

2017 Science Festival Accelerator Introductions

Pod A

Flagstaff Festival of Science (Accelerator Lead Festival)

Lead organization: Flagstaff Festival of Science, Flagstaff, AZ

Main contact: Bonnie Stevens

<http://www.scifest.org/>

City of STEM (working title)

Lead organization: Columbia Memorial Space Center, Downey, CA

Main contact: Sandra Valencia

"We are actively working to become a true 21st Century STEM institution, decentralizing the traditional science museum by working to bring the Space Center experience to communities where they are, not always expecting them to come to us. ...We value long-term engagements with audiences and count each one that participates in a Space Center activity as a visitor, whether they walk through our doors or not."

Fall in Love with Science (working title)

Lead organization: Bishop Museum, Honolulu, HI

Main contact: Hadley Andersen

"Hawai'i is defined by the rich and complex intersection of culture and science, and the complex relationship between the two are the very fabric of Hawai'i's understanding of its natural world." "Moving forward, the museum endeavors to [create a] *Fall in Love with Science* festival...that is relevant to 21st century Hawai'i."

Goddard Days: Science and Art Festival (working title)

Lead organization: Roswell Museum and Art Center Foundation, Roswell, NM

Main contact: Caroline Brooks

"Using the achievements and passion of Roswell's rocket pioneer Robert H. Goddard as a foundation, the initiative's primary goal would be to make science, technology, engineering, mathematics and art accessible and fun for youth, families, and individuals in southeast New Mexico through a free, multi-day festival."

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Pod B

Indian River Lagoon Science Festival (Accelerator Lead Festival)

Lead organization: Smithsonian Marine Station, Fort Pierce, FL

Main contact: Laura Diederick

<http://sciencefestivals.org/festival/indian-river-lagoon-science-festival/>

Volcano! (working title)

Lead organization: Mt. Shasta Sisson Museum, Mt. Shasta, CA

Main contact: Jean Nels

"In this rural area, scientific innovation and access to current research are severely limited. This is due to the large size of the county, its lack of economic resources, and lower educational levels of the population. ...This science festival would have the potential to introduce many individuals to this wonderful region in which we live, at a greater depth of understanding than they have ever experienced."

North Bay Science Festival (working title)

Lead organization: Science North, Sudbury, Ont.

Main contact: Lora Clausen

"The North Bay Science Festival would be the third location of our annual Northern Ontario Science Festivals initiative as we expand our reach into this new community. The top goal for this new festival is to cultivate new partnerships with other organizations..."

Topeka Science & Tech Fest (working title)

Lead organization: Visit Topeka, Topeka, KS

Main contact: Rosa Cavazos

"...the idea for this event began in my home when overhearing a conversation my two daughters were having with a friend. When I heard them state they had to pretend to not know math as to not upset the boys, I decided to make this event happen." "With our first event just held in October 2016, we see our event growing from 1,300 attendees to at least 15,000 in the next five years."

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Pod C

Maine Science Festival (Accelerator Lead Festival)

Lead organization: Maine Discovery Museum, Bangor, ME

Maine contact: Kate Dickerson

<http://sciencefestivals.org/festival/maine-science-festival/>

Pensacola Science Festival (working title)

Lead organization: Pensacola MESS Hall, Pensacola, FL

Main contact: Megan Pratt

"In Pensacola, FL, it seems we have a festival for everything. An arts festival, a seafood festival, a crawfish festival. Even a festival about tossing fish! For this science festival, we will draw from the organization of other popular events in our area."

Mississippi Science Festival (working title)

Lead organization: Mississippi Children's Museums, Jackson, MS

Main contact: Lauren Clark McMurtay

"In a state that is ranked last or near the bottom in education and health by multiple child wellness assessment agencies, and with the highest poverty levels in the country, MCM has created the Mississippi Science Festival, as an innovative and interactive event to encourage STEM learning experiences for Mississippi's diverse population."

SKy Science Festival (working title)

Lead organization: Sky Science Festival, Bowling Green, KY

Main contact: Richard Gelderman

"SKy Science Festival is a celebration of STEM that incorporates sound, color, and motion into meaningful, participant based hands-on activities for people of all walks of life. Our science festival will become one of the major annual festivals in our region that people look forward to and plan for in advance. "