



CULTURAL ARTS ANNUAL REPORT 2016

Children's Discover Museum and Normal Theater

Department of Cultural Arts was created in 2016 to highlight the arts we offer in Uptown Normal. Both entities are truly amazing jewels in our community.

Shelleigh Birlingmair
Director of Cultural Arts



The Children's Discovery Museum was founded on the belief that meaningful, fun, informal learning opportunities should be available to all. We offer hands-on experiences focused on science, technology, engineering, art, and math to visitors travel from all over central Illinois. The Museum believes children learn through the power of play. 11 full-time staff, 40 part-time staff, and a plethora of volunteers enhance visitors learning experiences 6-days a week (7-days a week in the summer).

2016 Museum Highlights

Hello from Japan's opening event was a great success in June. The night's highlights included: face painting, Japanese drumming, and sushi sampling! The event was a great kick-off to the summer of 2016!

We offered our first Girl Scouts Only- STEAM Night - 186 girls and 94 adults from all over Central Illinois attended the event participating in a variety of activities and hand-on learning demonstrations. This customized event helped Scouts earn their science and art badges.

We were awarded a grant from PNC to continue offering Museum in Motion serving over 1,200 students in central Illinois, working with over 100 classrooms, and 62 teachers.

Museum educators and volunteers visited our local Boys and Girls Club providing an opportunity for members to be Makers and build a Rube Goldberg wall piece for their Club.

We hosted three fundraisers benefiting the Museum: Ladies Luncheon and Style Show, Doctors in Concert, and Medici Craft Beer and Jazz Festival.

And, just for fun, held and EXTRA Day of Play recognizing Leap Year!



2016 Attendance/Participation Numbers

Total Visitors	143,027
Paid Admissions	45,064
Free Admissions	9,601
Member Visits	40,807
Fieldtrips and Classes	19,998
Family Programs	2,807
Offsite Classes	7,845
Offsite Community Outreach	6,775
Birthday Parties/Rentals	10,130
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New Memberships	1,786
Total Volunteer Hours	8,849

