# Creating Nano Exhibits and Self-Guided Visitor Experiences







Network-Wide Meeting December 2012



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# NISE Network Tools for Creating Your Own Exhibits







Catherine McCarthy Science Museum of Minnesota cmccarthy@smm.org

#### December 2012

### Website for educators - nisenet.org



#### Catalog

- Exhibits
- Tools and guides
- Media
- Image Gallery

# Products in Catalog



LINKED RESOURCE ►



#### **NISE Net Products**

- Created with NISE Network funding
- Development process:

scientist review, peer review, & evaluation

- Standards and templates
- Encourage free sharing and adaption

### Linked products

- Created with other funding
- Vetting process
- Different rights ownership/attribution

#### **Creative Commons license clarifies use**

### **Creative Commons**

# **C**creative Commons



- Allows a creator to state how they feel about copying and re-use
- Licensing is simple and straightforward process
- Geared towards electronic content

# Why do we use Creative Commons?



- Helps build a creative community
- Furthers educational goals
- Allow others to adapt, and build on our work
- Increase access to our work, widespread use

Image source: Something for Nothing www.redmagma.com

### Creator's rights



- Creator still owns the copyright
- Creator allows others to use
- Legal jargon is taken care of

Image source: Something for Nothing www.redmagma.com

# Examples of Licenses



• Creator can choose from a variety of licenses

### NISE Network License:

- Attribution
- Non-commercial
- Share Alike
- allows "derivatives"

### Attribution icon



Author must be acknowledged on all copies and adaptations of the work

### Non-Commercial icon



The work can can only be used for non-commercial purposes

### Share Alike icon



The work can be modified and adapted, but the entire resulting work (including new material added by the adaptor) must be distributed under the same share alike license

# Tools & Guides: Main Messages



#### **Content Map**

articulates the key ideas for our educational products



Engaging the Public in Nano Key Concepts

More info: nisenet.org/catalog

### **NISE Net Exhibits**



Nano mini-exhibition



Nano Medicine Explorer Kiosk – software



"Large" Nano exhibits

More info: nisenet.org/catalog/exhibits

# nano mini-exhibition



## Mini-exhibition host resources:

- promotional materials
- technical manual
- Universal Design guide
- Audience guide
- bilingual materials
- training materials
- Image credits list



### Media – videos



Zoom into a Blue Morpho Butterfly video



**How Small is Nano** 



Zoom into a Lotus Leaf video



Intro Video

More info: nisenet.org/catalog/media

# Media – print, signs, posters



#### Key Concepts Posters



How Small is Nano book & poster



#### Nano & Society Posters



#### What's Nano about... signage

More info: nisenet.org/catalog/media

# **Image Collection**



#### Nasturtium Leaf:

Amy Snyder, Exploratorium



#### **Nasturtium Leaf** (2500x) *Ann Marshall, Stanford University*



**Gecko Foot** A.Dhinojwala, University of Akron



**Gecko Foot (8700x)** *Cliff Mathisen, FEI Company* 

More info: nisenet.org/image-collection

# Website for the Public



pattern on black

paper. Suitable for

up.

edit

Suitable for kids

ages 3 and up.

nanoscale science, ages 5 and up.

edit

engineering, and

- Videos, podcasts, activities, links
- List of mini-exhibition locations
- Audio Description in English and Spanish

# whatisnano.org

# DIY Nano App for iphones

atti 3G

Back

9:41 AM

Ready, Set, Fizz

Ready, Set. Fizz!

Which fizzes fasterbig pieces or little pieces?

Suitable for kids of all ages

Explore the chemical reaction between water and effervescent antacid tablets.

Explanation

atti 3G

nano

9:41 AM

molecules!

NANO VIDEOS

WHATISNANO.ORG

ACTIVITIES

Have fun investigating the nanoscale—the scale of atoms and \*

credits











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Any opinions, findings, and conclusions or recommendations expressed in this presentation are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Foundation.





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### Imaginarium Science Center 'Nano Lab'

Sarah Heath STEM Program Coordinator 239.321.7414 sheath@cityftmyers.com

The Imaginarium Science Center engages guests in the exploration of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) through hands-on exhibit experiences and educational programs that further the understanding of the natural and human-made world, foster an appreciation for Southwest Florida's unique environment, and nurture intellectual curiosity, discovery, and innovation.

### **Imaginarium Science Center**



### **Imaginarium Science Center**



### **Imaginarium Science Center**



### Nano Lab

#### • Before



### **NISE Net**

- Applied for the 2012 NISE Network Mini-Grant
- Great experience with NISE Net in the past
- Applied to create a 'Nano Lab' to introduce nanoscale science education to our visitors through hands-on activities both self-serving and facilitated

### Imaginarium's Nano Lab!



### Nano Lab Activities

- Self facilitated activities
- Always changing!
- Durable



### **Nano Lab Activities**





### **Nano Lab Activities**





### **Nano Lab Activities**





### **Nano Lab Programming**









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# Headwaters Science Center Bemidji, MN





















### **Guiding Principles**

- 1. Exhibitions should be research-led, not merely a form of dissemination
- 2. A scientist should always be involved in the exhibition, a technologist if it is about technology
- 3. Be clear about exhibitions being "multi-authored"
- 4. Never show ready-made science Show:
  - Science in the making
  - Triumphs of discovery
  - Frustrations and blind alleys
  - Social and cultural processes and implications

### Guiding Principles continued...

# Jealously guard a place for mystery and wonder Defender beiser for mystery and wonder Beneficient for the second seco

# break or reinvent ftherreies!

- Bring in new objects to museums
- Have an impact on recruitment
- Improve the organization's reputation
- Provide a context for corporate celebrations
- Really change visitors' lives







Everything is made of atoms.













