



Annual Report 2017

*Transforming the Fort Bend community  
through innovative, child-centered learning*

# Fort Bend Children's Discovery Center

A very special project of Children's Museum of Houston



Can your  
**mind**  
come  
out to  
**play?**



*Dear Friends,*

Thank you! Your support made it possible for the Fort Bend Children’s Discovery Center to serve more than 102,341 children and their families during the first ten months of our inaugural year (May 2016–April 2017) onsite and another 7,103 with educational outreach programs.

**Our History**

In order to celebrate our progress, let us remind you of our history. In 2006, a group of Fort Bend County citizens asked the Children’s Museum of Houston to consider opening a satellite location in the area. We conducted summer venues at vacant retail spaces within Sugar Land Town Square, each for six weeks, during the summers of 2007 and 2008. Those summer efforts were well received with 21,000 visitors each year. In 2010, the Johnson Development Corporation approached us to consider operating at the Imperial Sugar Mill site, and the George Foundation extended a \$1 million challenge grant in 2012 to kick off our capital campaign.

**The Results**

After a successful capital campaign led by many respected community and business leaders, in which we raised \$4.6 million from individuals, foundations, and corporations in Fort Bend, the Discovery Center proudly held its grand opening on May 28 welcoming over 2,500 visitors. Baird, a global financial services firm, served as the Grand Opening Sponsor making it possible to provide free admission to the public for the day. In April 2017, we celebrated our 100,000<sup>th</sup> visitor since our opening in May 2016. Our five exhibits are child-centered and inquiry-based, enabling parents to serve as their children’s first teachers and compliment school learning.

**The Future**

We are excited about our sixth exhibit planned to open when construction at Imperial Market permits. The “Can I Do That?” PlayWorks will invite children to climb, crawl, jump, and leap on an outdoor playground.

It has been a great honor to work with leaders from communities throughout Fort Bend to make their vision come true. The bonds we have formed will ensue that together we make possible a world-class learning center in a beautiful museum setting located in a historically important area. We’ve built a place where the best ideas come together—practically speaking, “A Playground for Your Mind.”™

Thank you for continuing to support the Discovery Center’s efforts to transform the Fort Bend community through innovative, child-centered learning.

Sincerely,

*Debbie Fash*

Debbie Fash  
Capital Campaign  
Co-Chair

*Jan Leaman*

Jan Leaman  
Capital Campaign  
Co-Chair

*Rachel Leaman*

Rachel Leaman  
Capital Campaign  
Co-Chair

*Charlene Pate*

Charlene Pate  
Capital Campaign  
Co-Chair

*Tammie Kahn*

Tammie Kahn  
Executive Director



FBCDC connects children and families with experiences that they can customize to suit their own learning interests. These experiences offer foundational learning opportunities while providing parents with support as their child's first teacher and reinforce learning that occurs in school.

## COMMUNITY NEED #1

*Foster the development of Fort Bend County's significant child population*



### FBCDC RESPONSE:

Provides experiential learning through five bilingual hands-on exhibits, high-quality education programming, and after-school programming focused on STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts Design, Mathematics) principles.

## COMMUNITY NEED #2

*Increase and support parental engagement in children's learning*



### FBCDC RESPONSE:

Provides two bilingual programs, the Parent Stars and Para los Niños, which enhance parents' role as their child's first and most important teachers by providing them with activities and strategies to support out-of-school learning.

## COMMUNITY NEED #3

*Provide learning experiences that reinforce and supplement school classroom instruction*



### FBCDC RESPONSE:

Offers four community-based and after-school programs to engage students in educational activities that can be tailored to their own learning interests and needs. These programs offer students self-initiated and facilitated projects, educational games and activities to strengthen literacy, math, and science skills.

## COMMUNITY NEED #4

*Reduce the effects of poverty on learning*



### FBCDC RESPONSE:

Provides two bilingual early educational programs dedicated to engaging low-income children and families. Through the Open Doors program, free admission and resources are provided to constituencies of 64 Fort Bend community-based partner organizations.

