Spring is here, spring is here! The warmth of the summer sun will soon be near. Now there might be a few April showers, but they will help grow beautiful May flowers!

Welcome Spring!

**Museum Hours**
- Monday – Closed for Cleaning
- Tuesday – 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.
- Wednesday – 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.
- Thursday – 10 a.m. – 8 p.m.
- Friday – 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.
- Saturday – 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.
- Sunday – 1 p.m. – 5 p.m.

**NEW 2018 Admission Pricing**
- Members – FREE
- Children under 12 months – FREE
- Children (12 months – 13 yrs) – $8.00
- Adults (14 to 59) – $7.00
- Senior Citizens – (60+) $6.00

**Membership Rates**
- Family*-$90 for one year | $10 a month
- Grandparents*-$90 for one year | $10 a month
- Patron*-$125 for one year | $14 a month
- Daycare*-$102 for one year | $11 a month
- Day Care Center Plus-$192 for one year | $20 a month
- Sharing and Caring Scholarship -$12 for one year (Income Guidelines apply)

*Add Plus Two -$12 more for one year | $1 a month
Spring is in the air!

Hearing the birds chirp and having that sun shine down on us is such a wonderful feeling! It’s been a blessing as the winter seemed to be unusually rough this year. I know with all of the sicknesses going around, we have stayed diligent on keeping our toys and exhibits sanitized and clean at the museum. With the carpets and hard floors deep-cleaned, we are ready for a busy field-trip season!

This spring is also extra busy as are in the process of renovating two exhibits, Peek-A-Boo Park/Mother’s Room and Lego Zone. These two spaces are extremely popular at the museum and we can’t wait for you to see the wonderful additions that we are making to the spaces. We ALSO may be showcasing an extra surprise this late-spring. Stay tuned to hear the exciting news!

We are here to help families be inspired through play, exploration, and discovery and couldn’t be more blessed to be recognized for that. This year we received the Best of Kearney grand prize in Kid Friendly/Family Place and runner-up in Birthday Place. Thank you for your votes!

Traci Winscot
Executive Director

No beauty shines brighter than that of a good heart.
EGG-stravaganza FUN!
Volunteer Spotlight

Why do you choose to volunteer at the museum?
We choose to volunteer for a number of reasons. The Museum staff makes it easy to volunteer as much or as little time as we want. The Museum 'projects' have a beginning and an end. This allows us to have a flexible schedule. As an example, we volunteer to work with the native landscape on our own schedule. We also participated in building the outdoor education and play area last year. A day of fun for us and many years of fun for the kids. We volunteer because it’s important to support organizations in our community. The Children's Museum makes Kearney a better place to live.

What do children learn at the museum?
Some of the things children learn are how trains work and how the post office functions. All this builds citizens of tomorrow as well as just being fun activities. It is a joy to watch to kids be awed by nature from the wind tunnel; playing on the firetruck and ambulance; and, buying and selling food in the store. The Children's Museum gives them an opportunity to be hands-on as they learn to interact with the world.

Why is the museum vital to our community?
As we are neighbors to the Children’s Museum, we have a personal view of life at the Museum. We see cars from every county, we see buses from many schools, we see grandparents, parents and children very excited about visiting the Museum. The Museum provides an environment where kids can be kids and parents and grandparents can be teachers. The best of all worlds.

Member Spotlight

What do children learn at the museum?
In every exhibit at the museum, there is something to learn! My family loves problem-solving with the many different types of building materials and role-playing from firefighters to dentists to astronauts! Social learning is huge for us at the museum, with so many kids of different ages interacting and learning how to play together! Children also learn to respect the exhibits and the other people who are there playing as they join.

How does the museum help your family?
The museum is a great place to connect with other families! The kids see their friends and make new ones and so do the parents! We come weekly and love attending the monthly Member Mingle events. The special holiday events the museum hosts are also fun ways to create family memories together. We are so appreciative of everything the museum offers!

Why is the museum vital to our community?
The Children’s Museum is vital to our community because it fills a need that no other place does. When we walk through those doors, the kids are so relaxed knowing we are in a place that is designed especially for them. Everything inside is for them to touch and explore! We really appreciate coming to the museum during those colder months when otherwise we'd be cooped up inside the house. Also the museum's presence through community outreach events is very diverse, from local children’s events to UNK’s Blue and Gold Day to traveling to Grand Island for the State Fair, they add some extra hands-on fun wherever they go!

