



in the works



summer 2011

Summer at The Works

Summer is a hot time at The Works with cool activities for families, groups, and teachers.

This summer at The Works is all about engineering for everyone. We have planned a summer full of hands-on activities and engaging learning opportunities designed to inspire generations of learners.

For our families, we have some great hands-on activities on airplanes, electricity, and rainbows. In addition, we have expanded our summer hours to give you more time to explore exhibits and are planning more activities and events that get the whole family involved in the fun. See

our complete hours on the back of this newsletter.

Summer camps are another great way for kids to engineer with us. We have fun and educational camps for children entering grades K to 7. Whether your child's interest is in architecture or amusement parks, chemistry or catapults, check out our camp schedule to find a half or full day camp that are sure to please.

For teachers, we are again offering our Summer Teacher Workshop for those looking to boost their teaching skills this

summer. June 16th is the date for this full-day workshop.

All group leaders can make a visit memorable for your summer group with workshops on slime, circuits, and kaleidoscopes. Schedule soon as the summer schedule is filling up!

At The Works, we believe that engineering really is for everyone, no matter your future path in life. Hands-on engineering boosts your creativity and problem solving skills and that is cool no matter who you are.

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P1 **what's happening**
activities and camps for kids, workshop for teachers

P2 **what's important to us**
from the president, members, donors, TechFest

P3 **what's new**
new site, new events, and how to blow a bigger bubble

P4 **when you visit**
hours, locations, admission and upcoming family activities

from the president



Engineering is child's play

Make sandcastles and mud moats in your backyard. Dig a cave. Blow a grass whistle. Find a creek and build a bridge or dam. Sail a small boat you make from aluminum foil. Build a fort with branches, clothespins and old sheets. Catch the wind with a pinwheel or kite you make yourself. Blow bubbles (see recipe on the next page) or fly paper airplanes (we'll show you how at The Works on Saturdays in June.) For bigger projects, take a camp

at The Works and wire up an electric car, design a city, launch a bottle rocket or program a robot.

Creative, open-ended engineering play builds your child's imagination, confidence and persistence. It's engineering at its best: messy, memorable, meaningful and fun.

This autumn, The Works will be moving to a new, and larger facility where we'll be able to welcome

many more visitors to many more hands-on engineering experiences. The new site opens up endless possibilities in how we can serve our community. It's a new era for The Works. If you have ideas about our growth, I'd love to hear from you. E-mail me at rebecca@theworks.org. Have fun engineering this summer!

-Rebecca Schatz
Founder & President



member corner

Members of The Works enjoy unlimited free visits for their family all year long, discounts on camps, classes, and merchandise, and free admission to science centers across the country and around the world through the ASTC passport program- all for only \$60 per year!

Since our members are some of our closest friends, we like to recognize them with fun members-only events at the museum. We're planning something special for this summer, so, members, be on the lookout for your invitation!

If your contact information has changed since our December member event (where we took rides on cool full-size hovercrafts and made miniature hovercrafts to take home!) please send your current email and home address to allison@theworks.org.

See you at The Works!



Tech Fest

On February 26th, 2011, we welcomed 1,643 attendees, assembled 900 sound sandwiches, gave 470 hovercraft rides, took apart a small mountain of electronics, lit hundreds of lightbulbs, spun handfuls of motors, saw billions of stars, harnessed the wind, popped balloons, made paper, whirled gears, got slimed, and so much more! Thanks to the over 100 volunteers who made TechFest a success! We couldn't do it without you!

making a difference Thank You.

The Works depends on generous contributions from foundations, corporations, and individuals. The following made a tax-deductible gift to The Works between October 2010 through April 2011. Thank you!

