

2023 Community Partner Summer Events

Durham Museum

Towers of Tomorrow with LEGO® Bricks

Now – September 3, All Day

Towers of Tomorrow with LEGO® Bricks partners some of the world's most dazzling and innovative skyscrapers with the world's most popular building brick. The exhibit features 20 astonishing skyscrapers from North America, Asia and Australia constructed in breathtaking architectural detail by Ryan McNaught, one of only 21 LEGO®-certified professionals in the world.

Visitors will be inspired to create their own 'towers of tomorrow' with over 200,000 loose LEGO® bricks available in hands-on construction areas. Young and old will be limited only by their imaginations as they add their creations to a steadily rising futuristic LEGO® metropolis inside the exhibition. McNaught and his award-winning team of builders have used more than half a million LEGO® bricks and devoted over 2,000 hours to build the structures featured in the exhibition.

The Lunchbox: Packed with Pop Culture

Now – September 3, 2023, All Day

The Durham Museum is pleased to partner with local lunchbox collector Mark Kelehan to present ***The Lunchbox: Packed with Pop Culture***. Featuring hundreds of lunchboxes as well as one-of-a-kind original paintings, the display provides an overview of the history of lunchboxes, insight into the production process and an educational introduction into the dynamic world of collecting. *The Lunchbox* demonstrates how lunchboxes are time capsules of American pop culture from the 1950s through the 1980s. Join us for a celebration of the lunchbox and enjoy a walk down memory lane!

Build It! Fridays

Fridays, June 9 – July 28, 10am-12pm

Gather your family and friends and join us for special games and LEGO®-building challenges, sure to spark your creativity all summer long! We'll be joined by [LOLUG](#) (Lincoln/Omaha LEGO® User Group), who will lead the fun activities listed below. Registration is not required, and regular museum admission applies.

Meet Us at the Park for History Builders

Fridays, June – August, 10am-12pm

Ready for some time outdoors? Visit us at the Gene Leahy Mall for our History Builders program! Each Friday, from 10AM-Noon, will feature an engaging set of LEGO®-build challenges. Using images from our historic Photo Archive as inspiration, see if you can you build a LEGO® ice cream cone or maybe a LEGO® train. Visit each week for new challenges or perhaps find your own building inspiration in the park and its surrounding architecture!

Durham Museum cont..

Today in History Trivia

June 10, July 8, August 12, September 9; 10am-12pm

What took place today in history? Stop by our trivia table during your visit to The Durham Museum to find out! Each event will feature trivia-style questions that tie to historic events that took place that month, giving you a chance to cement your position as a "history expert" — or novice!

Storytime at The Platform

Wednesdays; June – July; 10am-12pm

Join The Durham Museum team to hear stories of some of history's most important architects each Wednesday, from 10AM-Noon! Each week will feature a read aloud of a picture book followed by a chance to try your hand at your own LEGO® architecture. All ages are welcome and storytime is included with regular museum admission. No registration is required.

Celebrate at The Platform

June 17, July 1, September 2, 10am-12pm

Join us at The Platform, the museum's interactive play space, and celebrate the holidays with us! Each date will have a special craft or activity and feature related photos from our Photo Archive for a bit of a history lesson while you celebrate. Full Schedule of Events: Juneteenth: Saturday, June 17; Independence Day: Saturday, July 1; Labor Day: Saturday, September 2

River City History Tour: Downtown Omaha Walking Tour

June 17, July 1, July 15, August 5, August 19, 10-11:30am

Join us on the first and third Saturday of each month (May-September) for a walking tour of historic downtown Omaha! Each tour begins at 10AM at The Durham Museum and proceeds to the Old Market where you'll enjoy visiting locations ranging from the sites of speakeasys to the well-known Old Market Passageway. Hear the stories of important early Omahans such as political boss Tom Dennison and early pioneers Rachel and William Snowden, before wrapping up at the Downtown Farmer's Market or heading back to the museum to enjoy our current exhibitions.

Walking tours cost \$20 for museum members and \$25 for non-members and last approximately 90 minutes. Comfortable walking shoes and a water bottle are highly recommended. In case of inclement weather, guests will be notified and granted a full refund. Register [here](#).