## COMMUNITY NEED #5

*Serve a multicultural, multilingual population*

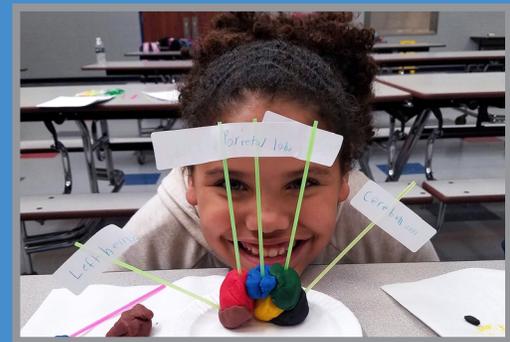


### FBCDC RESPONSE:

Provides all exhibits, facilitation, programs, and FBCDC website pages in English and Spanish. 35% of the public contact staff speak Spanish. In a community where 38% of families speak a language other than English in their home, the FBCDC presents a range of multicultural exhibits and programming to encourage visitor exploration, helping cultivate an appreciation and understanding of the cultural traditions of diverse communities.

## COMMUNITY NEED #6

*Promote workforce preparedness through the development of 21st century skills*



### FBCDC RESPONSE:

Bases exhibits and programming on Building Blocks learning objectives to ensure strategic connections between the Discovery Center's offerings, 21<sup>st</sup> century workplace skills, and school-based standards. All exhibits undergo intensive testing and ongoing evaluations to ensure FBCDC objectives are achieved.

# Capital Campaign Update

The Capital Campaign provided funds for the creation of the Fort Bend Children's Discovery Center. Led by campaign co-chairs Debbie Fash, Jan Leaman, Rachel Leaman, and Charlene Pate, the museum exceeded the fundraising goal and raised \$4.6 million from individuals, foundations, and corporations in Fort Bend.

\$2,100,000

Refurbish Imperial Development Site Building and Provide New Exhibits

\$1,550,000

Contributed Income Requirement for Three Years

\$3,650,000

Goal

\$4,600,000

Amount Raised



# Celebrating Our Grand Opening

The Discovery Center held its grand opening on May 28 welcoming over 2,500 visitors to the celebration. Nancy Olson, wife of U.S. Representative Pete Olson, served as mistress of ceremonies. Fort Bend County Judge Robert Herbert issued a proclamation as part of the celebration, and seven mayors from Fort Bend were also in attendance. Baird, a global financial services firm, served as the Grand Opening Sponsor allowing free admission for all visitors on this day.



# How Are We Alike? Cultural Gallery

Sponsored by McDonald's Restaurants of Greater Houston in partnerships with Ronald McDonald House Charities of Greater Houston/Galveston

Hosting rotational cultural exhibits, the gallery's debut featured Dragons and Fairies: Exploring Vietnam through Folktales. Dragons and Fairies provides a profusion of hands-on, interactive experiences where aspects of modern-day life in Vietnam interweave with centuries-old folktales. The exhibit uses five traditional Vietnamese folktales as a vehicle to engage children and families in conversations, activities, and resources related to learning more about Vietnam and the Vietnamese people.



*"I have taught fourth, fifth, and currently teach middle school. I was very impressed with all of the activities and age ranges your facility meets."*

*– Abby Kettler*

# How Does My Baby Grow? Tot\*Spot

Sponsored by Union Pacific Railroad and Perry Homes

This infant-friendly, bilingual exhibit gives children ages 35 months and under the opportunity for discovery, experimentation, exploration, and wonder using all of their senses: touch, taste, smell, hearing, and sight within distinct areas designed to develop critical thinking, problem solving, fine and gross motor skills, as well as oral language development. Tot\*Spot is a safe environment which provides multiple opportunities for quality interaction between child and parent, and allows parents to have positive experiences with their child through play.

