



Miami Museum of Science & Planetarium Fact Sheet

Mission

Curiosity, knowledge and appreciation of the sciences are essential to the health and survival of the individual, the community and our planet. The Museum aims to inspire individuals of all ages, cultures and walks of life to appreciate the significance, relevance and application of the sciences in order to better understand ourselves, one another and the universe in which we live.

Miami Museum of Science

- Founded in 1949 by the Junior League of Miami, under the name Junior Museum.
- In 1960, along with a partnership with Miami-Dade County, the Miami Museum of Science (MMOS) breaks ground on its current site of the Vizcaya grounds.
- Miami Museum of Science & Planetarium is the first science museum to join Smithsonian Institution's national affiliate network of museums.
- In 2001, the Bush White House presents MMOS the National Award for Museum Service from the Federal Institute of Museum and Library Services.
- State of Florida Cultural Institutions Program ranks MMOS #1 in the state among all science, history, botanical and zoological institutions.
- MMOS has more than 60,000 artifacts in its collection.
- MMOS is the only science museum in South Florida to create, design and produce its own traveling exhibitions.
- A permanent installation of *Smithsonian Expeditions: Exploring Latin America and the Caribbean*. This highly acclaimed exhibit brings 150 years of exploration throughout the Americas and Caribbean by pioneering Smithsonian researchers and scientists.

Planetarium

- In 1966, the museum added the Planetarium to its facility.
- First planetarium to create programs for the hearing and visually impaired, create pre-school programming, receive a National Air and Space Administration's grant for international multimedia production, create Multimedia Science Docudrama format that teaches science through giant visual imaging and multi-track musical scoring and professional narration.
- Jack Horkheimer's *Star Gazer* naked eye astronomy is the most successful five-minute series in the history of television, with six million worldwide viewers on PBS and via satellite distribution.

Wildlife Center and Falcon Batchelor Bird of Prey Center

- Nationally recognized for contributions to environmental research education, and wildlife management.
- Conducts educational programs and rehabilitation on protected wildlife encompassing more than 12 species.
- WOW! - Wildlife Outreach Wonders! Hands-on, educational program, which uses live animals to teach students about Florida's unique, fragile environment.

Science/Technology Education and Youth Programs

- In 1995, the National Science Foundation selects MMOS as test site for Science Learning Network, a network for museum/school education.
- U.S. Department of Education selects MMOS as first science museum in the country to become an Upward Bound Math and Science Center.
- Improves science, mathematics and technology education for youth, females and the physically challenged.
- College enrollment rate of 90% of economically disadvantaged and underrepresented youth who participate in youth program.
- More than 100 youth involved at any given time in biomedical, engineering, environmental and technology-focused programs.
- In September 2000, honored with the National Award for Museum Service from the Institute of Museum and Library Services for excellence in underserved youth programs.
- In November 2000, MMOS received a National Award from the Tomas Rivera Policy Institute for excellence in addressing the digital divide, which brings technology into the hands of those who might not otherwise have the resources.

Museum Awards

- The Museum's redesigned newsletter MiamiSci beat more than 3,000 entries from around the world in April 2004 at the Summit Creative Awards with a bronze award for the newsletter category.
- Voted "Best Children's Museum" in Miami-Dade County with the 2004 Silver Award from *South Florida Parenting Magazine*, whose readers have also named it Miami's "Best Museum" for the past six years.
- Jack Horkheimer, Executive VP of the Planetarium, received the 25th Anniversary "Classic Telly Award" for *StarGazer*.
- Voted "Greatest Museum" in 2004 by the *Coral Gables Gazette*.
- The National Institutes of Health provided a grant for the national dissemination and replication of the Museum's BioTrac educational program to be used as a prototype in museums across the country.
- The 2005 Eleanor Roosevelt Fund Award was presented to Dr. Judy Brown for her success in encouraging young girls to explore careers in the math and science fields.
- The 2005 Presidential Award for Excellence in Science, Mathematics and Engineering Mentoring was awarded to the Museum.

Facilities

- 235-tiered seating theatre is complete with stage, backstage, control booth for theatre and/or multimedia presentations and large screen projection.
- Two state-of-the-art computer labs with 21 Windows based desktop computers with available video conferencing and 24 G4 Macintosh computers.
- 2,567 sq. ft. Space Gallery, ideal for receptions, meetings, conferences or social functions for up to 150 people.
- Two classrooms and meeting spaces.
Classroom A: 1,328 sq. ft.
Classroom B: 565 sq. ft.

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