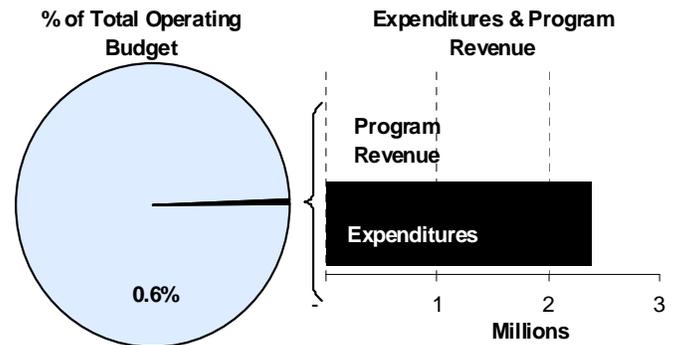
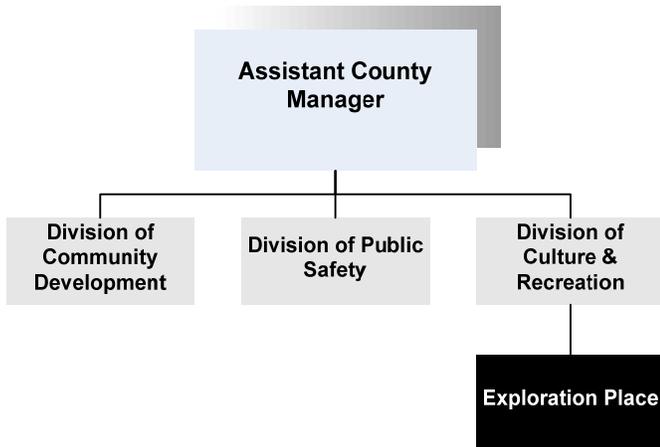




**Janice Luth**  
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**Mission:**

- Inspiring a deeper interest in science through creative and fun experience.



**Program Information**

Visitors to Exploration Place experience the world in a new and fun way on this 20-acre site, located along the scenic Arkansas River, in Wichita’s downtown Museums on the River district. Exploration Place celebrated its 10<sup>th</sup> Birthday on April 1, 2010. It is a mission-driven 501(c) (3) not-for profit institution, supported by Sedgwick County, admissions, membership dues and voluntary contributions from individuals, businesses and foundations.

The mission of Exploration Place has been, from its inception, to offer quality, informal, enjoyable and creative science learning experiences to residents of the Wichita metropolitan area and tourists of all ages, and to serve as a gathering place for community activities and events. Almost all exhibits are “hands-on,” which include a balanced mix of “low-tech” and “high-tech” approaches and are housed in four theme pavilions: *Exploring Our Only Home*, *Exploring Flight and Design*, *Kids Explore* and the *Traveling Exhibit Gallery*. Programming and activities carried out within each

pavilion are designed to stimulate and motivate visitors to learn more about how the world works and to develop the creative skills that contribute to their living more satisfying, productive and healthy lives. The traveling exhibit halls will be featuring such national touring shows this year as *Human Grossology*, *Much More Munsch*, *Waterworks* and *K-NEX: Building Thrill Rides*.

A dedication to educational programming continues to expand at Exploration Place, including workshops, presentations in the Kemper Creative Learning Center, demonstrations, and in-house programs like *FETCH! Lab*, *Roots and Shoots*, *SciGirls* and *Explore Kids!*, summer camps, and an outreach program to school groups that may not be able to afford transportation to our facilities. Exploration Place actively and creatively seeks to serve a widely diverse population. Our membership represents people of all ages, as well as a variety of racial, educational, gender and lifestyle backgrounds. Our specially targeted programming for at-risk children from pre-school through high school has expanded into over six different programs and increased cooperation with USD 259 *Parents as Teachers* and

Wichita Area Head Start, with demographics focusing on minority populations, financially disadvantaged children, physically disabled children, and families in need of support in improving parenting practices for their children. At the same time, Exploration Place serves as a hands-on teaching extension for all the surrounding school districts, private and parochial schools in the area, and home schooled children as well. The museum's involvement with the Senior Wednesday Collaboration and Senior Expo grows each year.

