# It's Time for a
# Children's Science Center
## In Northern Virginia

## Mission
- To instill a love of learning science, technology, engineering, and mathematics in all children by providing unique opportunities to explore, create and be inspired.

## Vision
- To create a world class children's science museum.

## What?
- Interactive and hands on exhibits for children aged 0-12 and their families to explore together.
- STEM focus (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) to address the alarming trend of our nation's youth having decreasing interest in STEM fields.
- Youth leadership and internship programs for teens to help sustain their excitement for STEM subjects.
- Accessible to *all* children, including economically disadvantaged youth and children with special needs.
- "Built for kids, by kids" by incorporating feedback from children throughout the design process.

## Where?
- Seeking a facility in the Dulles Technology Corridor — Presently evaluating sites with objective to select finalist site in 2013.
- Planning for more than 40,000 square feet of fun and discovery.

## When?
- Today: Currently engaging over 14,500 children in interactive STEM activities via our Museum without Walls programming in local schools and festivals.
- Tomorrow: We expect to open our permanent location in 3-5 years.

## How much?
- Total capital campaign to build the Children's Science Center will be approximately $25 million, depending on site selected.

## Why?
- STEM education for our children is a critical component to future American competitiveness; it is the foundation upon which the next generation will succeed.
- Cognitive scientists have proven that children learn best by hands-on experiential, play-based learning.
- Northern Virginia is the most populous area in the country without a resource designed for and dedicated to children.

## children's science center
### EXPLORE. CREATE. INSPIRE.

"Of the **7** science centers and children's museums in Virginia, **0** are located in Northern Virginia."

"**80%** of children have lost interest in STEM subjects by the **8th** grade."