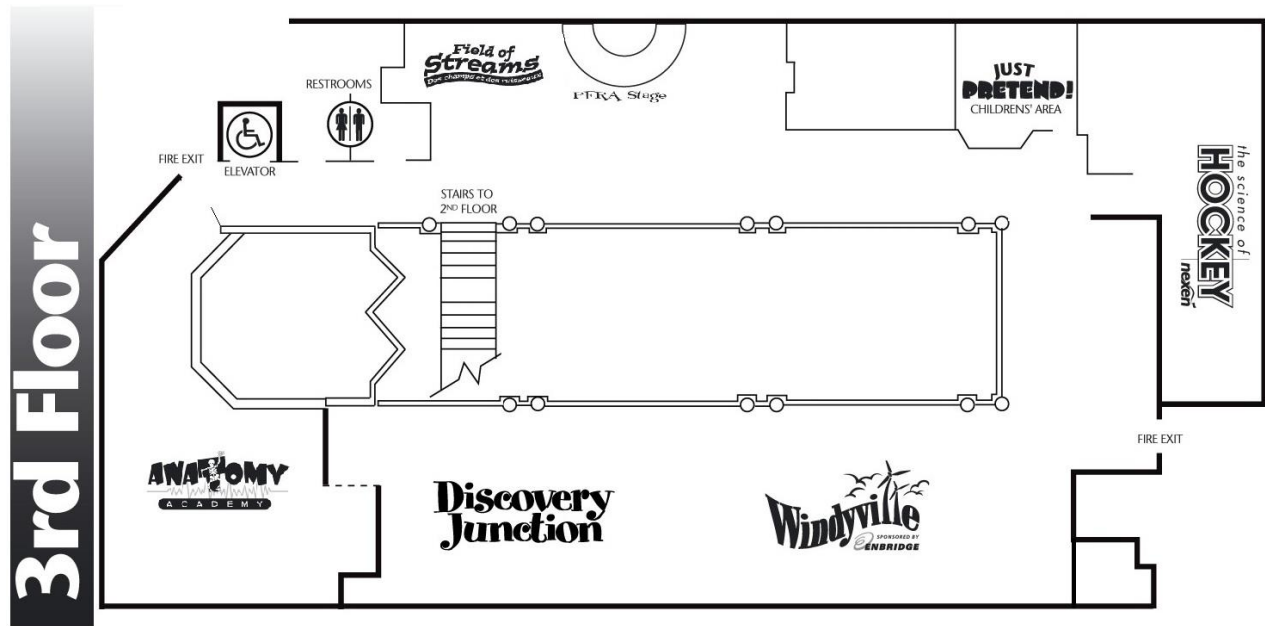


Building Connections

A Sustainable House and Innovative Community at the Saskatchewan Science Centre A partnership opportunity presented to Mayor Michael Fougere June 4, 2015

The Saskatchewan Science Centre is building a sustainable house and innovative community exhibition. The space is an approximate 1,200 square foot area on the third floor of the Saskatchewan Science Centre (the area currently occupied by “Field of Streams” and the PFRA stage on the map below).



Visitors will take the wide staircase at the Saskatchewan Science Centre to the third floor. As they go up the stairs the image of a house in a vibrant community emerges. The space is inviting and engaging. Children are anxious to see what this new community has to offer.

*Imagine...*a group of community leaders (RRHBA board members, City Councilors, corporate executives) helping young Science Centre visitors explore the new community exhibit for the first time. The volunteers are assisting with building a house, designing a community, and discovering energy efficiencies.

*Imagine...*City of Regina employees working with students to build a community with blocks that replicate houses, streets, buildings, trees, etc. The children are moving the pieces on a grid laid out on the floor while City of Regina employees quiz them to spark a discussion on the merits of living in the suburbs vs downtown or near a lake vs a landfill.

*Imagine...*a young girl and her father engaged in the interactive sustainable house game. Their challenge is to select from a variety of insulation options in order to ensure the highest level of energy efficiency in the virtual home they are building together.

*Imagine...*a new engaging exhibit experience with learning and discovery opportunities for all ages.

An Innovative Community at the Saskatchewan Science Centre

Saskatchewan is in the midst of one of the largest housing booms in our province's history. Business and industry are expanding at record rates, and all those new employees need places to live. The home-building industry is thriving. The creativity and uniqueness of each new community is evident in the science and innovation used in their design.

One component of the overall exhibit experience will be a house which will embrace technology in every aspect, with the aim of exploring the science of homebuilding in a fun and friendly way. The goal of the exhibition is to deliver activities that engage visitors of all ages in the discovery of modern home-building processes and advancements.

But the house wouldn't be complete without a community to reside in. Visitors will step out of the house and discover how a community becomes a community. What does a complete neighborhood look like? What makes up a sustainable community? What has changed over time in community design? And, what does a community of the future look like?

The unifying theme between the house and the community is the energy that makes them work. Knowing and understanding what powers your house and community brings the experience together.

The overall concept and qualities of the space will be designed with the core values of:

- Innovation, collaboration, and risk taking.
- Applying ideas that are obvious in one context to other contexts resulting in new uses for old ideas.
- Using experiments, dialogue, and questioning to test and refine ideas.
- Giving visitors the opportunity to be amazed by their own creativity.
- Knowledge and risks are shared, failure is encouraged.
- Experimentation and game-changing ideas are rewarded.

Throughout the entire experience visitors will clearly grasp the concept that the home building process has evolved over the years creating innovative and sustainable homes and communities. The experience will include three components—the community, the house, and what powers the house (energy).

