

impact

As one of the anchors of a two-mile riverfront development in Columbia's city center, EdVenture's 80,000 square foot discovery center includes laboratories, classrooms, even a theater for live performances – all to enhance learning and discovery.

Over the last two years, EdVenture has strategically expanded programs to attract and reach diverse audiences across South Carolina. Of the more than 200,000 visitors, more than 50% are adults and our audience diversity reaches almost 40% of total attendance.

EdVenture has developed a number of strategies to reach traditionally underserved populations, particularly those from rural areas of South Carolina and inner-city minority youth. These audience initiatives are supported by grants and donations and overall, serve nearly 35,000 youth and their families/schools annually. Initiatives range from relationships with Head Start to weekday after school programs for underserved elementary and middle school students. More than 15,000 families from across South Carolina gain access to EdVenture through Family Nights, our \$1 per person admission program. Outreach to schools and professional development for teachers are also important strategies in EdVenture's plan to reduce the disparity between rural and urban students' access to high-quality science education.

While it costs EdVenture \$18 per visitor and participant, your investment in our mission and programs makes it possible for us to provide educational resources regardless of someone's ability to pay.

Over the last year, we have seen the demand for these programs triple and our donors have stepped up to help us fill the gaps left by reductions in education spending and to continue to advance our efforts in science and health education.

impact report

EdVenture  children's museum

PROGRESS IN 2007-2008 AND 2008-2009



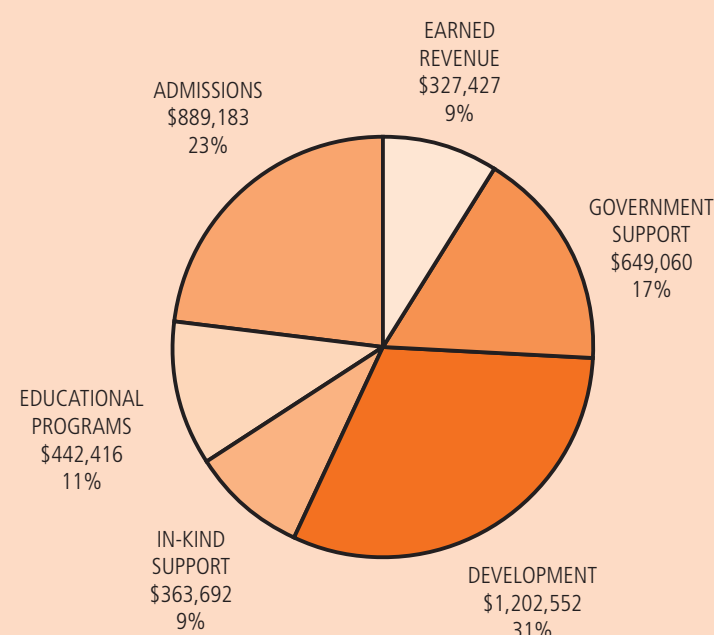
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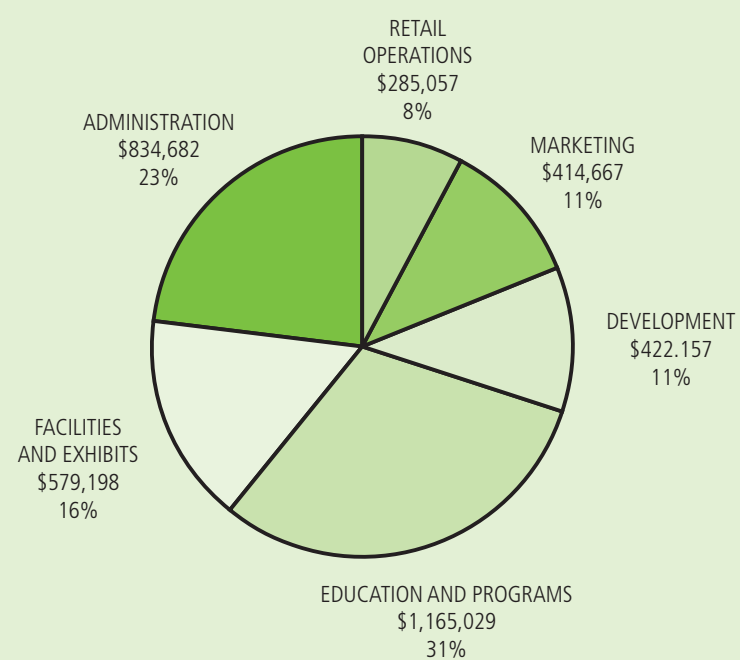
*Completed Term in 2008

2008-2009 AUDITED REVENUES



A copy of an independently audited financial statement conducted by Deloach and Williamson, LLP is available by written request.