125th Anniversary of the Trans-Mississippi and International Exposition

Saturday, June 24, July 29, August 26, September 30, 10am-12pm

We're celebrating the 125th anniversary of the Trans-Mississippi and International Exposition with an enhanced exhibit experience! Our talented docents will greet guests with additional photos and objects related to the exposition, with a new theme each month highlighting important elements of this major event of Omaha's past.

- **June 24:** Souvenirs
- **July 29:** Fashion
- **August 26:** The Midway
- **September 30:** The Indian Congress & Displays

Durham Museum cont..

River City History Tour: From Expositions to Jazz Musicians

July 9, August 6, 1-3pm

In 1898, Omaha hosted the Trans-Mississippi & International Exposition, an event that brought millions to Omaha and learn about life west of the Mississippi River. Visit the former site of the expo and see the stately homes, parks and jazz halls that followed in its path. Plus, enjoy a stop at the historic Florence Mill! \$30 members; \$35 non-members. Register [here](#).

Lecture: We Created and Exhibit! The Lunchbox Journey

August 1, 6:30pm

Join local collector Mark Kelehan for a discussion about his journey that resulted in creating our current temporary exhibit, [The Lunchbox: Packed with Pop Culture](#). In addition to sharing his insights on the history of the lunchbox from the late 1800s to today, Mark will explore the origins of his own collection from a casual collecting hobby to a museum exhibition, as well as the community and people who helped him along the way. Advanced registration required. The on-site lecture is included with regular admission and is free to museum members. Learn more [here](#).

Root Beer Float Day 2023

August 5, All Day

Mark your calendar for one of our favorite holidays, Root Beer Float Day, which takes place Saturday, August 5! Stop by The Durham Museum to enjoy a free 8 oz. Root Beer Float (while supplies last) at our old-fashioned Soda Fountain and celebrate with one of our signature sweet treats. Plus, Dr. Oxygen will be on hand for some sweet science demonstrations from 1-2PM. Regular Museum admission applies. Free for members!

River City History Tour: Remember the Ladies! The Women of Early Omaha

August 20, 1-3pm

Hop on a tour with us in honor of the founding ladies of Omaha. This tour will introduce you to a few of Omaha's first women, from factory workers and business owners to religious leaders and activists, who contributed to the growth and success of Omaha today. Destinations on this tour will include driving through Omaha's previous "Red Light District," the Paxton Hotel, Saint Cecilia's Cathedral, and so much more! \$30 members, \$35 non-members. Register [here](#).

Fontenelle Forest

Military Families Get In Free

Now – September 4, 2023

In appreciation for your service, Fontenelle Forest is offering all active military and up to five family members receive FREE daily admission to Fontenelle Forest from May 20 to Sept. 4, in partnership with the 2023 Blue Star Museum Program. The program is available for those currently serving in the United States Military—Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, Coast Guard as well as members of the Reserves, National Guard, U.S. Public Health Commissioned Corps, NOAA Commissioned Corps, and up to five family members. Just check-in at our Visitor Services desk with your active military ID!

Fontenelle Trading Post: Speaker Series

July 2, August 6, September 7, 1-2:30pm

This Speaker Series is designed to complement the Nebraska's Deep Roots exhibit in Baright Gallery. Each speaker will provide a diverse perspective on the impact and importance of the Trading Post. See the list of specific dates and topics below. Free for members or with daily admission for non-members.

- **July 2:** Weapons of the Fur Trade
- **August 6:** Stories of People and Events

Fontenelle Forest cont...

Full Moon Hike

July 7, August 4, September 29, 8-10pm

How is the Forest different after the sun goes down? How does the full moon affect nocturnal animals? Come find out on our guided Full Moon Hike! The program will include an educational discussion of the nocturnal animals around the Forest and a brief talk into the lore of full moons. The guided hike will proceed after the discussion. Please join us after the hike for s'mores around the bonfire! \$10 for members, \$20 for non-members. [Must register](#).

Family Butterfly Walk

August 5, September 10, 10-11:30am

Bring the family and go in search of beautiful butterflies at Camp Brewster or Neale Woods! This will be a guided walk at an easy pace on trails with easy to moderate terrain led by long-time volunteer and nature enthusiast, Bob Fuchs. We will explore areas where butterflies are likely to be found and will try to catch and release some. Please wear bug spray, bring a water bottle, and wear appropriate outdoor clothing for the weather, including good walking shoes. \$5 for members, \$15 non-members. [Must register](#).

