Located in downtown San Jose on the banks of the Guadalupe River, Children's Discovery Museum is proud to be regionally and nationally recognized as an important cultural institution and beloved community asset for Silicon Valley's children.

Our Founding Story: In 1982, Santa Clara County residents Reba Wehrly and Carolyn Nelson began exploring what it would take to establish a children's museum. With enthusiastic public support, the Museum was granted 501(c)(3) tax exempt status a year later. Dedicated to the shared purpose of serving the needs of children, families, and schools, museum leaders took their passion and exhibits to the road, transporting engaging educational experiences to children throughout the South Bay.

Our Purple Building: Designed by renowned architect Ricardo Legorreta, Children's Discovery Museum’s striking 52,000 sq ft. structure has welcomed over 7 million visitors since opening in 1990. With addition of the West Wing, the Museum expanded 20%, and another 3,200 sq. ft. of facility space will be added with construction of The Builder Building.

Our Enduring Mission: Our core competency of creating meaningful interactive learning experiences is reflected in our mission: Children's Discovery Museum of San Jose inspires creativity, curiosity, and lifelong learning. Now approaching our 25th Anniversary in 2015, we have identified the following Strategic Commitments to guide the operations and future directions of the Museum:

Strategic Commitments

Creativity Through The Arts
- Gallery Spaces including Art Gallery, Art Loft, Art Studio, Lee and Diane Brandenburg Theatre, and Cadence Amphitheatre
- Visiting Artist Program
- Cultural Celebrations including El Dia de los Tres Reyes Magos, Lunar New Year, Children of the Dragon, Diwali, Lantern Festival, and Family Lunadas

Environmental Stewardship
- Exhibits including Kids' Garden and Mammoth Discovery!
- Question Quest Theme Week
- BioSITE

Learning Research
- Research Lab
- Research partnerships with the University of California, Santa Cruz and Stanford University
- In-House Research, including Parent/Child Interaction Research

In-House Exhibit Development
- Gallery Spaces including Bubbles, Streets, and Waterways
- The Builder Building
- Prototyping Labs

Community Service Learning
- Summer of Service (SOS)
- Discovery Youth (DY)
- Team Teal

Science Learning
- Gallery Spaces including Mammoth Discovery! and Secrets of Circles
- Science Learning Research
- Family Science Nights at Schools

Childhood Obesity Prevention
- Gallery Spaces including Rainbow Market and Kids in Motion
- Kids Like to Move It Theme Week
- A Taste of Things to Come Campaign

Inclusion & Cultural Competence
- Trilingual Signage
- Audience Development Initiatives including Vietnamese (VADI), Latino (LADI), and Autism Initiative
- Cultural Competence Learning Institute

Early Childhood Development
- The Wonder Cabinet, A FIRST 5 Early Learning Laboratory
- Family Resource Center Outreach

Partnerships & Resource Development
- Cultural Celebrations Advisors
- Volunteers, including Team Teal, Family, Individual and Corporate Volunteers
- Corporate Sponsors and Affiliates Partners Programs
- Legacy for Children Award