2008-2009 AUDITED EXPENSES



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We believe in...

...addressing critical community issues, creating an impact economically and educationally in South Carolina and bringing world-class educational experiences to the Midlands.

In 2007, thanks to the initial support of the BB&T Foundation, EdVenture was able to obtain a major grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services to develop and launch a community collaboration to promote public health education to families while encouraging healthy lifestyles to reduce child and adult obesity. Over the last two years, more than 20 corporations and partner agencies have joined with EdVenture to address this critical issue. By building these powerful relationships, we have impacted the lives and created healthier habits of more than 1,200 families and have educated more than 443 school and community groups. In 2008, through the leadership of EdVenture's Discovery Council, the City of Forest Acres, the South Financial Group Foundation of Carolina First Bank and other donors, EdVenture invested more than \$350,000 in a new outdoor exhibit for "Blooming Butterflies," which opened in May 2009. The growing need to educate the public about environmental issues, coupled with the opportunity to create a sense of wonder about the science of butterflies, created a blockbuster experience for our visitors. Since May 2009, more than 28,000 visitors have come to EdVenture to experience this one-of-a-kind exhibit.

When you provide almost 15,000 children with educational programs, attract more than 200,000 visitors, and are open to the public more than 2,500 hours each year, time passes quickly. In early fall 2008, much to our surprise, we were suddenly on the cusp of a major milestone in the life of young EdVenture – our millionth visitor! On October 14, 2008 a happy celebration was

held as Katie Park of Columbia, with her children Luke, 1, and Ezra, 3, were welcomed as EdVenture's one millionth visitor. Now, nearly one year later we can happily say that EdVenture has created more than 1.2 million smiles! Nearly 700,000 visitors have come from beyond Richland County – producing a substantial economic impact on the Columbia economy.



EdVenture  children's museum

EdVenture Inc.
PO Box 1638
Columbia, SC 29202

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Discovering the Joy of Learning

Thank you! It has been a fast and amazing six years since EdVenture opened in 2003 and we have accomplished so much – all because of your support, participation and feedback!


One year ago when the economic clouds of uncertainty began to form, the board and staff were in the midst of a Planning Advance to prepare for major growth and renewal over the next five years. Little did we know that 2008 and 2009 would bring both the worst of times and the best of opportunities. As a result, we focused our attention on the mission of EdVenture and what we needed to do to support families and schools during this difficult time. We made strategic cuts (yes, one of those was our annual report – now known as the Impact Report!) and we made strategic investments in educational programs and exhibits to keep our core mission strong.

It has been particularly enlightening to reflect on the last two years and to see the progress and advancement of EdVenture's mission and impact. We are pleased to report that not only is EdVenture thriving, we are continuing to make a profound impact on the economic vitality of the Midlands. Our significant visitation and our commitment to improving education through a broad diversity of programs and partnerships have made substantial and sustained progress in the last two years.

While the economic clouds over our heads may now be slowly lifting, there are still many needs we are working to meet. On behalf of the Board of Trustees and staff, we want to take this opportunity to tell you thank you for your investment in us – for we have had an amazing two years. We are excited to share this story – all made possible by people like you!

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EdVenture Children's Museum

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2007-2008 | 2008-2009

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Inspiration x Discovery = a 21st Century Learner

We are on a journey towards a future that requires a new type of learner. At EdVenture, we have recognized the need for change and we have invested in a world-class discovery center and a highly-trained staff to help transform the future for thousands of children and youth in South Carolina. The diversity of our exhibits and programs, coupled with the dozens of community partners we are fortunate to work with, have created a powerful tool. We strive not only to make learning fun, but to develop life and career skills, an aptitude for innovation, and a willingness to experiment using both high-tech and high-touch methods.