Critter Talk

August 12, September 30, 12-1pm

Meet some of Fontenelle Forest's educational critters up close! Animal Care Specialist, Patrick Conner, will be on Dennis Plaza providing information about some of the reptiles and amphibians that call Fontenelle Forest home. In the event of rain, this program will be moved to the Great Hall inside the Nature Center. Free for members or with daily admission for non-members.

- **August 12:** Speckled Kingsnake
- **September 30:** Ornate Box Turtles

Perseids Meteor Shower Viewing Event

August 12, 8:30-10:30pm

Come experience the thrill of watching the Perseids Meteor shower. This annual meteor shower is renowned for producing some of the brightest shooting stars. Our event will begin with a brief evening hike on dirt-packed trails through the prairie and forest. Then as night falls, we will stargaze together and watch for shooting stars while learning about meteor showers and general astronomy from our seasoned volunteer, Bob Fuchs.

This event will run from 8:30-10:30 PM. Make sure to dress appropriately for the weather, wear good walking shoes, and bring a water bottle. Please bring a folding chair to sit on while stargazing and be ready to hike a short distance on easy to moderate terrain with your chair to our meteor shower viewing area. \$5 for members; \$15 for non-members. Register [here](#).

Sunset Hike

August 18, September 15, 7-8:30pm

Are you worn out after a busy work week? Grab your coworkers and come wind down during our Sunset Hike! This hike will explore the gravel and dirt trails near the Nature Center then head to the third loop of the Boardwalk to watch the sunset over the Missouri River. This program will include an hour and a half naturalist-guided hike though easy to moderate terrain of the Forest. Trekking poles will be available on a first come, first serve basis. \$5 for members; \$15 for non-members. Register [here](#).

Fontenelle Forest cont...

Bat Education and Viewing

August 25, 7:30-9:30pm

If you've ever wanted to see bat research in action, this program is for you! August is a prime month for watching bats and studying their behaviors. During this program, we will watch as local biologists attempt to use mist netting to capture bats and allow us to see them up close. You will learn about basic principles of bat conservation and why these animals are so important to our local ecosystem.

This will be a 2-hour-long program led by UNO professor and researcher Jeremy White, PhD. It will be held at Camp Brewster (1313 Bellevue Blvd. N.). You will traverse areas of easy and moderate terrain in low light conditions. Please wear appropriate footwear. This program is for adult participants. \$5 for members; \$15 for non-members. Register [here](#).

Raptor Talk

August 26, September 16, 12-1pm

Join us in the Raptor Woodland Refuge to learn about some of our resident birds of prey and what makes each species unique. Free for members or with daily admission for non-members.

- **August 26:** Bald Eagles
- **September 16:** Turkey Vultures

Mudpies

August 29, August 31, September 5, Sept. 7, Sept. 12, Sept. 14, Sept. 19, Sept. 21, Sept. 26, Sept. 28

Mudpies is a structured program for children ages 3-5 that encourages exploration of nature and interaction between a child and their caregiver. Each week, a natural science topic is explored through crafts, outdoor exploration, songs, stories, hikes and more! \$7 per child for members; \$7 + daily admission for non-members. Learn more [here](#).

Lauritzen Gardens

Leashes at Lauritzen

June 12, July 3, July 10, August 7, August 14, September 4, September 11, 5-8pm

Dogs love going on an adventure- make your next night out with your four-legged friend an evening garden stroll during Leashes at Lauritzen. These events are enjoyable nights for dogs to walk the trails, meet other dogs, to take photos among the flowers and foliage, and meet other dog lovers. Please note that, with the exception of service dogs, dogs are only allowed in the garden during Leashes at Lauritzen events. Included with paid garden admission. Free for garden members.

StoryWalk®: "The Life Cycle of a Butterfly"

Now – June 23, 9am-5pm

Take a stroll through the arboretum and learn how butterflies transform from eggs to adults. Following along with the story "The Life Cycle of a Butterfly" by Colleen Sexton, your family can take part in some fun activities. StoryWalk® combines the love of reading with healthy, fun activities that fit the theme of the story to exercise your brain and body. Included with paid garden admission.

