



ENABLING ACCESS FOR ALL

Nyirah Nunn remembers her sense of wonder, at age 5, when she first visited Pacific Science Center on a field trip with Seattle's African American Academy. Now a college student, she still loves science and is studying pre-nursing while working and raising 4-year-old Layla, also a science enthusiast. Nunn was happy to become a member of Pacific Science Center through our new, affordable Family Access program because it means she and her family can visit as often as they want.

"When I walk into Pacific Science Center, I feel happy, like there's going to be an adventure. What are we going to learn today? What are we going to see? A laser show, snakes, bees. You're going to see a cool exhibit and it's going to open your mind. I'm fascinated with how things work. That's part of the reason I go; I'm a kid too! I show them everything: The germ wall where the guy sneezes and the stuff comes out. The chemistry exhibit where you put on a glove to mix different chemicals. One time, student scientists from UW set up (toy) cars and magnets, and you had to place the magnets in different ways so the cars would follow. There was a robot Layla played with. She's seen the naked mole rats and the turtles. She's very curious, very smart.

"When she says the word scientist, I want her to envision herself. I want her to think big."

She asked me how did she get out of my stomach? She asks why does the cat always lick himself? She has a question for just about anything. At her age (4), it's all about experiencing. I'm always busy doing homework and work, but I make time for the Science Center because I feel it opens Layla's mind to the world. It makes her adventurous. When Layla grows up, I don't want her to think that just because she's a girl, she has to have a girl job. When she says the word scientist, I want her to envision herself. I want her to think big. Lawyer, doctor, scientist, that's all fine with me. As long as she goes far, I'll be happy. Once you open that thing in their mind, it keeps them wondering, What's next?"

“We were homeless for 14 months. I’m struggling with words as I write this, because that \$19 was so much money last year. But we did it because we knew our kids needed it. And they LOVED it. They learned about biology and physics. They made LEGO boats to be moved by wind. We love that they love to learn.”

- Family Access Member

WHY IS ENABLING ACCESS IMPORTANT?

Youth come to school from a variety of different backgrounds and experiences. Low-income households and at risk youth often enter kindergarten less prepared than their middle-class counterparts and often lag behind in school throughout adolescence. For students who need extra support to be successful academically, what happens before and after school can be as important as what happens during the school day. Those who could benefit the most from extended learning opportunities like the Science Center, typically have fewer opportunities to participate in high quality, affordable extended learning programs.

Everyone deserves the chance to ignite their curiosity and cultivate a passion for discovery, experimentation, and critical thinking. But for some families, a visit to Pacific Science Center is an expense that is just not feasible. We understand the importance of out of school learning experiences. These fun and engaging experiences can be vital to a student’s success in school and beyond. Expanding access to families in need is just one way the Pacific Science Center is working to combat the widening opportunity gap.

FAMILY ACCESS MEMBERSHIP

Pacific Science Center provides all the benefits of regular membership to low-income families receiving public assistance, with each family contributing only \$19 per year. This allows a family in our community to experience interactive learning together; from 3D printing in Tinker Tank to exploring the Tropical Butterfly House, they’ll gain a shared excitement and wonder for the world around them.

Family Access Membership

(As of October 2017)

- Over **2,500 Current Memberships**
- More than **6,600 children** currently served
- Top zip codes:
 - 98133 (Shoreline)
 - 98118 (Rainier Valley)
 - 98155 (Lake Forest park)
 - 98023 (Federal Way)
 - 98203 (Everett)

YOUTH ACCESS MEMBERSHIP

Pacific Science Center provides all the benefits of regular membership to homeless and foster youth at no cost. Youth between 14 and 18 can receive free memberships in their names while foster caregivers can sign up for youth younger than 14.

Youth Access Membership

(As of October 2017)

- **700 Current Memberships**
- Top zip codes:
 - 98056 (Renton)
 - 98208 (Everett)
 - 98042 (Kent)
 - 98038 (Maple Valley)
 - 98133 (Shoreline)

AUTISM EARLY OPEN

Expanding access goes beyond just eliminating barriers to entry and has crafted experiences that are tailored to the needs of the community. One Saturday each month, the Science Center opens its doors early, softening lighting and sound at our exhibits for Exploration for All: Autism Early Open. In 2016 we served 1,321 guests for these early open days. We also trained more than 250 staff on how to make guests of all abilities feel welcomed, seen, heard, included, and safe, an effort that impacts every interaction on our exhibit floor.

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