

SCIENCE CHICAGO COMMUNITY PARTNER GUIDE



Science Chicago: Life's a Lab is about helping kids of all ages unleash their inner scientist. We invite Chicagoans to discover and explore the inspiring world of science in our community.

-David Mosena

President and CEO, Museum of Science and Industry

Excitement. Curiosity. Discovery. Wonder. Joy. Enlightenment.

For twelve months, beginning in September 2008, the city of Chicago and the surrounding suburbs will band together to execute an unparalleled program that will provide our community with unique opportunities to learn, create and explore in the electrifying world of science.

As the world's largest science celebration, Science Chicago will awaken the inner scientist in all of us by allowing kids of all ages to explore the wonders of our region's scientific resources. Beginning in September 2008 and lasting through August 2009, the Museum of Science and Industry in collaboration with more than 100 of the Chicago area's leading academic, scientific, corporate and non-profit institutions will host thousands of programs that will provide hands-on learning; spur thoughtful debate; and build enthusiasm for the pursuit of cutting-edge science.

From September 2008 to August 2009, on almost every day in between, someone, somewhere in the Chicago area will be learning something new about science. More than anything, *Science Chicago* will illustrate the concept that science is not just something we learn in a classroom or lab, but is something that is happening all around us at any time of day with real impact on everyday life. It is about fostering the belief that...**Life's a Lab!**

*...Science is cars. Science is television.
Science is the computer. It really makes
you think... it opens up your mind about
what science is.*

-Student, Age 13-18

Perhaps the most exciting aspect of this initiative is the unprecedented magnitude of reach that its programming will have. From classrooms to boardrooms, from laboratories to public parks, *Science Chicago* will bring learning to a whole new level. Behind-the-scenes tours, classroom activities, outdoor experiments, family outings, conversations with leading researchers, cultural activities and neighborhood festivals...*Science Chicago* will offer countless ways for the Chicagoland region to truly *participate* in the wonderment of science.

Science Chicago reminds the public that science matters in everyday life. That is why leading scientists, educators, and civic leaders are supporting this effort by creating programs that show how science works and why it is so important.

-Jonathan Fanton
President, MacArthur Foundation

Our Vision

To awaken Chicagoans to the wonders of our region's scientific resources and the importance of science to our future.

Our Mission

To create a strategic framework connecting people, organizations, and opportunities to Chicago's wealth of science and technology resources.

Our Goals

Science Chicago will accomplish this mission by creating an organizational and programmatic framework to achieve five overarching goals:

- **Engage young people** in the fun, excitement and awe of science and inspire them to consider careers in science and technology fields.
- **Raise awareness** of the importance of science in everyday life in the minds of students, their parents and teachers—and thereby, the public at large.
- **Enlighten Chicagoans** to the region's vast science and technology assets.
- **Encourage partnership** and collaboration between and among the science and technology community and our target audience.
- **Raise Chicago's profile** as a national leader in science and technology, and promote the message that our city and region can and will continue to prosper because we are committed to supporting science and technology.

How Can You Participate?

Whether you are focusing your activities around a science theme, planning a neighborhood activity or attending a city-wide event, your participation helps illuminate the importance of science in our lives in everything we do. Community based organizations are integral in the dissemination of information throughout the neighborhoods and areas they serve. You are in a position to reach and influence thousands of youth throughout Chicago.

Community Partners can participate in Science Chicago in the following ways:

1. **Help spread the word** – Science Chicago will be promoting its programs and events all year throughout the region in a variety of ways. Program information will be available on the Science Chicago website and in our bi-monthly Program Guides. However, your support to encourage participation in Science Chicago can help create excitement about science learning and activate others to seek out the program opportunities available through Science Chicago. We want you to talk about Science Chicago, link to www.sciencechicago.com, and sign up for e-mail updates. We hope you'll encourage young people to submit a science question or comment on Dr. Rabiah's blog and you'll distribute the Program Guide to the community you serve.
2. **Facilitate Program Participation** – Science Chicago's success will depend on the participation of the entire community. We hope you will help bring audiences to experience, participate in, and give their feedback on the programs. Several programs will be happening in and around your communities. We encourage you to bring your kids out to explore the many programs and events that will occur during this year-long celebration of science.

We're excited to tap into the Chicago region's collective curiosity and help kids open their minds to the possibilities science brings us. Science is the key to our future.

-Walter Massey
Co-Chair, Board of Advisors, *Science Chicago*

Why Become a Partner?

Chicago has long been a leader in scientific innovation: home to two premier national laboratories, several major research universities and countless world-class scientists, as well as the birthplace of the world's first nuclear reaction, the first cellular phone and one of the world's tallest skyscrapers. Chicago's history of scientific achievements is legendary, but without engaging, exciting and educating the next generation of scientists, these achievements could be the last.

Science Chicago provides many of us an opportunity to be a part of the solution. We have enthusiastic support from leading local institutions, a list that reflects the diversity of our city. We're proud to be joined by over 100 partners, representing business, education, culture, entertainment, media, academia, to help showcase the region's vast science and technology assets.

As a partner, *Science Chicago* will offer the following support:

- Facilitate network opportunities with organizations and institutions that have similar missions and goals.
- Include your organization's logo and name in multiple locations on the Science Chicago Web site, which will serve as the main portal for all information about the program and our partners.
- Multiple opportunities to participate in Science Chicago programs at no cost to you.

How Can I Get Involved?

The *Science Chicago* year is underway. If your organization is interested in becoming a community partner, please let us know by completing the [Intent to Participate](#) form attached in the Appendix of this Guide.

For more information

If you are interested in getting involved, please let us know. We can be reached by email at info@sciencechicago.com or by phone at 773-947-3150.