

# MILESTONES

## 30 YEARS OF WONDER

---

SCIENCE  
WORLD  
BRITISH COLUMBIA



### 1987

The three levels of government announce that the Expo Centre will become Science World British Columbia and Queen Elizabeth II dedicates the building “for the people of British Columbia.”



### 1987–89

A massive \$19 million renovation and expansion, funded by levels of government and private donors, is raised to build an addition to the Expo Centre, redesign the interior and develop and build new exhibits.

### 1989

On May 6, the fully refurbished 10,200 square metre Science World, featuring dozens of hands-on exhibits in five new galleries and the largest OMNIMAX® dome screen in the world, opens to the public.

### 1993

Stephen Hawking speaks to some 500 students with disabilities during a visit under the dome. Mikhail Gorbachev is another notable visitor in 1993, taking part in a student summit.



### 1999

Science World begins pre-planning for significant rejuvenation of its exhibits and facilities—Science World: *The ReGeneration*.

---

# MILESTONES

## 30 YEARS OF WONDER

---

### 2005

The iconic False Creek facility is renamed TELUS World of Science after entering into a groundbreaking \$9-million naming-rights agreement with TELUS the year before.

Science World receives \$5 million in funding from the BC Government to support the BC Program for the Awareness and Learning of Science (BC PALS)

### 2006-07

Science World presents Gunther von Hagens' *BODY WORLDS 3: The Anatomical Exhibition of Real Human Bodies*, a one-of-a-kind opportunity to experience the incredible structure of the human body in plastinated form.

### 2008

**Jane Goodall** meets with Roots and Shoots youth leadership groups from across BC, who presented their work at Science World on improving the planet for people, other animals and the environment.



### 2013

Science World participates in a nation-wide singalong with Commander **Chris Hadfield**, who is aboard the ISS, as a part of Music Monday in May. In November, Chris Hadfield is back on Earth and at Science World to discuss science, space, the power of music and social media with Hootsuite CEO, Ryan Holmes.

### 2016

Expo Ernie stops by to help Science World celebrate the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Expo 86 and Science World hires new CEO, Dr Scott Sampson.

Science of Cocktails, Science World's signature fundraising event, launches to raise funds for the *Class Field Trip Bursary Program*.

### 2017

*BC Green Games* celebrates 10 years of province-wide engagement where more than 1,000 inspirational eco-action projects have been submitted.

---

# MILESTONES

## 30 YEARS OF WONDER

---

And on August 21, Science World is the place to watch the solar eclipse in Vancouver. The science centre partners with the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada to offer free outdoor programming with solar telescopes and eclipse viewing glasses.

### 2018

Luke Skywalker's® original Lightsaber® is on display in *The Science of Ripley's Believe It or Not!* exhibition and inspires a SWAD event that's out of this world. Science World engages 1 million people in Vancouver and across BC, breaking previous records.

### 2019

Science World celebrates its 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary serving 18 Million people since opening its doors in 1989. In this time:

- The *Scientists and Innovators in the Schools* program of trained STEAM professionals have delivered free in-class presentations across the province to over **2,400,000** students since 1989!
- The *Community Science Celebration* program celebrates the cool science that's happening in communities across BC. It has connected over **100,000** people to their local STEAM communities in its 12-year history.
- The *On The Road* program brings joy, excitement and the wonders of science to K–12 students across the province. Through its 11-year history, the *On The Road* gymnasium presentations have reached over **660,000** students.



---

### FUN FACTS

- Notable names and faces lay on Science World's Bed of Nails and have cinder blocks broken on top of them. These include Rick Mercer, professional wrestler Scotty Mac and newscaster Steve Darling. There's even been a marriage proposal on the Bed of Nails!
  - The building is 155 feet tall with a foundation of reinforced steel in a cement slab. There are 182 pilings supporting the building. The clearance of the deck at high tide is one foot.
-

- There is a door in the Connection Zone that leads to nowhere.
- There are 391 lights and 766 triangles on the Science World dome.
- Sleepovers in Search: Sara Stern Gallery (where the beaver dam is) continue to be a staff and visitor favourite.
- What's actually *in* the dome? It's not the exhibitions, it's the OMNIMAX® Theatre which seats 400 people. Its screen is 27 metres in diameter and 5 storeys high, making it the largest of its kind in the world!
- The length of the ramp leading to the OMNIMAX® Theatre is equal to the length of two football fields and the 15,000 watt xenon lamp that lights the screen is so bright that if you placed it on the surface of the moon and focused it at a spot on Earth, you could actually see its light.
- For years, the seats in the Science Theatre featured numbered buttons on the arms. This was a holdover from Expo 86 and allowed viewers to vote for favourite features from their seats.
- The hollowed-out tree in the Search: Sara Stern Gallery is a western red cedar from North Vancouver.
- The beaver dam in the Search: Sara Stern Gallery is a re-constructed, real beaver dam from the UBC Malcolm Knapp Research Forest near Maple Ridge, BC. The branches were collected by Science World staff members in the winter of 1989. If you look closely, you can still see teeth marks on some of the dam's branches.
- The original architect for the Science World dome was Bruno Freschi; the architect for the additions made to transform the Expo Centre into Science World was Boak Alexander.
- The first chickens to move into the coop in the Ken Spencer Science Park were Gourd and Downy, named after beloved lead singer of the Tragically Hip, Gord Downie. George Stroumboulopoulos discusses this with Downie at 18:14 in this [video](#).
- Oh, and who takes the crown for the most Science World exhibitions throughout the years? Dinosaurs.

**To learn more visit:** [scienceworld.ca](http://scienceworld.ca)    [#scienceworldca](https://twitter.com/scienceworldca)

---