

# The Magic House

# STAR

## Mission Statement

The Magic House will engage all children in hands-on learning experiences that encourage experimentation, creativity and the development of problem-solving skills within a place of **beauty**, **wonder**, **joy** and **magic**.

## Alice's Wonderland

Visitors were grinning wider than a Cheshire cat on Wednesday evenings last summer. Not only did they get to experience the nationally traveling exhibit *Alice's Wonderland: A Most Curious Adventure*, but they got to do it for free! That's because Cepia LLC, the makers of ZhuZhu Pets, sponsored **Wonder-full Wednesdays** at The Magic House. Cepia's support made it possible for more than 18,000 museum-goers to embark on adventures through the mushroom forest and down the rabbit hole.

Inspired by Lewis Carroll's classic story, *Alice's Wonderland: A Most Curious Adventure* brings the author's fantastic world to life and presents the perfect setting for math, literacy and science exploration. Created by the Children's Discovery Museum of Santa Jose in partnership with a team of women scientists from University of California—Santa Cruz, the exhibit offers age-appropriate learning experiences for children ages three to eight, with special emphasis on girls and minorities—groups traditionally underrepresented in the sciences. Alice is the ideal guide for this investigation of a topsy-turvy universe where curiosity rules. In the exhibit's *Hall of Doors*, for example, kids encounter

optical illusions and solve scientific puzzles on astronomy, meteorology, ophthalmology and more. At the *Mad Hatter's Tea Party*, guests experiment with the properties of liquids, challenge their sense of smell by sniffing tea, and learn fractions by setting the table and serving guests portions of pastry. Throughout the exhibit, objects change size and grow larger and smaller, just as Alice did. This time, however, it was with the help of mirrors, microscopes, lenses and other tools of scientific inquiry.

The Employees Community Fund of Boeing St. Louis made sure that all inquisitive kids got the chance to experience *Alice's Wonderland: A Most Curious Adventure*. Their generous grant provided free field trips for 2,000 disadvantaged students so they could have their very own adventures in Wonderland. The 2,500 square-foot interactive exhibit is on display at The Magic House until November 6, so don't be late for this very important date.



## Centene Sponsors Fitness First Fridays

Fitness comes first at The Magic House, thanks to a major gift from Centene Corporation. Centene is the sponsor of **Fitness First Fridays**, which take place on the first Friday evening of every month from 5:30 to 9:00 pm. Families stretch their muscles and their minds as they don pedometers and walk a 1,000-step circuit through the exhibits; hunt for “Fit Facts” to learn wellness and nutrition tips; and enjoy healthy snacks from the *Centene Kids Cookbook*, offered in the museum’s Picnic Basket Cafe.

Each **Fitness First Friday** features special guests from sports teams and organizations. Past partners include the St. Louis Blues, the St. Louis Rams, the Gateway Grizzlies, the River City Rascals, the Saint Louis University Men’s Basketball Billikens, Sunset Cyclery, REI and the YMCA. **Fitness First Friday** participants earn a free child’s admission by letting their fingers do the walking and logging onto the museum’s website to take a monthly fitness challenge. Centene’s five-year pledge to support **Fitness First Fridays** ensures that visitors’ bodies and brains both get a good workout at the museum.



## Meet Kathy Ryan

What do Joe Biden, Dick Cheney, Al Gore and Kathy Ryan have in common? They are all vice presidents! Kathy Ryan recently joined The Magic House as the Vice President of Education, responsible for overseeing the content and management of educational programs. In previous positions, Kathy served as an adjunct professor in Maryville University’s School of Education, and as the language arts, journalism, Title 1 and speech coordinator for the Rockwood School District. An educator and administrator with more than three decades of experience, Kathy has taught in classrooms from Chesterfield, Missouri, to Brussels, Belgium. Her expertise in curriculum design will enable The Magic House to provide even greater service to teachers by ensuring that museum programs continue to meet state standards and enhance 21st-century learning skills.

