Create learning through the POWER of PLAY and exploration that connects CHILDREN to their communities and the world.
BIG Numbers, DEEP Impact

92 volunteers donated 600+ hours

6,000 participants in FREE in-person programs

44 membership scholarships awarded

5,000 Museums for All admissions*

KidsQuest donated 1,200+ remote learning kits to the community in 2021

3,000 participants in educational programming

15,000 virtual users

68,000+ admissions

* Museums for All serves EBT, WIC, CHIP, Provider One, Apple Health users and foster families.
This year required a lot of agility. While rapid change can be difficult, it has become our new reality. This has led us to see the incredible possibilities and opportunities that working in this type of environment offers. The past year was filled with creativity and impact. During moments of uncertainty, we still found moments of happiness that made the year unforgettable.

I am proud of how KidsQuest Children’s Museum listened to our community because listening is a crucial part of our learning.

I am proud of what we were able to accomplish this year. KidsQuest was thrilled to safely re-open our Museum doors, while still offering virtual opportunities for museum and visitor interactions. This is an area of continued growth and development.

I am proud that KidsQuest Children’s Museum continued to put the needs of children first. Children are our most valuable resource. They teach us and inspire us. Thank you to everyone for learning with us in 2021.

We reimagined what a “museum” could be. We established virtual opportunities while making space for open-ended conversations and feedback. Technology allowed us to connect with broader audiences. We heard from families that they felt comfortable returning to play in person. Our journey to this “new normal” has led to institutional reinvigoration, evolution and tremendous success!
After 11 months of closure due to the pandemic, KidsQuest RE-OPENED the Museum doors on February 17, 2021! We were thrilled to bring back in-person PLAY!

Staff Reflection:
“When you work at KidsQuest you get to know families who come in often. One family I adored had two young children I used to see regularly. When we re-opened, I was working check in, and these two kids ran to me jumping up and down! They had so much to share about school and life and were so thrilled to be back.”

“They said they came as ‘babies’ before, but now they are ‘big kids’. Pre-pandemic they mainly played with staff, and now they are so interested in playing with other children. They are leaders at ages 5 and 6! They were one of the first families to return.”

- Visitor Experience and Party Supervisor

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) at KidsQuest

KidsQuest Children’s Museum is committed to becoming an anti-racist organization. As an educational institution we are working to disrupt systemic racism. We will provide resources, support, and education to children, families, KidsQuest Staff and Board about Race and Social Justice (RSJ) work. Our organization strives to be a safe space that reflects our greater community through programming, exhibits, and access for Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) families.

Sampling of Race & Social Justice Work in 2021:

• Continued working with RSJ consultants by engaging a new firm, Be Culture, in July 2021
• Held organizationwide staff training along with monthly trainings for Leadership, Human Resources (HR) & RSJ Committee
• Actively worked with HR to evaluate job postings
• Intentionally grew the RSJ Committee, garnering further commitment from staff

In 2021, KidsQuest’s RSJ Committee members actively spent over 772 hours in trainings, discussions, and on numerous projects to move KidsQuest’s DEI efforts forward thoughtfully and strategically.
Every time someone visits, we are adding to their memories and development. Alongside play, we are giving children a unique chance to interact.

- Mary, Floor Supervisor
2021 Calendar Highlights

What a year it’s been!

KidsQuest Reopened, February 17

“At re-opening, I saw parents emotional over just getting to leave the house and see other families. People were lonely, and it was a joy to welcome them in. It was wonderful to have a safe playful environment. We want to have space for kids to be actual kids.”
– Jamie, Director of Education

Virtual Learning Continued

We donated 2,400+ remote learning kits over the course of the pandemic!

Happy New Year!

BizQuest 2021

In Camp Creation Studio, campers were challenged to design and build a chair. “It was awesome to see the creativity of the campers. [...] It was great to see the pride the kids had in their own creations.”
– Chris, KidsQuest Educator

Summer Camps Returned!

Code and Create Camp
Fall Programming Fun!

Free in-person programming reached almost 6,000 people.

