

# Welcome to the Building with Biology Kit!



Activities and Conversations about Synthetic Biology

We're so glad you're joining with organizations from across the country to host public Building with Biology events. This kit is designed to help museum and scientist partners engage public audiences in conversations and hands-on activities about the field of synthetic biology and the ways this emerging technology is interconnected with society.

## Physical kit contents

Enclosed, you'll find a list of the materials contained in your kit. The Building with Biology kits were developed together by museum professionals and researchers to encourage conversations between scientists and public audiences about synthetic biology and its societal dimensions. The kit includes an event planning guide, hands-on activities, a forum-style program, orientation and training materials for staff and volunteers, and promotional materials. We've also included Spanish translations for all of the public educational materials, plus a bilingual promotional banner.

## Museum-scientist collaboration

This project has been funded by the National Science Foundation with the goal of increasing discussion amongst scientists and the public. Museums holding events must collaborate with local scientists or science students who are involved with synthetic biology or related fields. Scientists receiving kits must collaborate with a local informal science organization. In your kit, you'll find a detailed guide to help you get started planning and implementing successful programs and orientations for your Building with Biology event. Recruiting and working closely with scientists and researchers from the field of synthetic biology (or related fields) will help make the conversations and activities in this kit that much more meaningful to visitors. We encourage you to try to work closely with researchers in your community.

## Additional materials online

Electronic copies of all Building with Biology kit materials are available online. You can download these individually or as a complete digital kit from [www.buildingwithbiology.org](http://www.buildingwithbiology.org). The website is also a great place to learn more about the project and the topic—staff, collaborators, and volunteers looking for additional resources and information will find the site very helpful. In particular, the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) has created a suite of materials to help orient scientist volunteers to this project. These materials can be found at [www.buildingwithbiology.org/orientations](http://www.buildingwithbiology.org/orientations). Be sure to direct your visitors to [www.buildingwithbiology.org](http://www.buildingwithbiology.org) for more information after attending your event!

## Reporting and evaluation

Each organization that receives a physical kit is **required** to fill out a simple report about their local partnership **no more than 3 weeks** after their event. You will receive additional information about this report by email. Find the report at: <https://www.surveymzmo.com/s3/2637150/BwBFinalReport>. Additionally, our evaluators may contact you to ask for optional feedback about the Building with Biology products to learn about your experience using them, and to determine the impact of this project.

Please see the enclosed letter from the evaluation team for more information about opportunities to participate in the evaluation of this project, as well as an email signup sheet for event facilitators. We greatly appreciate your help and feedback.

Thank you for all your efforts to engage the public conversations and activities about synthetic biology and societal implications! We look forward to learning about how you use the kit.

**The Building with Biology team**