2025
2026

IMPACT REPORT

PlayDate A CHILDREN'S MUSEUM

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A Letter from the Executive Director

What a year it has been for PlayDate! Completing this impact report has been a wonderful opportunity to celebrate our growth and the impact we've made in our community. It has been an absolute joy to serve as Executive Director and watch PlayDate continue to thrive.

This year, we welcomed more visitors, expanded program participation, and increased revenue. We added three new exhibits, updated two existing exhibits, and introduced two new programs: Creationeers and Tinker Thinkers.

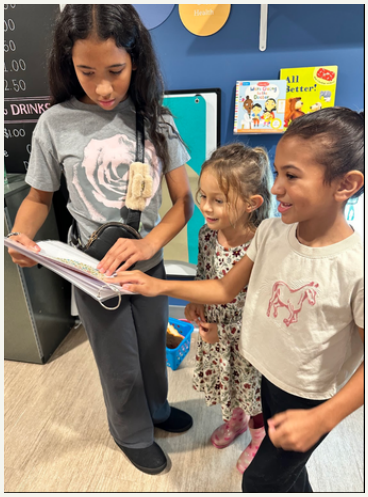
Every accomplishment brings us closer to our mission of helping kids find a spark that drives a lifelong love of learning. Thank you to our donors, sponsors, volunteers, community partners, and families for making this growth possible. Your support helps us create a place where children can explore, discover, and learn through play.

Thank you,
Maggie Kardos

2026 BEST of the BEST OF CULPEPER

Why Play?

Play is essential to healthy child development; fostering cognitive, social, and emotional growth. Through play, children build problem-solving and critical-thinking skills, strengthen language and communication, and develop important social skills such as sharing, cooperation, and turn-taking. Play also gives children a meaningful way to express their emotions, manage stress, build resilience, and develop the confidence they need to navigate the world around them.



80% 80% Human brain development occurs by age 3, and 90% happens by age 5.

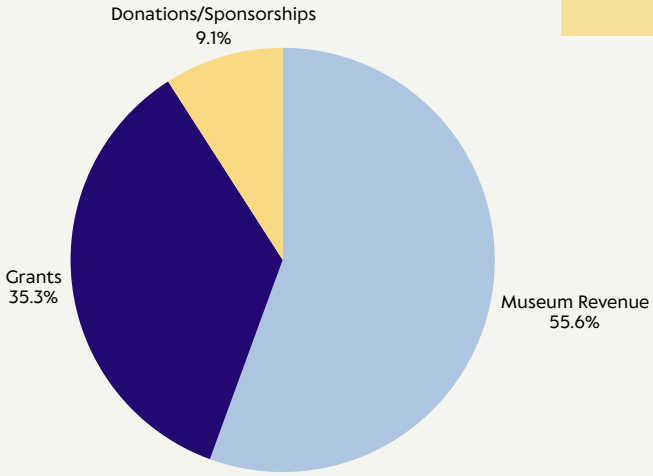
Play enhances social-emotional stability, language skills, and overall adjustment by **33%**.

75% 75% of children under 12 aren't getting enough active free play.

Impact

- Museum Revenue - $109,145
- Grants - $69,400
- Donations/Sponsorships - $17,841

Total: 196,388



12,905
Visitors

2,072
Science Saturday Attendees

1,244
Scholarship Entries

197
Volunteer Hours

314
field trip attendees

45
story & craft attendees

93
birthday parties

14
community events

11
sensory friendly hour events

335
class & camp attendees

Museum Growth Year to Year

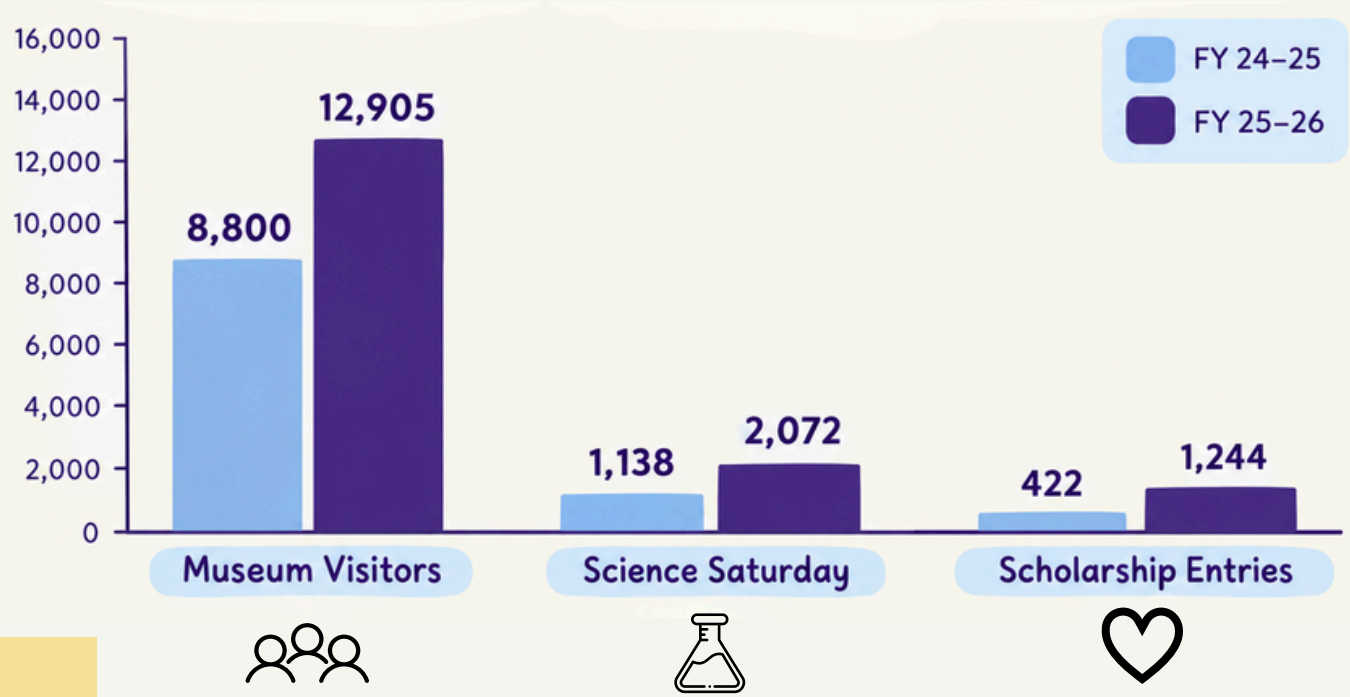
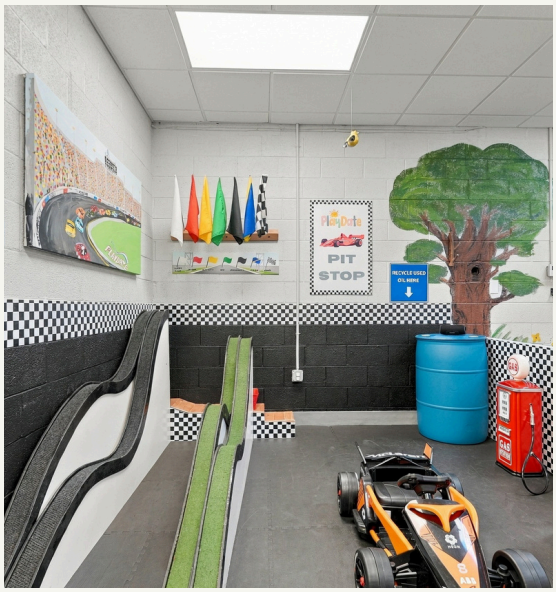