Jim & Wanda Cantrell

Kyle & Julie Myers
Noah & Jacob
Exhibit Updates in the Works

We are excited to be renovating our Mother’s Room & Peek-A-Boo Park exhibits! These exhibits are being sponsored by CHI Health and furthering our partnership with CHI Health Good Samaritan to bring a welcoming, bright, and fresh space for nursing mothers and their toddlers. Renovations include a window and doorway being added to the Mother’s Room to allow easy access into both spaces, and comfortable seating and a changing table will enhance the space. In Peek-A-Boo Park, we added fresh paint and will incorporate new soft play items, sensory toys, and other educational activities for early child development.

During renovation we are using the Classroom exhibit just next door to the space. Thank you for your patience as we create a new space for your little ones!

Construction - Phase 2: We have started our renovation on our new Design Zone that will give children the opportunity to try their hand at drafting and architecture!

Little Sprouts Outdoor Classroom - Phase 2: With our renovations for Phase 1 complete, we are looking forward to starting the next phase which will include raised garden beds. Stay tuned!

Traveling Exhibit— it’s still not “official” but we may have a surprise for you for 8 weeks this summer!

2018 Board of Directors
Jaylynn Graham, President
Emily Jameson, Vice President
Kristen Sedlacek, Past President
Kayla Herrick, Treasurer
Ashley Ott, Secretary
Melissa Scott-Pandorf, Member At Large
Chelsea Feusner  Steve Cooke
Korena Nolan  Ellie Schroeder
Janell Brown  Brooke Ward
Jennifer Rowling  Amy Kuchera
Sheryl Feinstein  Nicole Krantz
Kylee Fish

Museum Leadership
Traci Winscot
Jennifer Beck
Radhika Thapaliya

Museum Part-Time Staff
Brin, Chloe, Joni, Megan, Caitlin, Destiny, Samantha, Leslie, Morgan, Paul

Fun Facts
♦ Like fingerprints, everyone's tongue print is different.
♦ Almonds are a member of the peach family.
♦ Ladybugs squirt smelly liquid from their knees when they are scared.
♦ A waterfall in Hawaii sometimes flows up instead of down.
♦ A gorilla burps when it’s happy.
♦ There are more plastic flamingos in the U.S. than real ones.
What have we been up to the past 3 months?

“A good friend is like a four-leaf clover, hard to find and lucky to have.”
Meet our Part Time Staff

Samantha P. is a freshman at UNK studying Pre-Nursing.

“I love seeing how excited the kids get when the visit the museum. They always have so much fun with their family when they are here.”

Morgan W. is a junior at UNK and is majoring in Nursing.

“I love everything about the museum!”

Chloe S. is a sophomore at UNK and is double-majoring in Early Childhood Education and Communication Disorders.

“One thing I love about the museum is watching children and families be together.”

Joni D. is a preschool teacher at the YMCA in Kearney.

“I work part time at the Children’s Museum and love working at the museum because I love watching kids play, learn, and create in a safe and fun environment!”

Destiny G. is a freshman at UNK majoring in Social Work.

“I love that the museum has so many different exhibits and that it’s all interactive!”

Brin B. is a senior at UNK majoring in Early Childhood Inclusive with a specification in birth-5.

“I love seeing how kids are excited about learning and playing with us.”

Megan D. will be a freshman at UNL in the fall majoring in Secondary Education with endorsements in Social Sciences and ELL.

“I love watching kids use what we have to create their own adventures.”

Joni D. is a preschool teacher at the YMCA in Kearney.

“I love watching parents learn with their kids and making new connections with them.”

Leslie S. is a freshman at UNK and majoring in radiography.

“My favorite part of the children’s museum is working with the wonderful staff!”

Paul B. is our museum handyman, train exhibit conductor, and the president of Dobytown Kiwanis.

“I enjoy helping with Dobytown Junction and seeing the kids enjoy the trains is always fun.”

Caitlin M. is a para at Northeast Elementary and finishing her degree in Elementary Education with an emphasis in Special Education and ELL (English Language Learners).

“I love seeing parents learn with their kids and making new connections with them.”

Samantha P. is a freshman at UNL majoring in Secondary Education with endorsements in Social Sciences and ELL.

