For two decades, the Edwardsville Children’s Museum has been a place for families in our community to enjoy unforgettable experiences together. Like any organization, we’ve faced challenges and obstacles over the years, but we’ve always persevered. And now, we’re watching our dreams come true through the eyes of our precious little visitors. This year, we’re elated to celebrate our 20th anniversary and invite families near and far to come enjoy everything we have to offer!

Explore innovative exhibits that have captured the hearts of children and adults alike. Discover the wonders of our brand-new attractions, handcrafted to inspire curiosity and foster learning. Whether it’s unleashing your imagination in the redesigned Makerspace or embarking from the H&F Exteriors Garage on a journey down the Route 66 Roadway, there’s something for everyone at ECM!

The cost of museum admission can be a barrier for many families. Edwardsville Children’s Museum is a member of Museums for All, a nationally branded access program that encourages individuals of all backgrounds to visit museums regularly and build lifelong museum habits.

Thanks to the generosity of our presenting sponsors, Kaskaskia Engineering and Revity Credit Union, and the Friends of ECM for All sponsors, ECM is proud to offer free admission to visitors presenting their EBT card and field trip scholarships to qualifying preschool programs and schools.

If you can dream it, you can do it.
Walt Disney

Visitors From Near & Far

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Range</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5,000 and above</td>
<td>110-299</td>
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<tr>
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Brad\nKaskaskia Engineering LLC
Recovery

2023 Annual Report
Celebrating 20 Years at the Children’s Museum!

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If you can dream it, you can do it!

Visit our website for more information!

Learn More and Become a Sponsor by Visiting Our Website
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If you can dream it, you can do it!
with Speed

edwcm.org

Peace Garden

This Spring, visitors can experience the wonder of the Museum before stepping through our front door!

Our new Peace Garden, located on the front lawn of the Museum, features a labyrinth maze where a friendly minotaur waits amidst the twists and turns, a snake-themed pathway inspired by the exhibit indoors, and a beautifully planted flower bed adorned with art created by ECM visitors.

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Deciding if you can dream it, you can do it?

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35,000 Visitors
35 Programs And Events
211 Birthday Parties
246 New Family Memberships
342 People Through Museums For All

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With Speed

Brad\Kaskaskia Engineering LLC
Recovery
Micro Forest Citizen Science Project

The Edwardsville Children’s Museum is thrilled to present the new “Stories of the Nickel Plate” exhibit in the Windland Education Center at Nickel Plate Station.

This interactive exhibit takes visitors and guests on a journey that introduces children and their families to Nickel Plate Station, with a special connection to their community. From Philip Schaefer, who served as an Army corporal during World War I, to Patrick Silfies, who taught at Corinth School. “Stories of the Nickel Plate” tells the stories of the station with defining moments in our region’s history.

Children can also create their own train-themed memories by experiencing the exhibit’s hands-on activities. By climbing aboard ECM’s new eighteen-foot wooden replica train, they can imagine having a meal in the dining car or play the role of railway post office clerks by using the special Color Makers to color their own train cars as they journey.

Nickel Plate Station has played a significant role in the development of Edwardsville, and we aim to continue to make a positive impact on our community as an education center for all ages.

The Windland gift in 2022 provided the means to collaborate with SWT Design, whose comprehensive plan was the foundation for ECM winning two state tourism grants. Many of the updates are complete, with children and visitors alike enjoying the new exhibit in the Windland Education Center.

Meet the Dream Team

In 2023, we reflected on the exciting successes and the health of our organization. Through the restructuring of job duties, we were able to take ECM in an exciting new direction.

We are extremely thankful to our incredible employees for their dedication, responses to step up into new roles, and willingness to share their talents with us. With their support, our Executive Director focused on securing game-changing grants and donations, while managing the design and build of our new exhibits. This wonderful team effort allowed us to accomplish several expansion projects and upgrades at the Museum.

The Discovery Garden expansion project seemed like only a dream, yet incredibly became a reality in just one year. With a grant from Cardinals Care, ECM installed a new light up illuminated ball wall that lets young children engage in freeform art and problem solving.

Our visitors held meetings and families increased. We grew organizationally, promoting our new website inside and outside the museum. It was a very busy but exciting year.

The letters from our leaders, on behalf of the Board of Directors, wanted to recognize the outstanding efforts of the museum staff. Kristen Fries led the museum through a large expansion at Nickel Plate Station to help the museum and its organization thrive.

The mission and vision for the organization are to continue to work to educate, engage, and entertain all ages through joyful learning experiences.

Letters from Our Leaders

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I want to recognize the outstanding efforts of the museum staff. Kristen Fries led the museum through a large expansion at Nickel Plate Station to help the museum and its organization thrive. Your passion and enthusiasm for our organization inspired us all, and we are so grateful for your hard work.

Next, I want to thank our community, donors, members, and sponsors. Your generosity has been integral to our growth this year, and your contributions will impact generations through joyful learning experiences.

As to my fellow Board members, thank you for all your efforts in 2023. With new funding and growth come new challenges for leadership; I am so blessed to be surrounded by such a talented group of people.

Sarah Wells
ECM Board President

2023 was a year of growth. Our visitors and memberships increased. We grew organizationally, promoting our new website inside and outside the museum. It was a very busy but exciting year.

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