Classes Continued

“Classes brought kids joy, and that made us (teachers) happy. Plus, parents saw what their children were capable of doing and had so much pride in that.”
– AJ, KidsQuest Educator

1,020+ students of all ages came to our classes.

Spooktacular

Happy Halloween!

Gingerbread Workshops
November 26 and 27

Hosted 1,350+ Visitors

Thank you for an amazing year!

KidsQuest’s First Annual Imagination Celebration
October 2, 2021

Raised over $300,000. Thank you donors!

raised over $300,000. Thank you donors!

Thank you donors!

Happy Halloween!

KidsQuest’s 16th Birthday, December 12!
KidsQuest’s educational programming serves an expanded audience thanks to partnerships with over 20 community-based organizations!

**Community:**
- Eastside Pathways
- King County Library Systems
- Bellevue Police Foundation
- ArchLug
- UW School of Medicine

**Transitional Housing:**
- King County Housing Authority
- Seattle’s Union Gospel Mission

**Diverse Cultures:**
- NISO Programs
- Refugee Women’s Alliance
- CISC
- Hindi Time Kids

**Public Education:**
- Bellevue School District
- Bellevue School District Early Learning
- Lake Washington School District

**Women Led:**
- National Charity League
- Sprouting Image

**Priority Populations:**
- Jubilee Reach
- Kindering Center
- Boys and Girls Club Bellevue
- Schools Out Washington
Kindness Corner

We get so many kind comments from our community, we’re sharing the joy here!

“We love KidsQuest and believe in what KidsQuest does for the community and kids of all ages.” - Donor

“Finding fun and healthy things to do with a toddler is challenging for anyone, albeit a single young father. (...) Thank you for being a strong voice of leadership to our young ones in the community.” - Grandparent

“Alexander loves his weekly zoom classes so much!! Grandma surprised him with that week’s class and loved it too. Thank you SO MUCH for having these classes! They are much needed and appreciated.” - Parent

“The staff really make this museum special and make a point to connect and reach out to children and that is so beautiful to see. Since opening back up in COVID, we feel very supported and safe with the limitations around group size and cleanliness procedures.” - Visitor

“I'm 82 and I get my hair cut (...) across the street from you. I hadn’t realized how much I missed the happy ‘little voices’ until I walked by your parking lot today -- a glimmer of hope as the pandemic continues.” - Local Neighbor

“We love the museum and how it supports childhood development.” - Parent and Donor

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Partnerships At Work:

KidsQuest and Republic Services Teamed Up in 2021 for enhanced in-Museum educational programming

**Partnership Goal** – Educate about recycling! Special focus on the problems plastic bags create when put in general recycling bins (you can repurpose plastic bags, you cannot recycle them).

**Leading by Example:**
- Featured more books on recycling in the Story Tree
- Offered green toys on the museum floor
- Updated in-museum signage

**Hands-On Learning:**
- Litter sorting activities led by KidsQuest Educators and Republic Services team members
- Weaving plastic bags onto the fabric on our loom
- Showcasing videos on making plastic and how plastic bags disrupt the recycling process

**Take it Home:**
- Take-home activities included different ways to repurpose plastic bags, like fusing plastics with an iron to make reusable shopping bags or a pencil case.
In 2019 KidsQuest raised significant funds to tackle anticipated building maintenance and long-term debt obligations. In 2020, due to COVID-19, KidsQuest had to use those reserves to keep supporting local families while the physical museum was closed. It is with gratitude to donors and patrons that KidsQuest had strong income in 2021. While 2021 moved KidsQuest in the right financial direction, KidsQuest will start 2022 with a $750,000 recovery deficit as a result of the pandemic.
We asked our donors: **Why do you donate to KidsQuest?**

“We play almost weekly at KidsQuest and are so thankful for such a **fun and safe place to play** whenever we need it!” - Donor

“Why do [we] donate? **The power of play!”**
- Donor

Link to Donor List

“We love KidsQuest and want to help **close the gap** so more children in our community can access this **remarkable and important resource.”**
- Donor

THANK YOU, 2021 DONORS!