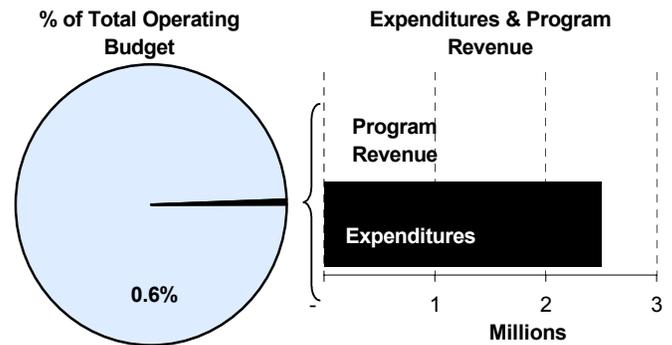
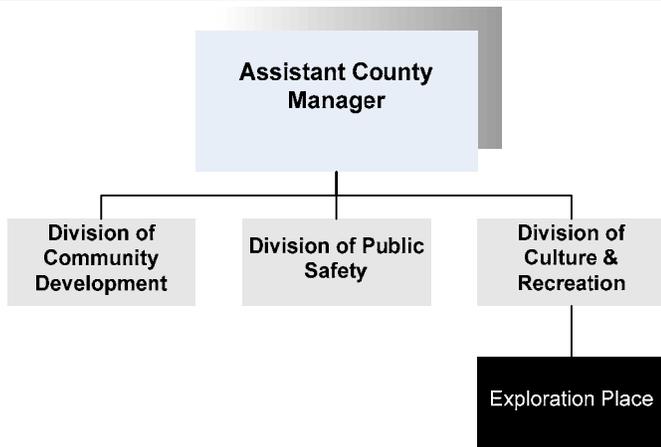




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Mission:

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



Program Information

Exploration Place visitors will experience their world in a whole new and fun way on this 20-acre site, located along the scenic Arkansas River, in Wichita’s downtown *Museums on the River* district. Four hands-on exhibit areas focus on flight, health, Kansas and imaginative spaces for young children.

In its eighth year of operation, Exploration Place 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. Exploration Place welcomes visitors from all over the world.

In Exploration Place’s CyberDome Theater, the largest domed theater in Kansas, visitors travel to faraway destinations and embark upon unforgettable adventures under its all-compassing 360-degree, 60-foot high screen.

The Kids Explore exhibit area, *Once Upon a Castle...Where Kids Rule*, has become extremely popular as visitors make their way through the area’s three-story medieval castle. Activities include make a “meal” in the dining hall, playing medieval instruments and riding the Exploration Place equiponies.

Visitors can also take a breather in the great outdoors at Exploration Park’s picnic grove and adventure play yard. During the summer, visitors can test their putting skills at the 18-hole MiniGolf course.

Amenities include free parking, Explore Store, WaterWay Café and terrace, lockers, and family restrooms. Other offerings include: Passport Memberships, discounted group rates and special events. Visitors can also rent out all or parts of Exploration Place for personal events such as weddings, proms, meetings, workshops for children, and more.

Departmental Sustainability Initiatives

Through its world-class Traveling Exhibitions Program as well as through its Educational Programs, Exploration Place is an attraction for tourism, which creates wealth for the area and keeps numerous individuals in the region working, both at Exploration Place and at all the other local businesses that benefit. In addition to Exploration Place’s dedicated employees, an army of loyal volunteers help in each area of the facility – from administrative efforts to staffing the Main Lobby information desk to working special events.

Exploration Place teaches about recycling through programming, participating in Earth Day at the Sedgwick County Zoo and using recycled materials for programs collected by staff and visitors.

Exploration Place has reviewed and strengthened its financial operations, especially in the area of investments to assure consistent protection and growth. The organization works continuously on revenue generation through increased attendance, memberships, and sales; while making every effort to operate in a more efficient and cost-effective manner.

Department Accomplishments

Exploration Place has presented a proposal to Spirit Aerosystems for funding of an Educational Van that would allow Exploration Place Educators to visit schools in the Wichita area and provide quality science programming. This van will alleviate the school’s cost in bus transportation and still allow the students to receive programming created by Exploration Place.

The 2008-2009 fiscal year (July 1, 2008 – June 30, 2009) will be a very exciting time as Exploration Place’s president and staff implements compelling new exhibits, programs, activities, and events. In fact, the most talked about exhibit of the summer is the world-renowned traveling exhibit, *Out Body: The Universe Within* (May

24 – October 12, 2008). The exhibition opens a door to give guests amazing insights about the human body. Behind this door, one can learn, explore and appreciate how delicate a structure the human body is. The exhibit expands visitors’ knowledge of the Musculoskeletal System, Central Nervous System, Urinary & Reproductive Systems, Digestive System, Circulatory System, and the Respiratory System. The layout of the exhibit moves visitors through each system with specimens and anatomical parts.

Other traveling exhibits will include the *Inventions of Leonardo da Vinci* (May 10 – July 6, 2008) where guests will experience 16 reproductions from the works of one of the greatest inventors including a helicopter, printing press, spring-driven car, military tank and more. *The Scoop on Poop* (September 19, 2008 – January 11, 2009) is based on the book by Dr. Wayne Lynch. It investigates what poop is, how animals use it to build homes, hide from enemies, attract mates and more. Find out how veterinarians, field biologist, farmers, power companies and other scientists use animal waste. In *Discovering Chimpanzees* (October 25, 2008 – January 4, 2009) guests will climb into the world of these wonderful primates as they explore the work of Jane Goodall, primates in general and a look at the future of this species.

Budget Adjustments

Changes to the Exploration Place 2009 budget reflect a funding increase of \$500,000 per the contractual agreement between Sedgwick County and Exploration Place.

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

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**

Awards & Accreditations

- 2007 Destination Award from Wichita Conventions and Visitor Bureau

Budget Adjustments From Previous Fiscal Year

- Funding increase per the contractual agreement

Expenditures	Revenue	FTEs
500,000		

Total	500,000	-	-
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Budget Summary by Category

Budget Summary by Fund

Expenditures	2007	2008	2008	2009	% Chg.	Expenditures	2008	2009
	Actual	Adopted	Revised				Budget	08-09
Personnel	121,668	129,086	128,130	138,060	7.7%	General Fund	2,000,000	2,500,000
Contractual Services	1,296,307	1,870,914	1,871,870	2,361,940	26.2%			
Debt Service	1,082,887	-	-	-	-			
Commodities	-	-	-	-	-			
Capital Improvements	-	-	-	-	-			
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-	-			
Interfund Transfers	-	-	-	-	-			
Total Expenditures	2,500,862	2,000,000	2,000,000	2,500,000	25.0%	Total Expenditures	2,000,000	2,500,000
Revenue								
Taxes	-	-	-	-	-			
Intergovernmental	-	-	-	-	-			
Charges For Service	-	-	-	-	-			
Other Revenue	-	-	-	-	-			
Total Revenue	-	-	-	-	-			
Full-Time Equivalents (FTEs)	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	0.0%			

Budget Summary by Program

Program	Fund	Expenditures					Full-Time Equivalents (FTEs)		
		2007	2008	2008	2009	% Chg.	2008	2008	2009
		Actual	Adopted	Revised	Budget	08-09	Adopted	Revised	Budget
Exploration Place	110	2,500,862	2,000,000	2,000,000	2,500,000	25.0%	1.00	1.00	1.00
Total		2,500,862	2,000,000	2,000,000	2,500,000	25.0%	1.00	1.00	1.00