EdVenture has become widely recognized as an educational leader in South Carolina and has quickly become one of the leading children's and science museums nationally. In the past two years, we proudly accepted the following accolades:

- Association of Science-Technology Centers' "Roy L. Shafer Leading Edge Award"
- American Bankers Association's Education Foundation's "Creative Communications Award" (with the SC Banker's Association)
- Bank of America's "Museums on Us" participant
- Institute of Museum and Library Services grant
- National Science Foundation's "C3" (Communicating Climate Change) grant
- New York Hall of Science's "Science Career Ladder"
- Palmetto Parent's "Best Museum of the Midlands" awards
- The State newspaper's, "Readers Choice - The Best Children's Entertainment" awards

Global Understanding

Exhibits, such as "From Here to Timbuktu - A Journey Through West Africa" and "Dragons & Fairies - Exploring Viet Nam through Folktales", along with festivals, performances and educational demonstrations increased the public's understanding and appreciation of world cultures.

Civic Responsibility

EdVenture is working to ensure that middle school youth develop into responsible citizens who work for positive community change. With special funding from Bank of America and the Lipscomb Family Foundation, EdVenture expanded the Future Leaders Initiative to new schools in Lexington School District Two and began planning for a major youth development initiative.



Keeping it Fresh!

New exhibits, fantastic, fun programming and community collaborations enhance each visitor's experience at EdVenture during the last two years.

EXHIBITS

- Air Play ~ June 7-September 2, 2008
- Big Adventure ~ June 16-September 16, 2007
- Blooming Butterflies ~ May 7-October 12, 2009
- BubbleLoosa ~ May 26-September 20, 2007, May 3-September 30, 2008
- Chagall ~ September 13, 2008-January 4, 2009
- Curious George - Let's Get Curious! ~ February 7-May 21, 2009
- Cyberchase! The Chase is On! ~ February 2-May 26, 2008
- Dragons & Fairies - Exploring Viet Nam through Folktales ~ October 6, 2007-January 21, 2008
- Snowville ~ December 1, 2007-March 1, 2008, November 22, 2008 - March 1, 2009
- Team Up! Explore Science in Sports ~ June 13, 2009-January 3, 2010

Innovate and Educate

As a 21st century institution, EdVenture works to develop a passion for lifelong learning among adults and children. We accomplish this vision by bringing together important issues and diverse partners to meet the needs of children, families and schools. Literacy is at the heart of all we do, and it is presented through five important areas - global understanding, financial literacy, civic responsibility, healthy lifestyles and scientific awareness.

EdVenture believes that learning should be a lifelong adventure and that our youth need to be prepared to join a workforce that is fundamentally different from that of their parents and grandparents. We also believe that this preparation must occur both inside the school day AND within the community. The need for increased availability and access to community-based programs has never been higher than it is today. EdVenture is on a mission to be THE PLACE where our children and youth can discover their passion for the future. This mission is accomplished through highly visible programs such as a variety of visiting exhibits, as well as direct service programs that include working with more than 500 elementary and middle school students in after school programs on a weekly basis.

Financial Literacy

Hands-on learning about MONEY has been a big initiative of EdVenture's since 2003. In 2008, with the support of South Carolina Bank and Trust, more than 100 free outreach programs were provided to schools and communities in rural South Carolina.



Healthy Lifestyles

EdVenture has led the education and empowerment of families to embrace lifelong learning about nutrition, physical activity and environmental health hazards through the Big ED Health Initiative.



Scientific Literacy

There's a scientist inside of all of us! From training more than 300 teachers in the last two years to citizen science projects, chemistry week and much more, the public is discovering a passion for science - it is a key to promoting an educated citizenry and community change.

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMING AND EVENTS

- Art Alley
- Big ED Health Team
- Brrr
- Camp EdVenture
- CircusFit
- Club EdVenture
- Colder than Ice
- Countdown to Kindergarten
- EdCeptional Kids Month
- Edlympics
- EdVenture-to-Go
- Explore-A-Story
- Family Nights
- Fire Fighters Appreciation Weekend
- Fire Prevention Week
- Food Play
- Future Leaders
- Giggle Science
- Girls Night Out
- HalloWonka
- Hands-On, Minds-On
- Home Safe Home
- Monkey Business
- Museum Apprentice Program (MAPs)
- The Mysterious Disappearance of Cati Pillar
- Nano Days

- New Year's Eve Countdown
- Oklahoma Smith and the Pyramid of Food
- Parenting 101
- Science Jam
- Slim Goodbody appearance
- SC Great Friend to Kids
- Take Heart and Smile
- Tales for Tots
- A Taste of South Carolina
- Toddler Tuesdays
- Zap

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