*"Our 18-month-old had a blast. She loved the toddler room."*

*– Lindsay Buras-Beaty*



## Mommy Mingle

On the first Friday of each month, we host Mommy Mingle, providing parents and caregivers the chance to meet, mingle, have refreshments, and share experiences related to the care of infants and toddlers. Sponsored by Larry Caldwell, D.D.S. & Associates.

# How Does It Work? Gallery

Sponsored by Ann and John Johnson

This exhibit offers a place to explore how the natural world works. This physical science-themed exhibit challenges children to discover the answers to their own scientific questions with tons of hands-on, investigative experiences. Children can learn new biological, chemistry, and physics concepts at the Science Station sponsored by the Gulf Coast Medical Foundation and May Tape, D.D.S, raise themselves five feet into the air at Kid Lift, use the pneumatic tube system to send objects traveling through various overhead tracks with the Ball Coaster, and more. Activities are aligned with the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (or TEKS, which guide education in Texas) and connect to specific curriculum goals, grade levels, and 21<sup>st</sup> century skills.



*"We had a great time. I brought my 7, 5, 3, and 1 year old. We stayed in the science room for a long time!"*

*– Dani J. Daniel*

# Can I Solve That? Gallery

Sponsored by Ecolab

This rotating exhibit focuses on real world applications of mathematics and critical thinking skills began with CyberChase: The Chase is On! Children take on the roles of characters from this popular TV show as the save Cyberspace and defeat Hacker, the dastardly villain. The current exhibit is Everyone Counts! a collection of activities, bilingual games, and brain teasers from around the world which show how everyone counts in many ways. The exhibit captures the best math games—eastern and west-ern, ancient and new—to show how even though exercises may differ from culture to culture, concepts remain the same in any language.



*"I took my 2-year-old and figured it was a place for just kids to have fun so I was pleasantly surprised when there were areas geared towards older kids and adults, too! Really a neat place for all ages."*

*– Susan Cantu*

# Where Does it Come From? Kidtropolis

Sponsored by Mercedes-Benz of Sugar Land

Kidtropolis is a Fort Bend city for kids run by kids. The exhibit immerses visitors in learning experiences that build their financial literacy and understandings of civic engagement. The thematic wrap for Kidtropolis is a set of iconic buildings that both mirror and highlight the diverse community of Fort Bend. In Kidtropolis, visitors role play as they explore their city, take on jobs, vote for City Council, vote on city bills, and engage in roles as producers, consumers, and decision makers.

*“Every time my granddaughters come to visit me in Sugar Land they ask me if they can go to the Children’s Discovery Center. They are 9 and 10 years old now and have been visiting the Center since it opened. They just love the place!”* — Stephanie Tamborello



ABC Animal & Bird Clinic

Another Time Soda Fountain & Cafe

OCuSOFT Art Academy

P&M Likhari Municipal Building

Roberta K. Randall Charitable Foundation

The Spencer Company Town Square



Mercedes-Benz of Sugar Land Precision Center

Kidtropolis Academy sponsored by Fort Bend Christian Academy

Fort Bend Herald News Bureau

H-E-B Market

Allen Boone Humphries Robinson LLP Ambulance Service

TDECU Dream Job and Career Expo

# Can I Do That? PlayWorks

Sponsored by Charlene Pate

**Coming Soon!**

Children will climb, crawl, jump, and leap at the Discovery Center’s upcoming outdoor playground. The exhibit will be located on the Discovery Center’s south side and will be installed when Imperial Market construction permits.

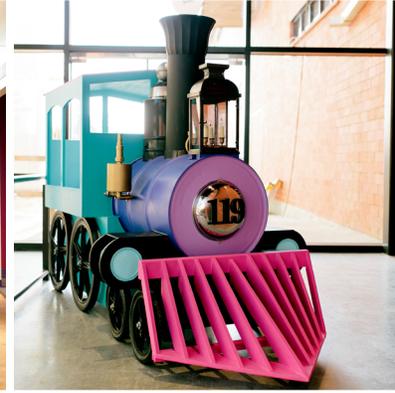


Wells Fargo Bank

Fred and Mabel R. Parks Foundation Bank Building

# The George Foundation Kids' Hall

We host art exhibitions throughout the year on the walls of The George Foundation Kid's Hall, the main hallway of the Discovery Center. These art exhibits include holiday displays and exhibitions produced by local schools and community partners. Also included in this area is Junktion sponsored by Union Pacific Railroad offering interactive activities.



