



Post Office Box 1128  
Charlottesville, VA 22902

Nonprofit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Charlottesville, VA  
Permit No. 324



# discovery news

november/december 2011



## One Gift. Unlimited Imagination.

Since I joined the team at the Virginia Discovery Museum in January, I have observed first hand the magic that happens here each day. At its heart, the Virginia Discovery Museum is a local institution for local families. We've become a cultural anchor for the area we serve, providing learning opportunities for visitors as young as newborns. We foster an environment that brings children, families, and the entire community together, celebrating play and creativity while working with traditional educational and social service organizations to improve lives. Join me as VDM opens a world of possibility to families through our exhibit renovation campaign.

The first years of life are essential to future learning. Children's museums are at the forefront of a movement that combines specific learning objectives with play in informal, developmentally appropriate environments. VDM produces programs and exhibits that transcend age and experience, letting children set their own pace. VDM lights a creative spark for discovery and lifelong learning. At our museum, active play enables kids to become excited about learning. We provide an environment in which families play and connect in meaningful ways. VDM is a place removed from work and household distractions where parents and caregivers can spend quality time with their children, experience the luxury of becoming lost in the moment as they play, and even learn something new themselves. We attract a diverse array of visitors and provide shared experiences through interpretive and interactive exhibits. By exposing adults and children to unfamiliar concepts in a nurturing, hands-on way, our museum builds bridges of understanding.

Please join us today as VDM embarks upon a campaign to support the renovation of our current exhibits. After 20 years in the same location, we'd like to install new exhibits that will reflect our history and offer a truly local learning experience. Your donation will make an impact on the families in our area by improving our interactive exhibits. Visit [vadm.org/renovate](http://vadm.org/renovate) or call 434-977-1025 to make your tax deductible donation today. Your support enriches lives in our community.

Amy Wicks-Horn, Executive Director

## This Season, Illuminate Young Minds.

Support the Virginia Discovery Museum while you brighten the day of a friend, colleague, or loved one. This year VDM provides an opportunity for you to give a gift that will support VDM's community scholarship efforts.

With your \$50 purchase, the recipient you choose will receive two gifts: a brilliant suncatcher to adorn his or her window and a notification that a donation has been made in his or her name to the Virginia Discovery Museum's community outreach fund. This fund enables VDM to provide free access to exhibits, programs, and educational materials for local families in need. To purchase, visit [vadm.org](http://vadm.org) or call 434-977-1025. Thank you for your support.

### hours

Tuesday-Saturday, 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.  
Sunday, 1:00 to 5:00 p.m.  
Closed Mondays  
Groups by reservation only, call (434) 977-1025  
Holiday Hours: the museum is closed November 23, 24; December 24, 25; and January 1.

### admission

All Ages: \$6.00  
Children under 13 must be accompanied by an adult  
AAA members: \$.50 discount per person  
Museum members free  
Handicapped accessible

### parking

2 hours free parking at Market Street Parking Garage (5th & Market) or Water Street Parking Garage (3rd & Water) with museum validation. Have your ticket stamped at the front desk.

### board of directors

Rebecca Berlin, Co-Chair  
Amy Brudin  
Moirá Kavanagh Crosby  
Krista Davis, Secretary  
Aaron Fein  
Tamar Goodale  
Pat Hughes  
Thomas Humphreys, Treasurer

Alex Inman  
Diane Krehmeyer  
S. Kellogg Leliveld  
Bart Parrott, Co-Chair  
Beth Solak  
Barbara Venerus  
Ames Winter

### staff



Amy Wicks-Horn, Executive Director  
Joia Wood, Director of Operations  
Maggie Patton, Education Manager  
Lindsay Jones, Media Manager / Volunteer Coordinator  
Kristin Freshwater, Exhibits Manager  
Erin Lewis, Gallery Manager  
Joanie Rose, Assistant Gallery Manager  
Caroline Roane, Museum Assistant  
Kimberly Shigeoka, Museum Assistant  
Scout Strausser, Housekeeper

### donate

You can help the Virginia Discovery Museum continue to inspire imagination and adventure in new generations of children with your tax deductible gift today. Support the exciting things happening at the museum! To contribute online and make an investment in your local museum, visit [www.donateVADM.org](http://www.donateVADM.org). Thank you!

### connect

Find us on the web at [www.vadm.org](http://www.vadm.org)  
Don't miss our blog   
Watch our videos 

Become a Facebook fan   
Follow us on Twitter 

### volunteer at VDM!








The museum works with 200+ volunteers a year. We are currently seeking volunteers for the following positions: Front Desk, Gallery, Exhibits, Events, Maintenance. For more information, please email Lindsay at [vol@vadm.org](mailto:vol@vadm.org) or call 434-977-1025.



