

Contact:

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(773) 947-6003***SCIENCE STORMS*****Opening Date:** Spring 2010**Square Footage:** 24,000 sq. ft.**Museum Location:** Main Floor, West Court

Science Storms is a one-of-a-kind exhibit that allows guests and school groups to explore the wonders of physics and chemistry by interacting with dynamic large-scale experiments that explore nature's most powerful phenomena—tornadoes, lightning, fire, tsunamis, sunlight, avalanches and atoms in motion. Guests will explore the scientific principles behind these phenomena through stimulating hands-on experimentation and state-of-the-art interactive media.

Centerpieces of the exhibit include dramatic recreations of avalanches, tornadoes, lightning and tsunamis. These experiences will immerse guests in the dynamic forces and processes that have inspired scientists for centuries. At each exhibit station, guests will deconstruct large phenomena into smaller experiments and perform scientific analyses to study the forces that make these phenomena possible. In *Science Storms*, it's the guests' turn to be inspired—to search for the “how” and “why” behind nature.

Guests will be able to:

- Feel as well as measure the dynamics of a tornado and experiment with air pressure and wind speed by stepping into a vortex of illuminated vapor—rising 40 feet from the floor.
- Create a giant rainbow by directing natural sunlight from the Museum's roof through an enormous prism, replicating Newton's historic prism experiment and discovering the properties of light.
- Ignite and control fires in glass enclosures and study the chemistry of combustion.
- Drive a wave across a large water tank and examine the impact of the wave's energy as it hits shore.
- Be drawn into the mysterious world of granular physics by cascading flows of particles in a 20-foot diameter avalanche disk.
- Be wowed by the spectacle and science of electricity and magnetism as volts of energy discharge in the form of dramatic lighting from a giant Tesla coil, suspended above the exhibition floor. Museum facilitators will create a dramatic and educational indoor “Lightning Show” that dissects why and how lightning forms.
- Immerse themselves in brilliant colors of light in the “Color Room,” which will challenge their understanding of how color and light work in everyday life. The exhibit will also have a facilitated element in which students and teachers benefit from interactive presentations focusing on the science behind light interactions and color mixing.

Science Storms taps into the broad and collective human desire to explore and understand the workings of the natural world. Guests, teachers and students will engage in the process of scientific investigation, step into the mindset of a scientist and become active participants in the experiments around them. In doing so, their innate fascination with the wonders of nature will be awakened.

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