## FBCDC Donors

The FBCDC is grateful for support from the Fort Bend community. Generous donors provided \$4,634,397 for the Capital Campaign and the 2016–2017 fiscal year.

### \$1,500,000–\$400,000

The George Foundation  
Mercedes-Benz of Sugar Land  
Charlene Pate

### \$399,999–\$100,000

Anonymous  
Ecolab  
Ann and John Johnson  
Johnson Development Corporation/  
Suzie and Larry Johnson  
Perry Homes  
McDonald's Restaurants of Greater  
Houston in partnership with Ronald  
McDonald House Charities of Greater  
Houston/Galveston  
Union Pacific Railroad

Another Time Soda Fountain and Cafe  
Debbie and Ron Fash  
Fort Bend Christian Academy  
The Fort Bend Herald  
H-E-B  
The Henderson-Wessendorff  
Foundation  
Imperial Community Foundation  
Manmeet and Paul Likhari  
OCuSOFT  
Fred and Mabel R. Parks Foundation  
Schlumberger  
Vivian L. Smith Foundation  
The Spencer Company  
Twinwood U.S.  
Wells Fargo

### \$99,999–\$50,000

ABC Animal and Bird Clinic  
Allen Boone Humphries Robinson LLP



**\$49,999–\$25,000**

Baird  
 Fairmont Santrol  
 Wynn and Mary Geiger Foundation  
 Gulf Coast Medical Foundation  
 Lynn and Dennis Halford  
 LJA Engineering  
 Matrix Corporation  
 Diana and John Null  
 Tamara S. Osina-Felinski, D.D.S.  
 Roberta K. Randall Charitable  
 Foundation  
 Stewart Title  
 May and Lindsey Tape Foundation  
 Texas Dow Employees Credit Union  
 Westin Homes

**\$24,999–\$10,000**

Jackie and Brian Bergdoll  
 Carole and Bob Brown  
 Brown & Gay Engineers  
 Fort Bend Cares  
 His Highness the Aga Khan Council  
 for the Southwestern U.S.  
 Indo American Forum  
 Jones & Carter, Inc.  
 Tracy and Rocky Lai  
 Madison Charitable Foundation  
 Medallion Foundation  
 Ruthann and Ivan Mefford  
 Newmark Homes  
 Beverly and Jim Postl  
 Taylor Morrison & Darling Homes  
 Mariette and Wayne Wright

**\$9,999–\$5,000**

Larry Caldwell, D.D.S. and Associates  
 C & M Favre Foundation  
 Fogle Manufacturing, Inc.  
 Susie and Doug Goff  
 Tammie and Barry Kahn  
 Felix and Angela Morales Memorial  
 Foundation  
 Peggy and Robert Miser  
 Carolyn J. Pope  
 Sprint Companies

**\$5,000–\$1,000**

Maky and Carlos Abello  
 American Plating Company  
 Mary Ann Belin  
 Joan Bell  
 Bhavna Bindal  
 Barrett Blackmon  
 Michael G. Brown  
 Cheryl and Winstol Carter  
 Charlotte Christman  
 Nell and Russell Clingman  
 Anna B. Davis  
 Deepinder and Jaihind Dhodhi  
 Margaret Dickson  
 Marie J. Do and Charles S. Nguyen  
 Jennifer and Jeff Dye  
 Enchanted Forest/Enchanted Gardens  
 Martha Eppes  
 Garden Club of Richmond  
 Valerie and Samuel Golden  
 Glenn S. and Mary S. Harris  
 Anita and William Harris  
 Delores Hinkle  
 Jessica Jubin