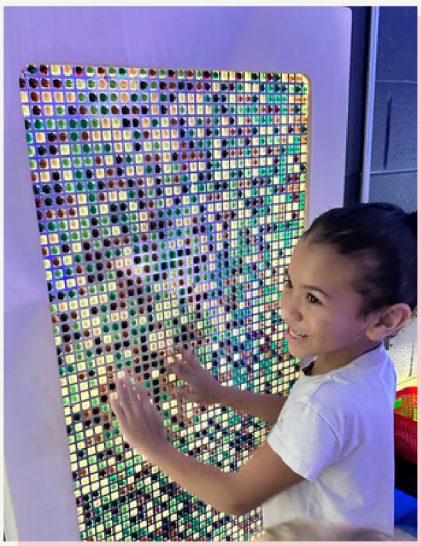
Exhibit Updates



- Expanded Construction and Auto.
- Added Dinosaur and Farmer's Market.
- Added Newton's Corner which focuses on principles of physics like Laws of Motion.

Programs

Science Saturday



Sensory Hours

Craft and Story

Creationeers

Tinker Thinkers

Robotics

11+ Guest Readers for Story Time

Bilingual Story Time, Social Emotional Story Time,
Story Time with Professionals:

Author, Banker, Barber, Beekeeper, Dentist, Doctor,
Firefighter, Police Officer, Water Safety Expert, & more!

Science Saturdays

Our Science Saturday Program is a free event with a new theme each month. The program encourages children to engage with science through hands-on projects, science experiments, or demonstrations.

Topics:

Pumpkin STEM, All About Air, Frozen Investigation, All About Space,
All About Organs, All About Seasons, Career Day, Dino STEM
All About Senses, Science of Magic, EarthQuest Birds of Prey, & Science of Music

Camps

Art Class, Economics, Physics, Animal Habitats, Kitchen Chemistry, Storybook, and Theater.

7 weeks

61 campers

19 Thanks to a grant from the Northern Piedmont Community Foundation, 19 kids attended the camp for free with scholarships.

Field Trips

314 kids attended field trips at PlayDate!

Monthly Events

Love and Learn

Read-A-Thon

St. Patrick's Day

Bunny Day

Movie Night

Independence Day

Construction Day

Pirate Day

Spooktacular

Noon Years Eve

Sensory Friendly Hours
(Sponsored Entrance)

Fundraising

Kidpeperpalooza

A family friendly community event with live music, kids activities, food trucks and more!

Raised: $8,000

Attendance: 550+

Adult Prom

A night out for adults with a catered meal, dancing, and fun!

Raised: $2,000+

Attendance: 112+

Winter Funderland & Whoville

A fun filled holiday celebration that includes a free community event and a ticketed Whoville experience.

Raised: $5,156

Attendance: 450+

Community Events

PlayDate attended over 17 Community Events:

AirFest
Arc at the Park
BIE Day
Camp Fantastic
Children's Day at the Park
Easter Egg Hunt
MakerFaire
Mom2Mom Expo
Moonlight Candy Hunt
National Night Out
PATH Recreation Trunk or Treat
Preschool Play Time
Remington Dino Dash
SAFE Expo
SEE Recovery Center
Grillin and Chillin
Town of Remington Fair
UVA Health Expo

Thank you!

Thank you for supporting PlayDate: A Children's Museum. None of this would be possible without our amazing staff, Board, PlayDate families, and supporters! We've seen tremendous growth in support over the year and we are excited to see what next year brings!

Mark and Mary Zoepfl

Anonymous