

Kidspace Children's Museum

Pasadena, CA



A hands-on approach to lifelong learning

At Kidspace Children's Museum, children embark on a lifelong journey of fun-filled learning. AldrichPears worked with museum staff and partners to design galleries filled with open-ended, whole-body play experiences that allow children of all ages to explore the world in new ways. These galleries received the 2006 Thea Award for Outstanding Achievement for a Children's Museum.

APA developed a concept based on the established Reggio Emilia approach to preschool and primary education. The approach emphasizes agency, sensory experience, collaboration and self-expression. APA worked with these pedagogical principles to build on the exhibit concept and produce design documentation that directed the rest of the project development. In the immersive galleries, children can shift tectonic plates to create their own earthquakes, play the role of seismologists to examine a trench deep below the Earth's surface, see the world from a bug's viewpoint and trade items at the Nature Exchange.