Rennie and Richard Knipling  
 Mary K. Kocurek  
 Jan and Lee Leaman  
 Rachel and Will Leaman  
 Mary and Jeffrey Little  
 Ying Long  
 Debbie and Marvin Marcell  
 Sandy Steed-Martinez  
 Mr. and Mrs. Parvez M. Merchant  
 Meritage Cares Foundation  
 Michael T. McCann Foundation  
 Inc DBA Bike for Mike  
 Murphy Oil  
 Mimi Nguyen  
 Municipal District Services  
 Ann and Les Newton  
 Nancy and Pete Olson  
 The Tracy Pipes Family  
 RBC Capital  
 Roberts Markel Weinberg P.C.  
 Joe Robinson  
 Arlene Rolson  
 Martha and Dan Rutledge  
 Sandvik Coromart  
 The Scala Family  
 Sugar Land Home and Garden  
 Show  
 Tate, Moerer & King  
 Trendmaker Homes  
 Nancy and Charles Turner  
 Jill Webster  
 The Dixie Starnes Wenger  
 Foundation  
 K.K. West  
 Christine and Jonathan Zhou  
 Zoroastrian Association of Houston



# 2016–2017 Results

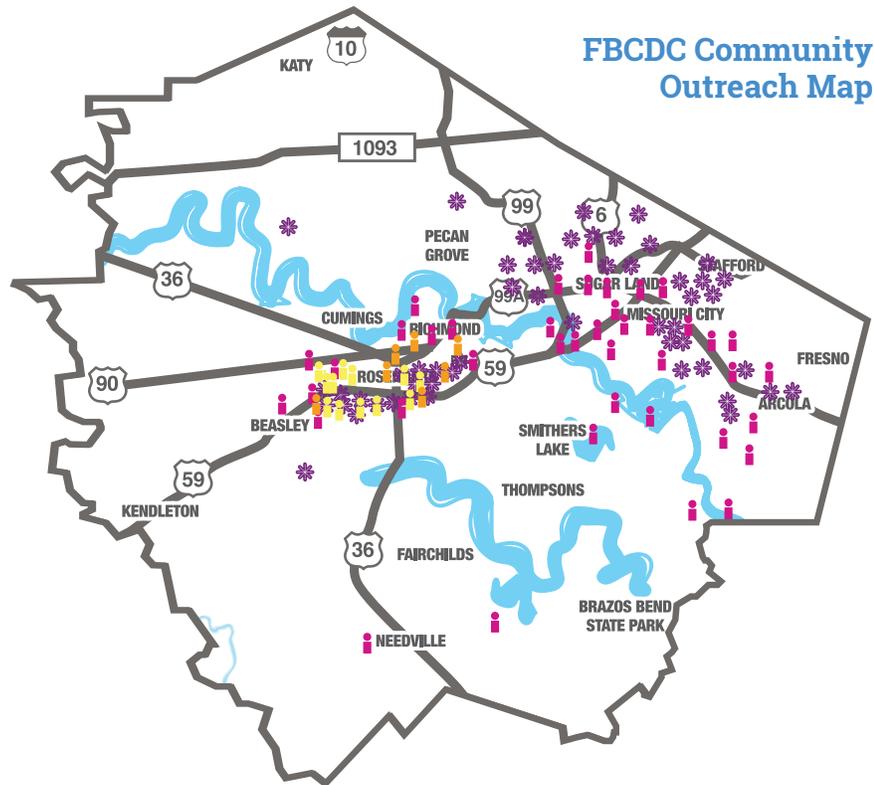
The FBCDC served 102,341 children, parents, caregivers, and educators during the first ten months of our 2016–2017 fiscal year (May 28, 2016–April 15, 2017), providing access to five exhibit galleries as well as after-school, community, and bilingual programs.

## Service to Low-Income Families

It is estimated that over 53,000 children in Fort Bend County live near poverty in addition to over 21,000 who live in poverty (Children at Risk 2012–2014). The FBCDC realizes the importance of reaching those most in need of educational opportunities.