“I love that the museum has so many different exhibits and that it’s all interactive!”
April Showers Bring May Flowers

I love the transitional seasons! Yes, the weather can’t seem to make up it’s mind but there’s something magical about the promise of something new. Buds on the tree, flowers sprouting up from the soil and that flip-flop weather is around the corner. It’s certain that we also go through seasons ourselves, whether individually or as a family. How do we navigate the rain that come our way? When things are going well do we pour sunshine into the life of others? This is where PLAY comes in handy! Play can help children (and us) release emotions and work through feelings whether they are positive or negative. No matter how big the clouds or how bright the sun, always make room for giving your transitions a positive spin.

Child Interaction Tip:

**Difficult Emotions** - talk with your child and help them come up with several things they can do when feeling a difficult emotion. It could be building with blocks, drawing, or jumping on a trampoline. Give them a chance to utilize these items so they know it’s alright to have big feelings and have confidence they can work through them positively.

**Fun Emotions** - we don’t often think about celebrating positive days, but they are just as powerful and important as the hard ones. Celebrate by doing a freeze dance, make a gift for a neighbor (who may be having a difficult day) or simply give each other a high-five!

*Jennifer Beck*
Director of Community Engagement

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**Brainstorm Box**

Visit a local nursery and let your child “adopt” a plant! They can plant it in a pot or outside in your flower beds. Caring for the plant to will help teach responsibility and build within them the heart to care for living things.

Budget Friendly Option:
Place a dry bean in a Ziploc bag with a wet cotton ball. Zip the bag closed and tape the bag to a window that gets sunlight. Over time the bean will start to sprout! Get a small pot, soil, and plant your little sprout! Same concept, easier on the wallet.
Free Family Fun Night
Thursday, April 19 from 4:00-8:00pm

CHI Health Good Samaritan will be hosting a free Teddy Bear Clinic during our Free Family Fun Night from 5-7pm.

Bring your favorite stuffed friend to the Teddy Bear Clinic! Health experts will provide free check-ups for teddy bears and kids in a relaxed environment specially designed to ease kids’ fear of medical exams.

Celebrating SAFE KIDS DAY!

Safe Kids Platte Valley is celebrating kids and helping families learn how to prevent injuries and take steps to keep their families safe. Various activities will be available in the following areas:

- Seat Belt Safety
- Chemical Safety
- Fire Safety
- Water Safety
Nice to Meet You!

Happy Spring Everyone! I wanted to take a moment to reach out to everyone as an important part of the museum’s community and introduce myself. My name is Radhika Thapaliya and I am the newly appointed Operations Manager at Kearney Area Children’s Museum. I am very humbled and excited to be working here at the museum and serve the Kearney community. Please stop by at the museum and say hello in the coming days. I would love to meet you and hear feedback from our members and community.

Radhika Thapaliya
Operations Manager

Did You Know?
At KACM we believe in enjoying childhood to the fullest. We have dedicated our gift shop to helping you find fun toys and games that will help your child learn through interactive play. You will find items available in our gift shop which provides learning enjoyment for ages ranging 0-12 years old.

Browse our gift shop and build memories!
Remember: Members get 10% discount on gift shop items.

Tanagrams
Spatial Relationships
Problem Solving

Snap and Sort
Sequencing
Colors Recognition

Puffy Sticker Play-Set
Recognize color patterns
Fashion Design

Water WOW!
Painting (without the mess!)
Reinforces Fine Motor Skills

Lacing Cards
Hand & Eye Coordination
Shape Recognition
Upcoming Events

MAKE IT & TAKE IT CLASS

Thursday, April 12

Littles Class - Ages 3-5, $5 per child, 3:45-4:30
Paper Pinwheels, & Springtime Tissue Paper Tree

Juniors Class - Ages 6-11, $10 per child, 4:30-5:15
Egg Carton Tulip Wreaths & Sun Prints of things found in nature

Reserve Your Spot!

KIDS NIGHT OUT

AT THE MUSEUM

(aka Date Night for Parents!)

Friday, April 13, 2018 • 6:00pm-8:30pm
Ages 3-12 • $10 Members, $15 Non Members
(All 3 year olds must be potty trained.)

Free Play in Exhibits
Kids Activities & More

Dinner includes: Pizza, Fruit,
Cookie, Lemonade or Water

Dinner sponsored by Walmart
REGISTER TODAY!
2018 Partnership!

We are excited to partner with Raising Canes- Kearney!

On November 1st, the Kearney Area Children's Museum was presented with a $8,249.03 check from Raising Cane's! This was 100% of the sales during their Family and Friends event that was hosted before they opened their doors to the public.

