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PRESS RELEASE

Community Members Gather to Share Ideas for the Future Science Center

Series of eight design workshops held in across Loudoun and Fairfax

Northern Virginia, May 24, 2017 – The Children’s Science Center, the non-profit organization that operates the Children’s Science Center Lab and other community programs focused on hands-on learning in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM), hosted a series of eight workshops across the region to gather community input for the future full-scale science center planned for Dulles, Virginia. Held on May 21-23, the workshops included targeted sessions for elementary and middle school students, community and business leaders, government officials, STEM professionals, educators, as well as, open community sessions for families.

Over 250 people participated in interactive workshops to help create future exhibits and experiences. They generated ideas for individual features as well as overall themes and subjects that are attractive and exciting for our community’s families and future visitors.

The sessions were led by Roto, a nationally recognized design firm with special expertise in emerging museums and science centers.

“We encouraged the participants to ‘think big’ about the experiences they would like to have and to look at science themes broadly in order to engage the entire community” said Roto President and CEO Joseph Wisne. “This museum will be full of interactive, immersive experiences that you can’t do at home or on the Internet.”

“We want to design the future science center to meet the region’s greatest needs and reflect what is unique and amazing about our community, so hearing from so many people from across the region, of different ages and perspectives was wonderful,” said Children’s Science Center Executive Director, Nene Spivy. “We were thrilled with the level of community involvement in the design effort!”

“It would be cool to fly around the planets in the solar system” said Joshua, a local third grader. “You could pick which planet you wanted to learn about and choose where to go.” Others envisioned walking through a giant brain, traveling as a byte of data through the internet, designing a space suit, and many, many more hands-on, fun experiences.

To stay in touch with the current work and future plans for the science center, please visit childsci.org, [join our email list](#) or follow us on social media.

About the Children’s Science Center:

The Children’s Science Center’s mission is to instill a love of learning science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) in all children by providing unique opportunities to explore, create and be inspired. The Children’s Science Center Lab is located at Fair Oaks Mall and is Northern Virginia’s first interactive museum where children, families and school groups can explore STEM concepts through fun, engaging hands-on exhibits, activities, and programs. In addition to the Lab and community programs, the Center is working to fulfill the vision of a full-scale, world-class children’s science museum to be located in Dulles, VA. The Children’s Science Center is a 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization. Learn more at www.childsci.org

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