



Bay Area Discovery Museum

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PUBLIC INFO
415/339-3900
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HOURS
Tues-Fri, 9am-4pm
Sat-Sun, 10am-5pm

ADMISSION
\$11 general admission
Infants under 6 months: free
Members: free

NEWS

For Immediate Release

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Hi-res Images Available at

<http://www.baykidsmuseum.org/about/press/>

BAY AREA DISCOVERY MUSEUM GOES *OUT ON A LIMB* TO ENCOURAGE NATURE PLAY

New Exhibit Opens October 29, 2011

SAUSALITO, CA: Bay Area Discovery Museum is proud to announce the opening of *Out on a Limb, adventures with nature and art*, an enchanting new exhibit which promotes nature-play through a sculptural, interactive design that incorporates nostalgic settings, such as a tree house and a fort-building area. This exhibit will be at the Bay Area Discovery Museum from Saturday, October 29, 2011 through January 8, 2012, and is included with general museum admission.

The 1,200 square foot imaginative environment is designed to inspire children and their caregivers to learn to explore nature by using their senses. More than simply seeing the beauty of a tree, the exhibit encourages visitors to hear the sounds of the forest, use leaves to make beautiful art, and build big and little structures from bark and limbs. Children's Discovery Museum of San Jose created *Out on a Limb, adventures with nature and art* for the Youth Museum Exhibit Collaborative, a consortium of nine museums across the United States and in Canada.

"This brand-new exhibit is the perfect opening to our Year of Creativity in the Environment – our theme for the year that helps us achieve our goal to put children on the path to environmental stewardship," said Interim Executive Director Karyn Flynn. "Children become environmental stewards by developing empathy with the natural world, through immersive, interdisciplinary exhibits like *Out on a Limb, adventures with nature and art*."

The whimsical atmosphere of *Out on a Limb* is created in part by children's nature-themed artwork that makes up the faux bark and leaf canopy of the centerpiece tree. The individual exhibits, *Whirlwind*, *Light Play*, *Forest Jam* and *Gnome Home*, further enhance the magical scenery and are tools to enhance exploration. For example, individual activities encourage children to experiment with light and shadow, patterns of leaves, music of the forest, and the effects of the changing seasons. The exhibits also provide practice with the physical skills of climbing and balancing, which helps children to develop self confidence in outdoor play.

For children, *Out on a Limb* provides a unique space for unstructured play, where they can create a connection with nature on their own; while for parents and caregivers, the exhibit represents an opportunity to reminisce about their own childhood experiences in the outdoors and to re-connect with nature exploration with their children. For visitors of all ages, there are places for building, climbing, listening and exploring--all designed to inspire a love of nature.

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Inspired in particular by works from environmentalist Rachel Carson, philosopher Henry David Thoreau, and author Richard Louv, *Out on a Limb's* distinctive design delivers on its promise to use natural artistic materials and full-sensory activities to nurture children's inborn curiosity about and love for nature.

A BIT OF INSPIRATION

"Exploring nature with your child is largely a matter of becoming receptive to what lies all around you. It is learning again to use your eyes, ears, nostrils and fingertips, opening up the disused channels of sensory impression."

- *Rachel Carson, Environmentalist*

The voice of nature is always encouraging."

- *Henry David Thoreau, Philosopher*

**** ABOUT CHILDREN'S DISCOVERY MUSEUM OF SAN JOSE (CDM) ****

Children's Discovery Museum of San Jose (CDM) has been ranked by Child Magazine as one of the top 10 children's museums in the U.S. and ranked by the London Observer as one of the top 5 science centers in the world. Since opening its doors in 1990, CDM has welcomed over 5 million visitors and has offered new interactive exhibits each year that respond to children's diverse educational needs. The striking 52,000 square foot purple building was designed by Mexico City-based architect Ricardo Legorreta and is a beacon of discovery. Encompassing the broad themes of community, connections and creativity, 150+ interactive exhibits invite self-directed, open-ended explorations, while flagship programs, such as BioSITE and Discovery Youth, provide facilitated, focused, and sustained learning.

For more information about the Children's Discovery Museum of San Jose, visit www.cdm.org.

For more information about YMEC visit www.bostonchildrensmuseum.org/ymec/index.html

****About the Bay Area Discovery Museum****

The Bay Area Discovery Museum is a one-of-a-kind indoor and outdoor facility at the foot of the Golden Gate Bridge, serving over 300,000 visitors per year on its 7.5 acre Sausalito campus. The Museum is recognized as the leading children's museum dedicated to developing childhood creativity, nurturing future generations of creative thinkers and innovators. With this emphasis on creativity through play, we encourage children ages 6 months to 8 years to develop into curious, creative, adventurous lifelong learners and explorers. The Bay Area Discovery Museum is a Partner of the Golden Gate National Parks.

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