



SparkLab is where museum visitors become inventors.

The SparkLab National Network

Originally opened at the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History in 2008, SparkLab is the flagship educational initiative of the Lemelson Center for the Study of Invention and Innovation. SparkLab is a dynamic learning space where children, families, and groups create, innovate, collaborate, problem-solve, and invent. Through hands-on activities, they learn about the invention process, inventors and inventions in American history, and innovations that are changing our world today. Most importantly, they are empowered to create their own inventions and to solve problems in individual and unique ways. Based on the overwhelming success of SparkLab at National Museum of American History, the Lemelson Center initiated the SparkLab National Network in 2011.

The Network is a community of museum professionals dedicated to fostering inventive creativity in kids and families. A two-year membership in the SparkLab National Network includes:

- 10 SparkLab activities with all start-up materials and in-depth training guides
- Comprehensive onboarding process with in-person training from SparkLab experts
- Opportunities to tailor activities to your museum or community
- Annual in-person visits with customized training by SparkLab staff
- On-call consultation services
- Access to other National Network members
- Smithsonian and SparkLab branding and logos for signage, marketing, and more

The SparkLab National Network is growing steadily and the Lemelson Center is eager to add additional museums to this community of practice. Current members include: Draper SparkLab, the flagship site at the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History in Washington, D.C.

- Science City at Union Station in Kansas City, Missouri (Smithsonian Affiliate)
- The Terry Lee Wells Nevada Discovery Museum in Reno, Nevada
- The Anchorage Museum in Anchorage, Alaska (Smithsonian Affiliate)
- The Children's Museum of the Upstate, Greenville, South Carolina (Smithsonian Affiliate)
- The Michigan Science Center (Detroit, Michigan)

For more information on Network membership, contact:

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