financial Inclusivity:

Attain 100% financial inclusivity by ensuring that at least 100% of Fallbrook participants benefit from fully funded or subsidized STEM workshops through Access for All scholarships, quantified by calculating the percentage of children covered by these scholarships.

SMART Goal for Increasing Access to STEM Education:

Deliver STEM workshops to a minimum of 900 children in Fallbrook Union Elementary Schools during the 2024-2025 academic year, ensuring broader access to STEM education.

SMART Goal for Enhancing Academic Engagement:

Design and implement at least two grade-specific STEM workshops aligned with Next Generation Science and Common Core Standards, fostering hands-on learning experiences for students in Fallbrook Union Elementary Schools to enhance academic engagement.

SMART Goal for Evaluating Program Success:

Regularly assess the success of the program by analyzing quarterly evaluations of both onsite and mobile programming. Implement improvements based on the findings to enhance the overall effectiveness and impact of the Mobile Children's Museum.

Organization Collaborations

The Mobile Children's Museum program actively collaborates with a wide variety of educational, community, and professional organizations, and has an existing partnership with Fallbrook Union Elementary Schools that in the 2022-2023 school year when we began offering Mobile Museum workshops to their students.

The Museum's primary partners include KPBS Kids, Escondido Union School District, Escondido State Preschool Program, Carlsbad Unified School District, Oceanside Unified School District, Educational Enrichment Systems (EES), and MAAC head start state-run preschools in north county. Recent culture and arts partners include the Samahan Filipino American group, 'ataaxum Pomkwaan, an indigenous group, and Ballet Folklorico en Aztlan. Other significant partnerships include the San Diego Public Libraries, Escondido Public Library, the Boys & Girls Club, and Oceanside Public Library. These collaborations strengthen our programs by providing diverse perspectives, resources, and opportunities for learning and community engagement.

Our partnerships extend beyond traditional educational institutions, and we utilize resources and research from esteemed organizations such as the

Association of Children's Museums, California Department of Education, the National Association for Education of Young Children, the LEGO Foundation, the Heckman Institute, Edtopia, the CASEL SEL Framework, Next Generation Science and Common Core Standards, and more. This multifaceted approach ensures the development of high-quality, evidence-driven, and developmentally appropriate programming.

Committed to addressing broader community needs and supporting vulnerable populations, our annual STEMposium unites the community to explore the latest advancements in early childhood education, play, and STEM. Our collaboration with the CSUSM MBA program reflects a commitment to rigorous evaluation and continuous improvement, ensuring the program's effectiveness and positive impact. Overall, these collaborative efforts contribute to the success and sustainability of the Mobile Children's Museum in providing enriching, hands-on educational experiences to underserved communities.

Anticipated Acknowledgment

Social Media Postings

Website Display

Anticipated Acknowledgment

By partnering with us, Fallbrook Regional Health District can align itself with a respected organization, extend its reach to a broad audience, and receive meaningful recognition while advancing SDCDM's educational programs and mission. We will work closely with your group to ensure that your logo is used in line with your specific recognition preferences, maintaining the integrity of your branding while showcasing your support for our initiatives. We can feature your name or logo on our website, in our newsletter, and through various social media channels. As requested, we can display your high-resolution PNG logo in our promotional materials, further increasing your brand's visibility. Our communications and outreach efforts are estimated to reach approximately 30,000 people. This means that your association with the San Diego Children's Discovery Museum will be communicated to a substantial audience, enhancing your group's visibility.

On Facebook, with 25,000+ followers, SDCDM shares a mix of informative content, event updates, and behind-the-scenes glimpses into its programs. The platform serves as a hub for fostering community engagement and keeping followers informed about the latest developments. SDCDM's Instagram account (@sdcdm320) has a following of 7,789, focusing on visually appealing content that resonates with its audience. With a LinkedIn presence of 1,042 connections, SDCDM strategically uses the professional networking platform to connect with individuals and organizations in the education, museum, and nonprofit sectors. YouTube provides a video-centric platform where SDCDM shares educational content, virtual tours, and highlights from its programs.

Funding History

YES

Funding History - withdrawn, reduced or discontinued explained

Although we have yet to experience any instances of funds being withdrawn, reduced, or discontinued within an open grant period, there have been times when a Mobile Children's Museum funder's priorities or finances have shifted, and they have discontinued funding by not awarding a new request. There are also funders with policies preventing continued funding for the same organizations year after year.

As a result, SDCDM cannot rely on consistent annual support from the same group of funders. However, it is important to highlight our organization's established track record of successfully implementing and monitoring metrics and financials for this program. We assure you that SDCDM is a dependable,

professional, and collaborative partner committed to fulfilling the terms and conditions of all awarded grants.

Program Budget

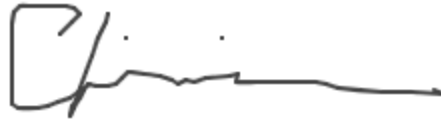


Final Fallbrook Project Budget.pdf.pdf
164.26 KB

Terms and Conditions

Accepted

Authorized Signature

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'C. J. ...' with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.