Kathy was thrilled to move from the schoolhouse to The Magic House. “I’m excited about joining The Magic House and being a part of its dynamic Education Department,” she said. “Coming from a traditional educational background, the mission statement of The Magic House made me realize the enormous power of nontraditional education for children and their parents. Who wouldn’t want to be a part of hands-on learning in a setting of wonder and joy?”

## On the Move with Ameren

The Magic House is on the move, and Ameren is coming along for the ride! Because not all children are able to come to The Magic House, the museum comes to them. Museum educators travel in The Magic House van to bring innovative hands-on learning experiences to children throughout the state. Last year, a grant from Ameren enabled more than 25,000 children to participate in free outreach programs that took place in classrooms, libraries, child-care facilities and even hospitals throughout Ameren Missouri’s service area. And now, thanks to Ameren’s continued support, The Magic House is riding in style.

Museum educators are hitting the road in a new bright red Ford Transit Connect van adorned with vibrant graphics, delivering interactive educational programs throughout the state. The Magic House van is proud to be powered by Ameren!





## The Art of "Cerealism"

Artist Michael Albert really thinks outside the box—the cereal box, that is! From Raisin Bran to Shredded Wheat, cereal boxes provide the perfect media for this collage artist to create his masterpieces made from cut cardboard pieces. Thanks to sponsor Post Foods, Michael brought his "Cerealism" workshop to The Magic House on the weekend of September 17 and 18. Budding artists joined Michael to cut, paste, design and create their own "Cerealist" works of art, assembled from donated Post Cereal boxes. Kids also got a taste of working together, since they got to join the artist-in-residence to create a collective work that will be put on permanent display in the museum. Visitors were bowled over by this technique that transforms breakfast packaging into an art form.



## SHINING STAR: Mary Ann Lee

Mary Ann Lee is responsible for a lot of growth at The Magic House—literally! Her exceptional support enabled the museum to transform the bare front yard into Mary Ann's Garden, a green oasis where families enjoy lush landscaping, meandering brick walkways, sunshine and fresh air fun.

Mary Ann has been a wonderful friend to The Magic House and the children we serve. But The Magic House is not the only beneficiary of her extraordinary friendship. Her contributions have created unique learning and play environments at many St. Louis institutions, including the St. Louis Zoo, the Miriam School, the University of Missouri – St. Louis and Forest Park, where the beautiful Grand Basin fountains are the result of her kindness. Her commitment to young people is reflected in her extensive volunteer work, which has included the Herbert Hoover Boys and Girls Club, Junior Achievement and WiseWrite, a theater arts and playwriting program for children.

The Magic House is privileged to count her as a friend. This year, the museum is proud to present the third annual Great Friend to Kids Award to Mary Ann Lee in recognition of all she has done to enrich the lives of St. Louis children. Please save the date for the morning of Friday, November 4, when we will get the opportunity to recognize Mary Ann as a remarkable citizen, philanthropist and most of all, friend.



Great  
Friend  
to Kids  
AWARD

## The Magic House + English Language Learners = Math Success

It all adds up to improved math instruction. The Magic House is a member of the St. Louis Success for ELLs Partnership, a collaboration between the museum and the St. Louis Public Schools, the Archdiocese of St. Louis, the Lutheran Elementary School Association, the International Institute and Webster University. Funded by the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, this project will train teachers in effective ways to teach math to English Language Learners. The Magic House was selected to participate because of the museum's success in providing programming for new Americans, and in offering teacher training that addresses real-world applications of mathematical concepts.

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*The Magic House appreciates the support of all our donors. For more information about membership, the Education Program Fund, the Star Society annual giving fund or other ways to support The Magic House, please contact us at 314-822-8900 or visit our website at [www.magichouse.org/support-us.php](http://www.magichouse.org/support-us.php).*

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 St. Louis Children's Museum

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