M	T	W	T	F	S	Su
	1 ●	2 ▲	3 ★	4	5	6 Pay What You Wish Sunday
7 ■	8 ●	9 ▲	10 Special guest ★	11	12	13
CLOSED	15 ●	16 ▲	17 ★	18	19	20
CLOSED	22 ●	23 CLOSED for Thanksgiving	24	25	26	27
CLOSED	29 ●	30 ▲ Special guest				

**november**      **december**

			1 Special guest ★	2	3	4 Pay What You Wish Sunday
5 ■	6 ●	7 ▲	8 ★ Special guest LEAD Program	9	10 Holiday Houses	11
CLOSED	13 ●	14 ▲	15 ★	16	17 Holiday Houses	18
CLOSED	20 ●	21 ▲ Special guest	22 ★	23	24	25 CLOSED for Holidays
CLOSED	27	28	29	30	31	CLOSED for New Year's Day

 Tuesday Travelers 10:30	 Poetry Club 4:00	 Toddler Time 10:30	 Science Club 4:00	 Young Readers	 Hometown History 9:00-12:00	 Holiday Program 10:30, 2:30
---	--	--	---	--	---	---

## drop-in programs

All drop-in programs are free with admission. Pre-registration is not necessary, but classes fill up quickly so be sure to arrive early!

 **Tuesday Travelers**  
Tuesdays, 10:30  
Ages 3 & up with adult

Take a trip around the world and learn about language, music, art, dance, and geography. Come every week and fill up your passport with stamps!

 **Poetry Club**  
Tuesdays, 4:00  
Ages 5 & up

Let your creative juices flow as you learn to write in your unique voice. Poetry Club is great for both early and experienced writers.

 **Toddler Time**  
Wednesdays, 10:30  
Ages 6 and under with adult

Come each Wednesday morning and take part in fun activities and crafts for the little ones.

 **Science Club**  
Thursdays, 4:00  
Ages 5 & up

Every Thursday afternoon, learn about chemistry, biology, zoology, and more through hands-on activities, demonstrations, and projects. Don't miss special guest instructors on the second Thursday of each month.

 **Young Readers**  
November 10 at 10:30  
November 30 at 4:00  
December 1 at 10:30  
December 21 at 4:00  
All ages with adult

Come hear a story, do an activity and get excited about books! This drop-in program, led by special guest instructors, is perfect for fans of storytelling and reading.

**Have a Birthday Party at VDM!**

Come celebrate at the Virginia Discovery Museum. Our two-hour parties include exclusive use of our Party Room, a helium balloon for each child, plates, forks, cups, napkins, and the opportunity to explore the museum. We provide you with an assistant to greet your guests, lead the themed activities, and set-up and clean-up the Party Room. You may host your own private party or host a themed party: princess/prince, music, dinosaurs, pirates, and more! Private parties start at \$100 for 10 children with each additional child \$5. Themed parties start at \$150 for up to 10 children with each additional child \$8. Parties are scheduled on Saturdays at 10:30 and 2:00, and Sundays at 2:00. To schedule, email [vdmprograms@vadm.org](mailto:vdmprograms@vadm.org) or call 434-977-1025.

**Holiday Hours**


The museum will be closed November 23 & 24, December 24 & 25, and January 1. Enjoy the holiday season!

**Snow Days**


If it is snowing, please call the museum, check your local news stations, or check the museum's facebook page before venturing to the Downtown Mall.

## special programs

These programs require pre-registration and payment. To register, email [vdmprograms@vadm.org](mailto:vdmprograms@vadm.org) or call 977-1025 x 9.

 **Hometown History**  
November 7, 9:00 – 12:00  
Ages 4-8  
\$30 members / \$35 non-members

School is closed today, so come to the museum instead! At this pre-registration drop-off program, we'll explore the lives of colonial Virginians with a focus on our very own Showalter log cabin that is over 200 years old! Spend a day in the life of an 18th century family to learn how they built their homes, made their food, went to school, and what they did for fun. We'll make crafts relating to Virginia history, play games that the Showalters might have played, and enjoy a frontier-themed snack. Don't miss out on a day of learning--just add some extra fun!

 **Holiday Houses**  
December 10, 10:30-11:30 and 2:30-3:30  
December 17, 10:30-11:30 and 2:30-3:30  
Ages 4 & up with adult  
\$10 members / \$13 non-members (per person)

Come get crafty this winter at VDM. Celebrate the season with our annual Holiday Houses event. Create your own candyland scene with marshmallows, peppermints, jellybeans, and more! Houses are pre-assembled by museum staff, so let your imagination do the rest. Kick start your holiday season with a festive day at the museum. Space is limited so register today!

**From September 19 - 26, the Virginia Discovery Museum closed to renovate the Front Gallery. The museum staff, along with a crew of wonderful volunteers, worked tirelessly to paint, build, and create brand new exhibits such as the Discovery Garage, the murals in the Open Studio, and the stable in our Virginia Heritage Area. When we reopened, we greeted a large crowd of excited children. It has been a joy to watch our young visitors interact with our new and expanded exhibits in ways that we never imagined. The museum staff would like to thank the people who helped make these exciting exhibits a reality: APO, Day of Caring (BB&T and CFA), Danny Bare, Cody Beverly, Aaron Fein, Sean Horn, Carolyn Mielnik, and Emily Wicks.**

