



# Play. Create. Explore. Discover.

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Jackson Hole Children's Museum Awarded IMLS Inspire! Grants for Small Museums**

**Jackson, WY** – Jackson Hole Children's Museum (JHCM) today officially announces that it has been awarded the Institute of Museum and Library and Sciences Inspire! Grant for Small Museums. JHCM was awarded \$50,000 over two years to provide STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math) programming to local elementary school students.

JHCM plays a vital role in addressing some of Teton County's immediate and specific needs for children. Through their STEAM programs, JHCM works to increase science and engineering literacy in our community. Developed in partnership with Teton County School District #1 (TCSD), these programs directly support curricular and conceptual learning in school. The continued partnership with TCSD has grown to provide free STEAM programming to all Teton County School District elementary classrooms. The IMLS Inspire! Grant will further expand the reach and impact of the Children's Museum's STEAM program in our community. Executive Director Ethan Lobdell comments on the need for these programs and the vital importance of the Inspire! Grant funding, "These high-quality, out-of-classroom experiences are material-heavy and rooted in exploration. This type of program is often difficult for teachers due to planning, preparation and clean-up time. JHCM is proud to offer these supplemental programs that bring learning to life. The IMLS Inspire! Grant is a critical piece to making these programs more robust and accessible to our youth."

Each two-hour STEAM program opens with interactive, student-centered, scientific method lab stations. Students are then challenged to use newly-acquired vocabulary and knowledge to complete a hands-on building project using the STEAM Design Process: Ask, Imagine, Plan, Create, Improve, Share. These projects require students to ask questions, make inferences, solve problems, and draw their own conclusions. Students are provided with a journal where they collect data, draw diagrams, and write down their hypotheses.

The Institute of Museum and Library Services is the primary source of federal support for the nation's libraries and museums. They advance, support, and empower America's museums, libraries, and related organizations through grantmaking, research, and policy development to transform the lives of individuals and communities. "As pillars of our communities, libraries and museums bring people together by providing important programs, services, and collections. These institutions are trusted spaces where people can learn, explore and grow," said IMLS Director Crosby Kemper. "IMLS is proud to support their initiatives through our grants as they educate and enhance their communities."

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### **About Jackson Hole Children's Museum**

*Play. Create. Explore. Discover.* At the Jackson Hole Children's Museum, we encourage families to examine the world together through interactive, hands-on exhibits and educational programs in the arts, sciences, literature, and history. Our goal is to help children and grown-ups of all ages build a love of learning through collaborative play and creative problem-solving in a nurturing environment.

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