Diamond \$25,000 +

Dorsey & Whitney Foundation
Huelsmann Family Foundation
Bob Fayfield

Platinum \$10,000 +

Earl & Doris Bakken Foundation
Boston Scientific Foundation
Donaldson Foundation
Goodrich Foundation
Medtronic Foundation
Social Venture Partners -
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Gold \$5000 +

Anita Hall
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Digital River
General Mills Foundation
Kinder Morgan Foundation
Nash Foundation

Silver \$1000 +

TLC Electronics
U of M College of Science
and Engineering
U of M ITS Institute

Bronze \$500+

Ron Bennett
Richard & Jean Clarke
Nancy Drake
Stuart & Nancy Friedell
Family Foundation
Derek Rucker
Laurie Zenner
American Society of
Mechanical Engineers
Itasca Consulting Group
Minnesota Federation of
Engineering, Science,
and Technology Societies

new at the works



Summer Hours

Expanded summer hours begin June 13th. The Works will be open Monday-Friday 10 am - 5 pm and Saturday 10 am - 4 pm for families

Teacher Workshop

June 16th: Resources, lesson plans, and hands-on learning from The Works' experts in elementary engineering, plus activities and design challenges you can do in your classroom

Summer Camps

Back by popular demand:
Girls Create

Wire up a bouncing jitterbug, mix chemical concoctions, build model skyscrapers, plus more creative engineering projects

Get Social!

Join the conversation with The Works. We're at [facebook.com/theworks](https://www.facebook.com/theworks) or on Twitter as [@TheWorksMuseum](https://twitter.com/TheWorksMuseum)

a new home for The Works On the Move



This is an exciting time for The Works, its fans, and the community. A new larger site will elevate the importance of hands-on engineering and inspire innovation and creativity.

There has been a lot of work going on behind the scenes at The Works. Why? We're preparing for our move to a new location to better serve our many visitors! Do you know that our attendance soared over 40,000 people last year? That is 19% more than the previous year and nearly three-times our attendance of three years ago.

Saturday, September 3rd, will be our last day at our Edina Community Center location. While we are not quite ready to announce our new location, once all the details have been finalized,

our newsletter audience will be among the first to know. What we can tell you is that the new site will retain all the wonderful aspects of The Works that you appreciate now: the warm welcome and personal attention to each and every child, the creative and open-ended activities, and the hands-on exhibits.

Our new site will be ready for you this fall. In the meantime, we ask you to follow our progress by joining our e-newsletter list or "liking" us on Facebook. If you are a member, look for information regarding

our move in your mailbox this summer. If you are not a member, consider joining now as membership prices will increase this August.

Want to help? Send us a contribution in the attached envelope, or join the Friends of The Works (friends@theworks.org) a dynamic and creative group working hard to raise the dollars needed for this major move.

Most of all, thank you for your support and encouragement. Our upcoming move is because of and for you!

try this at home

Blow bigger bubbles this summer by making your own bubble formula!

*2/3 cup Dawn dishwashing soap + 1 gallon water
+ 2 to 3 tablespoons glycerine (available at your pharmacy)*

Stir the ingredients together and... here's the important part... leave the solution in an open container overnight. The Exploratorium in San Francisco says, "We believe that this gives the alcohol on the dishwashing soap a chance to evaporate. In any case, the solution seems to get better with age. If you substitute some other soap for Dawn, you will have to experiment with the rest of the formula... but that's the fun of engineering!"

for more information, visit the Fun page at www.theworks.org



5701 Normandale Road, Ste. 303
Edina, Minnesota 55424

NON-PROFIT ORG
**US POSTAGE
PAID**
TWIN CITIES, MN
PERMIT #30308

hours of operation

School Year Public Hours

- Thursday- 1 pm to 7 pm
- Friday- 10 am to 4 pm
- Saturday- 10 am to 4 pm

Summer Public Hours start June 13

- Monday- Friday 10 am - 5 pm
- Saturday- 10 am - 4 pm

Admission is \$5 for ages 3 and up

The Works is open for groups
Monday through Saturday.
All groups must call for a
reservation. 952-848-4848.

upcoming family activities at the works

Family activities are free with your \$5 admission to The Works.
Each activity takes 15-20 minutes and is available every Saturday from 1 to 3 pm.

June Family Activity Paper Airplanes

Learn how to fold paper airplanes that fly just how and where you want them to.

July Family Activity Circuit Play

Hook up batteries and wires to power light bulbs, motors, and more. Discover the difference between a series circuit and a parallel circuit. Already know the basics? Then you're ready to tackle the Ultimate Circuit Challenge!

August Family Activity Sun Stars

Learn how rainbows are made and design your own prismatic sun star to take home.

The Works is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization supported by service fees and generous contributions from foundations, corporations and individuals.

visit us online at www.theworks.org