

Site Visit Cincinnati Children's Museum

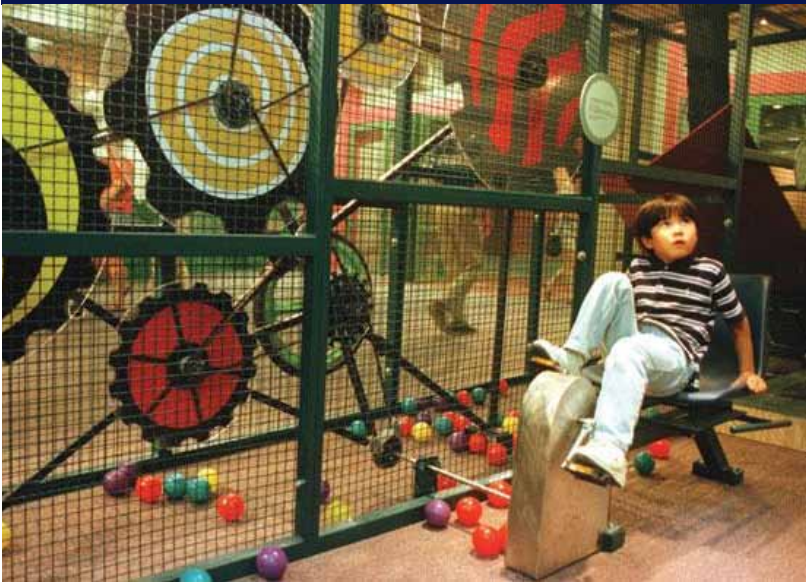


Union Terminal in Cincinnati, Ohio is home to the Children's Museum. Union Terminal was originally opened in 1933 as a railroad hub, and has since been repurposed into the Cincinnati Museum Center. The Children's Museum is on the lower level.



The first part of the Children's Museum a visitor sees is the interactive, exciting Woods playground. It has two levels, several rooms and tunnels, a waterfall into a fishtank, and informative cultural treehouse exhibits. Right away, kids are exposed to the most exciting, fun part of the museum. Then, they proceed down the stairs to the main floor of the museum, already with a positive idea of what is to come.

Immersive, Interactive Destinations



Stimulating Environment

The most popular exhibits in the museum are large and have several tasks for patrons to engage in. The Energy Center attraction keeps kids' attention because it has several stations for them to play at. The experience of most exhibits seems to be 90% play, 10% learning.



Immersive Experience

Most of the exhibits are small, enclosed environments meant to immerse kids in another world. This fuels the imagination and helps them to enjoy the learning experiences provided by the exhibits.



Parent Participation

Many of the attractions are also fun for parents. On our site visit, we saw many parents joining their kids in play, pretending with them and enhancing the experience for them. While some parents just waited and watched their kids on the provided benches, most actively engaged.

Atmosphere



Lighting:

The lighting in most of the museum is dim and calming in the major areas of circulation, and brighter in the play areas and exhibits. This helps to draw children into the bright, exciting areas.



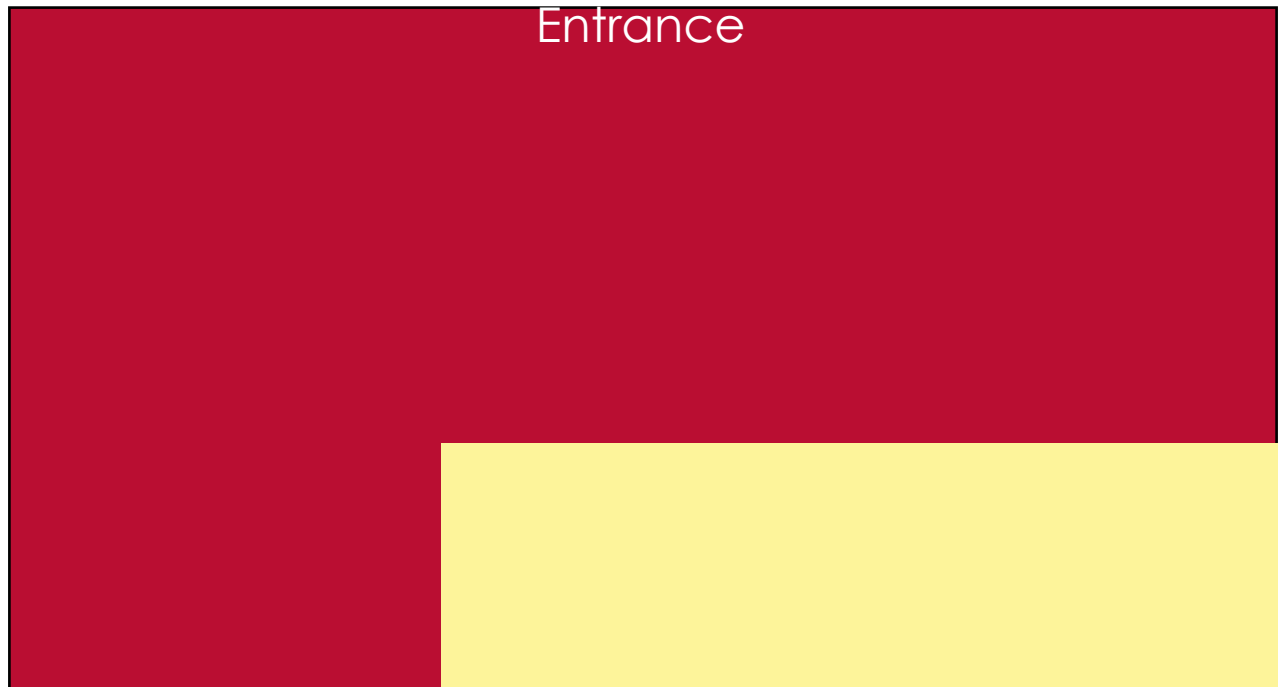
Furnishing:

Almost every object in the museum is related to an attraction, however, there are some seating areas along the walls that allow parents to sit and see into the exhibits. Along the path are small stops for kids to enjoy on their way from one large attraction to another.



 Older children's area

 Toddlers and babies' area



Acoustics:

The museum's acoustics, especially in the toddlers' area, are designed to make the space comfortable. In the main space, noise from adjacent exhibits can be heard, but not much more. The toddlers' area is acoustically isolated from the rest, so older kids do not have to hear babies crying, and younger kids do not have to hear too much noise.