### http://htwins.net/scale2/





#### What is <u>Ferrofluid</u>? 🥯

- A magnetic fluid invented by NASA during the 1960's to pump fuel when in outer space
- Comprised by volume
  - 85% carrier oil
    10% surfactant



- 5% magnetite (nano-sized magnetic solids)
- □ Surfactants → "Surface active agents"
  - Organic molecules with
    - = Hydrophilic (water-loving) heads
    - Hydrophobic (water-repelling, oil-loving) tails
  - Lower surface tension
  - Assure particles spread



#### What is going on here?

- A powerful electromagnet initiates a magnetic field through the large steel bolt
- Ferrofluid flows into the varying flux (quantity of magnetism) orienting itself along magnetic field lines
- van der Waal's interactions push and pull at the nanoscale
- Surfactants keep particles from clumping
- Meanwhile gravity drags the shiny colloidal liquid downward





#### Blue Morpho Butterflies and Nano-Nature





#### Blue Morpho's wing color is not mere pigment

Nano-sized wing structures preferentially reflect certain light measures

See what happens when you trip the switch and illuminate <u>Morpho</u> from above or below

#### Liquid Crystals



- Phased between liquid and solid
- Colors are created when <u>nano</u>-sized crystals re-structure
- Micro-<u>encapulated</u> pigments shift color as temperatures change

TOUCH THEM...





#### A manifesto for creating science, technology and medicine exhibitions by Thomas Soderqvist





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### **Buffalo Museum of Science**















HALLWALLS, BUFFALO MUSEUM OF SOLENCE, UB COLLEGE OF ARTS & SOLENCES PRESENT

SCIENCE & ART CABARET No. 3

### ILLUMINATING NANO

WEDRESDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2010, 7 PM IN THE NINTH WARD AT BABEVILLE ADMISSION IS FREE, CASH BAR

#### 

DOUG BORTYNSKI. Bulfale Muzeum of Solence - ARAD PRAILE. UB Autotant Professor. Bio-Physics samban Damuertur Ganapartur. UB Autotant Professor, Anno-Physics MOSHE SHUIMAN. Composer - viracode (PETER D'AURIA E ANDREA MANCUSO). Visual Autots











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### NISE Network: Saint Louis Science Center Minigrant Nano Prototype Exhibit









### Big Idea:

It is difficult to work with atoms at the nano scale because their behavior is



### Nano Exhibit Prototype 1: Visitors use a magnetic wand to manipulate vibrating magnetic balls.



## Prototype 1: Formative Evaluation Results

Learning Objective: Visitors will be able to describe that, at the nano scale, it is difficult to work with atoms because their behavior is bumpy, sticky, and shaky.

#### • Enjoyment:

- Exhibit is engaging
- Both children and adults enjoyed the activity
- Learning Objectives:
  - Visitors thought the exhibit was about magnets/magnetism
  - Concept of bumpy was not apparent to visitors



### Nano Exhibit Prototype 2: Isolating the concepts of Bumpy, Sticky, and Shaky with the "main" interactive.



## Prototype 2: Formative Evaluation Results

Learning Objective: Visitors will be able to describe that, at the nano scale, it is difficult to work with atoms because their behavior is bumpy, sticky, and shaky.

#### • Enjoyment:

- Almost all visitors enjoyed their experience

#### • Learning Objectives:

- 55% of visitors explained the exhibit was about atoms/nanoparticles
- 65% of visitors communicated one of the learning objective components
- 3% of visitors thought it was about magnetism



### Final Nano Exhibit Prototype



# Nano Exhibit Development Lesson Learned

- Let the Big Idea and the Learning Objectives be your guide
- Formative Evaluation is invaluable
- Use Iterative Prototyping: Keep refining until learning objectives are met





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"The Palouse Discovery Science Center is bringing hands-on science and learning experiences to people of all ages." -from the PDSC Mission Statement palouse discovery science center

> Victoria Scalise Executive Director Palouse Discovery Science Center Pullman, WA

Palouse discovery science cent

# Service Region



Located in the rural region of Eastern Washington and Northern Idaho, the Palouse Discovery Science Center serves a 4,720 sq. mile region.

### Science on the Palouse





The Palouse Discovery Science Center offers a wide variety of engaging science education opportunities ranging from single day workshops to week long camps and interactive exhibits. All events are open to the public and are free with admission.

### Bringing Science Education to All

Located in rural Eastern Washington, the PDSC strives to make science education affordable and accessible to all children, through fun, hands-on outreach events, birthday parties, community fairs, and special in-house events.



## Nano Technology at the Center



### Nano Self-Service Lab



## Nano Events

Every year the Palouse Discovery Science Center hosts a variety of nano themed events including NanoDays and Nano Open House.



# New Nano Exhibit



# Publicity

#### Palouse Discovery Science Center



#### Friday September 21, 2012

Nano Exhibit



#### "Telescopes and The Moon"

Open House 5pm-8pm Formal Nano Exhibit Introduction 5pm "Telescopes and The Moon" 7pm-8pm



For more information contact us at: (509) 332-6869 950 NE Nelson Ct. Pullman, WA 99163 www.palousecience.org



### **Nano**Days The Biggest Event for the Smallest Science

Join the Palouse Discovery Science Center for an interactive exploration of Nanotechnology. We will be learning about Graphene and Ferrofluid,

the nano properties of sunblock and butterfly wings, identifying nano images and more!





Saturday, March 24th 10am - 2:30pm Palouse Discovery Science Center

Admission is FREE to PDSC members, \$5/child, \$7.50/adult for non-members



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### Questions and Discussion?