Thank you Raising Cane's for the VERY kind donation to help us inspire play, exploration, and discovery for our guests. They truly are serious about giving and being a strong partner in the community.
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**April 2018**

**Programs & Events**

**308-698-2228**

**kearneymuseum.org**
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| **General Camp Information**|        | Members: $20 per camp  
Non Members: $30 per camp  
**June 22 Field Trip Camp Price**  
$25 Members, $35 Non Members  
Ages: 4 - 10  
All Camps run from 8am-3pm on Fridays |
| **Things to Know**           |        | Camps are designed to incorporate free play, teamwork, themed activities, and develop skills in art, math, science, reading, and positive social interactions with others.  
Children need to bring a sack lunch.  
We provide an AM and PM snack. If your child has a food allergy feel free to provide snacks for them.  
No flip-flops allowed. Sandals need heel strap and be secure on the foot. Shoes need to be well fitted.  
Camp registrations are non-refundable. |
| **Mighty Acorns**            | May 25 | This camp is for kids who have a green thumb! We will get our hands in the dirt with basic gardening, and learn more about the plants and critters found on our planet. |
| **Chefs Are We**             | June 1  | We are whipping up simple treats that kids will enjoy while learning basic cooking skills and kitchen safety. |
| **Dynamic Dinosaurs**        | June 8  | RAWR! Step back in time as we hang out with T-Rex and his prehistoric pals! Uncover facts about dinosaurs, volcanoes and become a Jr. Archeologist. |
| **Big Thinkers**             | June 15 | Put your thinking cap on and enjoy a full day of inventing and creating with Science Technology, Engineering and Math!  
**Out of this World**  
June 22  
3...2...1...Camp time! We are exploring all things space with stomp rockets, telescopes, and more!  
A field trip is included in this camp to the UNK Planetarium for a 30 minute show and to Harmon Park for lunch and free play. Transportation by Adventure Bus and Charter. |
| **Mystery Kids**             | June 29 | We need your help to solve our museum mystery! Help us find hidden messages, and uncover important clues to help us complete our mission. |
| **Kids Under Construction**  | July 6  | Grab your hammer and hard hat, it’s time to build! We will practice hammer skills, paint birdhouses, build a giant fort with cardboard boxes and more! |
| **Galaxy Wars**              | July 20 | Explore distant galaxies and use the power within to complete challenges with your team! In this camp we will take a look at the bright side and learn the ways of the great! Costumes encouraged! |
| **Movers & Shakers**         | July 27 | Get your heart pumping with interactive activities, Minute to Win It challenges, a fun dance off, and outdoor games. |
| **Totally Trains**           | August 3| Choo Choo! Come ride the rails as we explore the world of locomotives. We will learn about train whistles, signals, and train safety! |
| **Camp Yellow Bus**          | August 10| Don’t miss the bus! Join us for the last camp of the summer packed full of back-to-school fun. Hall pass not required! |
| **Explore Theater Camps**   | July 9  | *All are half day  
Pirate for a Day  
Ages 4-6, $20 M/NI  
"Yo-Ho-Ho a Pirate’s Life for Me!" Take to the seas with a roving band of pirates as kids walk the plank, swab the decks, and search for hidden treasure in this interactive workshop for boys and girls. Treasure Chest Treat Box filled with goodies included.  
Seuss for a Day  
Ages 4-6, $20 M/NI  
"Today you are you!" That is truer than true! There is no on alive more you-er than you! Dr. Seuss, a fantastical, magical, extravaganza awaits you as we jump into the world of Seuss! The workshop lovingly brings together favorite characters through stories, games, crafts, and song!  
Troll for a Day  
Ages 4-6, $20 M/NI  
Join Poppy and her friends as they set off on an adventure to save the Troll Village from the Bergens. Their adventure is full of mishaps and challenges as they learn to tolerate each other and work together. Kids will explore their "TRUE COLORS" through games, crafts, and songs!  
Jungle for a Day  
Ages 4-6, $20 M/NI  
Go on a safari filled with exotic animals! Kids will explore what it’s like to be lions, tigers and bears (oh my!) in this interactive workshop. They will play games, sing songs, and learn all about life in the jungle!  
Princess for a Day  
Ages 4-6, $20 M/NI  
Learn what it takes to be a princess in this magical class that allows every girl the opportunity to step into the shoes of her favorite princess. There will even be special appearances from Belle, Snow White, Cinderella, Anna and Elsa themselves. Princess Tote Bag included. |