

2011 Medal Winner EdVenture Children's Museum

Speakers: Host, Catherine Wilson Horne, Mary Aitchison
& Noah Charles Aitchison Adams

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>> HOST: The National Medal for Museum and Library Service is the nation's highest honor for libraries and museums that are serving their communities in exciting ways.

EdVenture Children's Museum Director Catherine Wilson Horne and community member Noah Charles Aitchison Adams and his mom, Mary Aitchison traveled to Washington to receive the National Medal and spoke to IMLS about how the museum impacts the community.

>> CATHERINE WILSON HORNE: EdVenture made a commitment to help education when we opened in 2003. Then by the mid-aughts, we were engaged in planning educational activities and family opportunities around the topic of health.

We wanted to do something that was meaningful and relevant to our community. We found that the public didn't understand the connection between their physical activity, the nutrition that they put on their table every day and overall health education in terms of science and the human body.

Well we've just recently opened a brand new exhibit known as body detectives. Body detectives brings the science of the human body and particular the prevention of chronic disease into a really realistic and engaging way to understand DNA, to explore how medicines get created and how we balance surgery versus preventative health. It's a whole lot of fun.

>> MARY AITCHISON: My son Noah has always loved his days at EdVenture. It started when he was a toddler and would come into my backyard just fully engaged and explore all the activities. I think they just always had such lure. It continues to even as an eight year old now. He walks in and then he's just fully engaged.

>> NOAH CHARLES AITCHISON ADAMS: Well we just if you look straight you not only can see that fake Eddie guy. He's this 50 foot high monster. Well I think it's supposed to be like a real person. You can climb up his backbone. It takes you if you keep on going it'll take you to the head which is the brain. Except the skull it taken out and if you look up you can see the brain and the inside of the eyeballs, which is kind of creepy.

There will be like exits anywhere around the back and then there's some tubes we can crawl to the bottom which is about his digestive system area. And then there's one that goes about from the stomach down to the digestive system. There's a tube that you can crawl down into.

>> CATHERINE WILSON HORNE: Eddie is the signature exhibit of EdVenture and he truly is the first thing you see when you walk in the door. On the back side of Eddie and inside of Eddie there are four floors of organs which do start at the top with the brain and go all the way down through the heart, the stomach, the intestines and there is a 30 foot spinal column that you do climb up or down. He is a signature exhibit of the museum. He's certainly the star of the show when it comes to health education at EdVenture.