



EARTHQUAKE

e-Newsletter about what's movin' and shakin' at the Earth Science Museum

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November 2012
Volume 1, Issue 2

The Earth Science Museum Receives Its First Grant

By Shirley Cote and Harvey Jong

In September, four members of the ESM Board collaborated on a grant application to the Staples Foundation for \$25,000. This grant proposed two areas for improving the museum's educational outreach program. The first area involves funds for the enhancement of the ESM Teacher Kits by adding beginner books on Geology and Rocks & Minerals, and a hand magnifier. Included in the second part of the grant request, were funds to develop the Museum's Earth Science Education Experience (ESEE) lab that will include a digital microscope, 16 special rock and mineral kits that will feature approximately ten fist-sized specimens in each and the development of test stations for the various physical properties of minerals.

As a part of its "2 Million & Change" program, the Staples Foundation awarded the ESM a \$3,500 grant in November. This unique program allows associates to direct \$2 million to various non-profit organizations focused on education and job-skills. The ESM was one of the eight Arizona non-profits that received a grant.

Harvey Jong, President of the ESM, said of the grant notification " I want to extend a big note of thanks to Chris and everyone who

worked on the Staples grant application. While we didn't receive the full amount that we requested, it's still a respectable sum; especially given it's our first grant! It shows what we can accomplish when we focus on a common effort and that an outside organization recognizes the value of our outreach program. Hopefully, this represents the first of many grants to come!"

Family Days Rock & Gem Show

The ESM organized a successful inaugural Family Days Rock & Gem Show that was held on October 20 and 21. The indoor show was hosted at the Phoenix Swap\$mart and featured a number of mineral, fossil, jewelry, and gem dealers along with free or low cost educational activities for kids.

This event represented the first joint activity by various mineral and lapidary clubs since the closing of the old mining and mineral museum. It provided an opportunity to rekindle a sense of community, build awareness about the clubs and the new museum, and raise funds.

Co-sponsors included:

Arizona Leaverite Rock & Gem Society
(www.azleaverite.org)

Flagg Mineral Foundation
(www.flaggmineralfoundation.org)

Maricopa Lapidary Society
Mineralogical Society of Arizona
(www.mineralogicalsocietyarizona.org)

Be sure to visit all these fine organizations at the upcoming Flagg Gem & Mineral show, January 4-6, 2013, from 9a.m. - 5p.m. at Mesa Community College.

Other projects that the executive committee is working on include: a detailed business plan, marketing and feasibility study, and expanding the content of the ESM's website.

Highlights from the Family Days Rock and Gem Show



Figure 1. Mike Williams & Chris Whitney-Smith



Figure 2. Jason checking out the Flaggs Mineral Foundation fossil dig.



Figure 3. Maricopa Lapidary Society Spinning Wheel



Figure 4. Mike Williams & Dave Lay



Figure 5. Earth Science Museum display



Figure 6. Earth Science Museum booth



Figure 7. Mardy Zimmermann Arizona Leaverite Rock and Gem Society

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We're on the Web!

Visit us at:

www.earthsciencemuseum.org

Mission

Establish an innovative, world-class destination museum in the Phoenix area dedicated to inspiring all generations about earth sciences.

Vision

We envision a community where students and the general public have curiosity about, passion for, and understanding of the underlying principles of earth sciences.

For more information about the ESM, how to become a member or how to arrange for a school visit go to: www.earthsciencemuseum.org.

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