

# KidsPlay The Scoop

KidsPlay's Donor Newsletter  
Spring Update 2026  
*Imagine · Create · Innovate*



## Visitor Spotlight: Our 500,000<sup>th</sup> Visitor!

KidsPlay recently hit a major milestone. We welcomed our 500,000th visitor! Matthew and his parents, on their very first visit to KidsPlay, were greeted with free admission and photos to celebrate the occasion. Matthew's favorite exhibits were the airflow stations, including the air tubes and the Bernoulli box. His mom says he is going to grow up to be an engineer because that is how his brain works, just like his dad's!

In KidsPlay's fourteen-year history, thousands of children like Matthew have discovered interests, developed skills, and explored the world at KidsPlay. Parents, grandparents, and caregivers of all kinds have spent uncounted hours of time playing alongside and bonding with their children.

KidsPlay's growth from a small, volunteer-led initiative to a world-class museum welcoming approximately 60,000 visitors annually in more than 20,000 sq ft of gallery space had been made possible through the support of a dedicated and generous community. We are grateful to every person who has donated, volunteered, or advocated in order to support our growth.



## Exhibit Spotlight: Pitch 'n' Putt

Spring is here, and you know what that means: a new seasonal exhibit! The new "Pitch 'n' Putt" exhibit in KidsPlay's South Gallery is built to look like a kid-sized golf course. Children develop hand-eye coordination as they try to toss, hit, or drop balls into the holes.

Physically active play is important to every child's growth and development, but it can be hard to make happen on a rainy day. That's why KidsPlay prioritizes providing options for movement and gross motor skill development.

## Board of Directors

|                                  |                                |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Brian McCormick*<br>President    | Cathleen Schmitz*<br>Secretary |
| Cheryl Kloczko<br>Vice President | Sara Kroscon<br>Treasurer      |
| Ken Merz*<br>Past President      |                                |
| Ruth Nadeau Dwyer                | Elizabeth Frey-Thomas          |
| Adam Egan                        | Stuart Grodin*                 |
| Kristen Fern                     | Robin Ledversis                |
| Amity Wolfe                      |                                |

## Advocates

|                   |                 |
|-------------------|-----------------|
| Heather Cornish   | Elaine Murphy   |
| Sarah Dickinson   | Carmen Neale    |
| Anne Green        | Brad Oneglia    |
| Mary Guilfoile    | Marilyn Alduini |
| Lori Heath        | Plaskiewicz     |
| Holly Hunt        | Carol Quartiero |
| John Martin*      | JoAnn Ryan*     |
| Lynn McCormick    | Michele Sok     |
| Susan McCray      | Matthew Terzian |
| Christina Meleski | Karen Zeiner    |

## Admin & Creative

|                    |                                  |
|--------------------|----------------------------------|
| Eileen Marriott    | Executive Director               |
| Bethany Frasco     | Operations Director              |
| Tamara Christensen | Business Director                |
| Ella Frauenhofer   | Development Associate            |
| Michael Carr       | Exhibits & Facilities<br>Manager |

## Education & Community Engagement

|                 |                                   |
|-----------------|-----------------------------------|
| Patty Cassella  | Learning Experience<br>Specialist |
| Julie Fabiaschi | B2G Community<br>Coordinator      |
| Donna Maraia    | STEM Specialist                   |
| JoAnn Ryan*     | Partnership Director              |

## Guest Service Team

|  |                                 |
|--|---------------------------------|
| <b>Senior Guest Service Associates</b> | <b>Group Sales Associate</b>    |
| Carolina Gonzalez                      | Alyssa Lyga                     |
| Deborah Kellogg                        | <b>Guest Service Assistants</b> |
| Peggy Monat                            | Natie Blanco                    |
| <b>Guest Service Associates</b>        | Ellie Ercoli                    |
| Jordyn Box                             | Leina Gonzalez                  |
| Sofie Frauenhofer                      | Selena Hernandez Vargas         |
| Tori McClintick                        | Melissa Killmer                 |
| Christina Santiago                     | Kim Lyga                        |
|  | Carla Marte Ortiz               |
|  | Tariana Medina                  |
|  | Sophia Poirier                  |
| <i>*Founding Board Members</i>         | Abigail Sundberg                |

## Meet Our Newest Board Members



Adam Egan



Elizabeth Frey-Thomas



Amity Wolfe

## And our Newest Advocates!



Heather Cornish



Sarah Dickinson



Michele Sok

This group brings a rich mix of skills and experience to KidsPlay's leadership. Adam draws on his background as a former Studio Operator at ESPN as well as his perspective as a parent and KidsPlay visitor. Elizabeth Frey-Thomas brings decades of nonprofit experience, Amity Wolfe is both a grandparent and active member of the NWCT community, and we are grateful for Heather Cornish's banking expertise, Sarah Dickinson's risk management knowledge, and Michele Sok's deep civic and community engagement.

## Program Spotlight: A Busy Summer!

Summer is shaping up to be an exciting season at the Museum, with plenty happening for our visitors and behind the scenes. Here is a peek at what is coming:

- Launching *Growing Together: Community-Centered Capital Planning*, a Community Investment Fund (CIF) funded process to plan for the future of our campus and exhibits.
- Hosting *Playful Pathways: Early Childhood Fair* to promote the importance of developmental screening for young children and connect families and caregivers with local supports and resources.
- Advancing "*Learning Made Visible*," a project focused on capturing and documenting caregiver-child interactions and promoting language and literacy.
- Welcoming teen interns to support summer programming and exhibit facilitation.
- Sparking more fun and learning with our summer theme, "*Play More! Create More! Innovate More!*" Our team will enhance the visitor experience by focusing on the unique, high-quality experiences that make KidsPlay special for families and children.