

## fact sheet 2007–08

### MISSION

The Exploratorium is a museum of science, art, and human perception founded in 1969. The Exploratorium's mission is to create a culture of learning through innovative environments, programs, and tools that help people nurture their curiosity about the world around them.

### AUDIENCES

- 562,000 people annually visit the Exploratorium
- 51% of visitors are adults and 49% are children
- 50% are from the Bay Area, 30% from the rest of California, 14% from other states, 6% outside U.S.
- 130,000 students and teachers visit on field trips each year
- 10,000 individuals and families are Exploratorium members
- 43% of visitors receive free or discounted admission
- 48,000 visitors attend on Free Wednesdays (the first Wednesday of every month) last year
- 145 million visit Exploratorium exhibits at science centers and other locations worldwide

### EXHIBITIONS AND PROGRAMS

- 650 original interactive exhibits, displays, and artworks have been designed, prototyped, and built on site, with 400 currently on view
- Hands-on exhibits explore biology, physics, visual perception, listening, and memory
- Public programs include hands-on workshops, presentations, lectures, performances, films, and other special events. Bilingual programs in Spanish, Cantonese, and/or Mandarin are offered 2-3 times a year.
- The museum has hosted more than 250 artists in residence
- Exhibits are located at 108 international and 113 U.S. science centers
- Partnerships with 8 science centers nationwide offer them exhibit collections and educational training
- Exploratorium exhibitions—Memory, Navigation, and Traits of Life—travel worldwide

### EDUCATION AND RESEARCH

- An estimated 6,000 teachers from 47 states participate in Exploratorium-designed workshops
- 500 U.S. teachers participate in more than 60 hours of intensive professional development each year
- A national model program improves the classroom success of beginning teachers
- Center for Informal Learning and Schools, a partnership with UC Santa Cruz and King's College London, develops leadership in the study of informal science learning and institutions, and their relationships to schools.
- Children's Educational Outreach reaches 5,000 underserved children and families in the community
- The Explainer Program hires and trains a diverse group of up to 75 high school students each year
- The Osher Fellows Program hosts 4 to 7 resident scholars, scientists, educators, and artists
- 4 PhDs staff one of the world's largest museum research and evaluation groups

### MEDIA

- 28 million Web visits annually access [www.exploratorium.edu](http://www.exploratorium.edu), which has 25,000 pages of original content
- 50 live Webcasts originate each year from the Exploratorium and remote locations
- 50,000 copies of Exploratorium-developed publications were sold in the past year, with 28 titles in print
- 11,500 copies of *explore*, the membership newsletter, are distributed quarterly

### FACILITIES

The Exploratorium uses 110,000 sq ft of floor space within San Francisco's historic Palace of Fine Arts, plus offices and exhibit-building shops in adjacent Presidio Buildings. Facilities include:

- multimedia Learning Center with library
- 9 wired classrooms
- life science laboratory
- Phyllis C. Wattis Webcast Studio
- 150-seat McBean Theater
- ample free parking
- machine, wood, and electronics shops
- store and café

The Exploratorium is available to rent for private events during evening hours.

### BUDGET & STAFF

- 2007–08 budget: \$31,263,000
- 345 total employees; 237 full-time equivalent; 41% people of color
- an international team of 215 volunteers contributes more than 12,700 hours annually