Access to the Discovery Center for the benefit of low-income families was provided by Open Doors passes distributed by over 60 organizations that serve low-income families in Fort Bend as well as through unlimited free admissions for every family who receives public assistance benefits granted by the State of Texas.

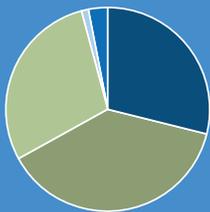
Supplemental programming was provided at no charge to participants, involving school-based family learning events and parent workshops of the Parent Stars program, the library-based parenting workshops of our Para los Niños program, and the STEM-oriented activities of the Summer of Learning program.



After School Programs	Open Doors Partners	Family Learning Programs
A'STEAM and Kit-Based	1-4 Partners	Para los Niños Parent Stars

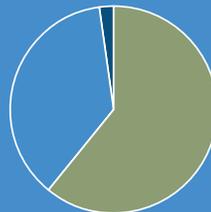
## Finances

The total operating revenue and releases from restrictions for the ten month period ended March 31, 2017 \$635,000. Total expenses for the same time period were \$565,000. March 31, 2017 net assets totaled \$3,549,000.



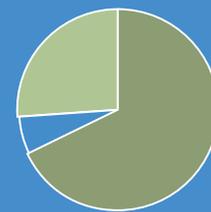
### FY17 Revenue

Contributions: (29%)  
Admissions: (38%)  
Memberships: (29%)  
Retail and Food Sales: (1%)  
Program and Other Fees: (3%)



### FY17 Expenses

Education, Visitor, and Program Services: (61%)  
Supporting Services: (37%)  
Advertising: (2%)



### Admissions

Free Museum Admissions: (6%)  
Reduce-fee Admissions: (68%)  
Paid Museum Admissions: (26%)



2016–2017  
FBCDC Council

Rachel Leaman  
*Chair*

Dr. Betty Baitland  
Debbie Buckner  
Nell Ciancarelli  
Debbie Fash  
Susie Goff  
Samuel Golden  
Lynn Halford  
Dr. Huma Jafry  
Shefali Jhaveri  
Larry Johnson  
Bernice King  
Dee Koch  
Rachel Leaman  
Manmeet Likhari  
Jim McClellan  
Ruthanne Mefford  
Nancy Olson  
Charlene Pate  
Judy Schmid  
Sandy Steed-Martinez

Tammie Kahn  
*Executive Director*

2012–2015  
Capital Campaign Committee

*Co-Chairs:*

Debbie Fash  
Jan Leaman  
Rachel Leaman  
Charlene Pate

*Honorary Co-Chairs:*

Pat Herbert  
Evalyn Moore  
Gay Thompson

*Advisors:*

Dee Koch  
Nancy Olson

*Members:*

Emily Arnim  
Betty Baitland  
Kay Beard  
Mandi Bronsell  
Kelly Buettner  
Jacque Burgess  
Renee Butler  
Kolbe Curtice  
Kyle Dawson  
Bruce Gingrich  
Susie Goff  
Lynn Halford  
Suzie Johnson  
Libby King  
Allison LeGrand  
Paula LaGrappe  
Manmeet Likhari  
Debbie Marcell  
Marvin Marcell  
Katherine Minter  
Mike Orsak  
Tammy Osina  
Andy Ralph  
Andy Rivers  
Arlene Rolsen

Martha Rutledge  
Sandy Steed-Martinez  
Barbara Stephenson  
David Timmermeyer  
K.K. West  
Jim Wilkins  
Mariette Wright

*Advisory Committee:*

Nell Ciancarelli  
Chris Crockett  
Farrah Gandhi  
Ann Hodge  
Don Kerstetter  
Judge Brenda Mullinex  
Jill Nehls  
Danny Nguyen  
Commissioner James  
Patterson  
Carolyn Pope  
Judge Ron Pope