In the Boeing CyberDome Theater, the largest domed theater in Kansas, visitors of all ages can travel to faraway places and embark upon unforgettable adventures under its all-encompassing 360-degree, 60-foot high screen. The new destinations this year – into prehistoric times with *Sea Monsters* and to ancient Egypt with *Secret of the Mummies* - will be even more exciting with the addition of new Digistar4 technology!

**Departmental Sustainability Initiatives**

The Explore Store is filled with educational, creative and fun books, toys and kits that will allow you to bring your creative science experience home with you. WaterWay Café offers breakfast, lunch and dinner during our seasonal evening hours for affordable family dining. Exploration Place is a great setting for special events with several areas to fit various needs. In addition to a perfect place for themed birthday parties, supervised by the museum's Education Department, Catering Service, along with our Sales and Special Event Department can provide all that is necessary for successful corporate or personal events - meetings, dinners, receptions, weddings, proms, parties and more.

**Department Accomplishments**

After a year long, national search, the Exploration Place Board of Directors and Sedgwick County announced

that Janice Luth would be the new president effective July 1, 2010.

In preparation for the new president, an extensive capacity audit and marketing survey was commissioned for Exploration Place. Based on the data gathered, the staff and Board developed and implemented a new organizational chart, which has resulted in a more effective and efficient management system for Exploration Place. Rigorous planning, budget analysis, goal setting and the creation of a plan for the re-imagining and renovation of our permanent galleries is keeping everyone focused on improving the way we fulfill our mission to our visitors. A complete restructuring of memberships - adding one designed for educators, one for organizations and institutions, one for small businesses and a special corporate passport program for employee discounts - has resulted in an increase in our number of renewing and new members. An array of new associations with area businesses, foundations and non-profit organizations has led to sponsorships and innovative collaborative projects, promising a new, vibrant second decade for Exploration Place.

No doubt the new president will lead the institution and Board with a new vision for Exploration Place, providing us with a new blueprint for the second decade. In any case, the following driving concepts for the future of Exploration Place will continue to impact on all the museum strives for: Education is the central purpose of Exploration Place; Exploration Place is a significant regional, national and international science center; Exploration Place develops and sustains a qualified and professional staff.

**Budget Adjustments**

The Exploration Place 2011 budget reflects the County's continued support of \$2.4 million.

**Alignment with County Values**

- **Equal Opportunity** – Exploration Place provides equal opportunity in hiring, promotions, and to all its constituencies
- **Professionalism** - Exploration Place is committed to the highest level of professionalism in its training, conduct and delivery of services

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**Goals & Initiatives**

- **Education becomes the central purpose of Exploration Place. It will be that which insures its mission, achieves its goals, defines its purpose, and realizes its vision**
- **Exploration Place becomes a significant regional, national, and international science center**
- **Exploration Place develops and sustains a professional staff**

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**Awards & Accreditations**

- 2009 Friends of Education Award of Excellence presented by Confidence in KS Public Education Task Force and KS Partners in Education





**Personnel Summary by Fund**

Position Title(s)	Fund	Band	Budgeted Personnel Costs			Full-Time Equivalents (FTEs)			
			2010 Adopted	2010 Revised	2011 Budget	2010 Adopted	2010 Revised	2011 Budget	
President	110	EXCEPT	-	-	105,000	-	-	1.00	
President	110	B533	112,479	78,000	-	1.00	1.00	-	
<b>Subtotal</b>					<b>105,000</b>		<b>1.00</b>	<b>1.00</b>	<b>1.00</b>
Add:									
Budgeted Personnel Savings (Turnover)					-				
Compensation Adjustments					-				
Overtime/On Call/Holiday Pay					-				
Benefits					30,299				
<b>Total Personnel Budget*</b>					<b>135,299</b>				

\* The 2011 personnel budget accommodates one additional payroll posting period. The budget is not reflective of an individual employee's annual salary due to the timing variance between the posting of payroll and the employee's receipt of compensation.