<i>Your Home – sponsored by the Regina & Region Home Builder’s Association</i>	<i>Your Community – sponsored by Dream Developments</i>	<i>Powering the House and Community – sponsored by SaskPower</i>
<p>Description: The main focus of this area will be the house. Visitors will see a de-constructed house (looking behind the walls), construct a house showcasing best building practices, tools used in construction and materials used to build a house, and discover the innovations and technological advances in home building.</p> <p>Features: an interactive house to build, beams and trusses activity, focus on foundations exhibit and a sustainable house simulation game.</p> <p>Key message: Through innovation and technological advances houses are built better than ever before.</p>	<p>Description: You don’t just build a house—you build a house somewhere—and that is in a community. What will your community look like? What services will our house need? This component will explore community design and development. This experience will explore the positive impacts of quality of community life.</p> <p>Key message: Regions that are great places to live attract and keep the best and the brightest. Sustainable housing and their communities are part of this equation. What challenges must a community address to build a complete community while balancing multiple interests?</p>	<p>Description: The energy efficient elements in the house will be integrated throughout the experience. Visitors will discover the many ways a new home saves energy from insulation choices, to type of window options, to the amount of power used with old and new appliances.</p> <p>Features: an exploration of R-values in insulation, water conservation, and a larger-than-life size hamster wheel that lights the house when the visitor walks on the wheel!</p> <p>Key message: How can we be more energy efficient in our homes and daily lives?</p>

Why this Project is Important for the City of Regina

The Saskatchewan Science Centre contributes to the quality of life and economic growth of our community as

- An economic development asset – a vibrant science centre is a signal that a community values science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) and is committed to producing a science-literate workforce.
- A tool for informal educators and science communicators – providing support to the formal education system through school workshops/programming/experiences, professional development opportunities for teachers (e.g. inquiry learning), and life-long learning for families, and adults.
- A tourist attraction and tourism partner – working actively to support tourism on a local (Regina and region) and provincial level.

- A centre for recreation – regularly a host for meetings of community organizations (e.g. Royal Astronomical Society and Friends of Wascana Marsh), and events (e.g. venue for convention related events such as the SUMA welcome reception).
- A cultural asset – our exhibits, films, and programming combine to inspire a life-long journey of curiosity and discovery through the cultural lens of Saskatchewan.

As a community organization the Saskatchewan Science Centre is a place where people can come together to share their stories and connect with other people. As a partner in *Building Connections* the Saskatchewan Science Centre will

- Engage the community in dialogue about complete communities.
- Provide a venue for the City's *Town Planning Day*.
- Incorporate messaging about community planning in Regina answering questions such as "what does a complete community look like?"
- Serve as an initial place to gauge community interest and/or understanding about current issues. Water conservation is good example of a relevant dialogue that could be initiated through one of the exhibit experiences.

City of Regina Investment

The Saskatchewan Science Centre respectfully recommends an investment by the City of Regina of \$100,000 to the *Building Connections* exhibition. The exhibit experience will reside at the Saskatchewan Science Centre for a minimum of ten years. Your return on investment will be realized through the more than 2,000,000 visitors that will visit the Saskatchewan Science Centre during this time period. As a partner in this exhibit the City of Regina will also be seen as a community collaborator, working together with a high profile community organization, as well as the Regina & Region Home Builders Association, Dream, and SaskPower.



Organizational Description – About the Saskatchewan Science Centre



**SASKATCHEWAN
SCIENCE CENTRE**

Real science. Real fun!

The Saskatchewan Science Centre is the only interactive science centre and IMAX 3D theatre in the province and as such contributes significantly to the quality of life in Saskatchewan. Permanent exhibits such as *Richardson Ag-grow-land* and *Wild! Saskatchewan* each showcase some of the exceptional features of the province's unique economic sectors and natural heritage; visiting exhibitions provide a once-in-a-lifetime experience—*Titanic: The Artifact Exhibition*, *Our Body: The Universe Within* and *Dinosaurs Unearthed* are recent examples; and the world class IMAX 3D theatre brings spectacular imagery alive in this amazing, immersive experience.

In Saskatchewan there is a critical need for public awareness and understanding of science and technology and how it impacts our daily lives. The Science Centre's school, outreach, and public programming combine to provide a variety of learning opportunities for all ages in a fun and engaging way while contributing to a vibrant and sustainable creative and cultural sector.

The Science Centre's **mission is to ignite scientific curiosity and discovery in Saskatchewan communities through interactive, dynamic and engaging opportunities**. To achieve this, we provide opportunities for innovative learning and exploration for young people, families and the community. We inspire the exploration of new knowledge and technology, showcase innovation and provide a place for families to learn and explore together—fostering growth of individuals, communities and the province.

We have a distinctive story to tell

When we tell our story and engage visitors in science and technology learning experiences we do so through the unique lens of our province, showcasing Saskatchewan's role on the world stage of innovation and creativity by highlighting home-grown solutions.

The *Richardson Ag-grow-land* is a perfect example of how a Science Centre experience showcases something uniquely Saskatchewan. The exhibit highlights current farm practices, celebrates the science and cutting edge tools of modern day agriculture in Saskatchewan, and demonstrates the influence that Saskatchewan's agriculture industry has around the world. The project came about through the leadership of agriculturally-based corporations with support from provincial and federal governments.

Our audiences

Each year close to 200,000 visitors enjoy a Saskatchewan Science Centre experience, many of whom are families with young children. We also play host to numerous special events where guests are prominent members of the business community, politicians, and key community leaders.

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