Lauritzen Gardens cont...

Landscapes by Reagan D. Pufall

Now – July 23, 9am-5pm

Documenting landscapes has long been a reason for artists to explore their country. While focusing on the roads, fields, and vistas rather than on buildings or figures, Pufall's photographs acknowledge the presence and influence of humanity. Through our control of fire, agriculture, and technology we have become a shaper of, rather than just a figure in the landscape. Included with general admission.

Glass in Flight

Now – October 15, 9am-5pm

This traveling art and science exhibit features steel and glass sculptures of gigantic insects by artist Alex Heveri. Each piece captures the essence of flight. Staged throughout the garden, sunlight shines through the colored glass and mimics the transparency and iridescence of insect wings, making these towering sculptures informative, engaging, and simply enchanting! Included with paid admission, free for garden members.

Build Your Own Succulents

June 17, 2-4pm

Come play with dirt, express your creativity, and learn about the soil and substrate needed, as well as the care and maintenance to have a lasting succulent arrangement with Moss Hunters. In this workshop, participants will choose 3 succulents and construct a container garden of their own to take home. All supplies provided. \$45 for non-members, \$35 for members. [Pre-registration required.](#)

Tempo of Twilight

June 20, July 11, July 18, July 25, August 1, August 15, August 29

We can't think of a better way to spend a summer evening than listening to live music in the garden! This outdoor concert series brings a spectacular lineup of local entertainment to the garden for a harmonious blend of music and nature. Free with paid garden admission. Free for members.

Bioblitz: Birds

June 24, 9-10:30am

Lauritzen Gardens is a refuge for many species of plants and animals. During our day-long bioblitz, we will host scientists, naturalists, hobbyists, and the public, who will work together to discover and identify as many species as possible in the garden. This is a FREE event and will give participants the opportunity to explore nature with an expert guide, meet new people, connect to the environment, and generate data to help better manage the garden.

Read and Grow: The BUZZ on Bees

June 29, 10:30am-12pm

In order for curious minds to bloom, it is essential to plant a love of reading at a young age. Join the Omaha Public Library in the garden for stories that celebrate gardens, plants, insects and more, and discover the joys of nature, movement, music, and literature. Storytime will be outside as weather allows. Programs are geared towards preschool aged children, but all ages are welcome. This is a FREE program, no registration is required. Drop in and join us!

Lauritzen Gardens cont...

Watercolor and Ink on YUPO Paper

July 20, 6-8:30pm

Explore mixed media techniques on the unique surface of yupo paper, a thin synthetic paper that is non-absorbent and can be used to capture loose, striking textures and colors. Dive into a world beyond your palette by experimenting with liquid watercolors, and ink to create unique, spontaneous paintings. \$55 for non-members, \$45 for members. [Pre-registration required.](#)

Read and Grow: Birds of a Feather

July 27, 10:30am-12pm

In order for curious minds to bloom, it is essential to plant a love of reading at a young age. Join the Omaha Public Library in the garden for stories that celebrate gardens, plants, insects and more, and discover the joys of nature, movement, music, and literature. Storytime will be outside as weather allows. Free.

StoryWalk®: "Baby Animals in Nests"

July 29, 9am-5pm

Take a stroll through the arboretum and learn why nests make good homes for baby birds, squirrels, and other animals. Following along with the story "Baby Animals in Nests" by Martha E.H. Rustad, your family can take part in some fun activities. StoryWalk® combines the love of reading with healthy, fun activities that fit the theme of the story to exercise your brain and body. Included with paid admission.

Lil' Sprouts: Monarchs on the Move

August 3, 10-11:30am

In Lil' Sprouts, adults and children (pre-K, ages 3-5) work together while learning about nature, shapes, colors, ABC's and 123's. In this month's class, we will talk about monarch butterflies. We'll learn about what they eat, their lifecycle, and why they migrate. Each registration is good for one child and one adult. \$18 for non-members, \$8 for members. [Pre-registration required.](#)

StoryWalk®: "Animal Architects Underground"

August 5 – September 16, 9am-5pm

Take a stroll through the arboretum and learn about the incredible underground homes that are built by animals and insects. Following along with the story "Amazing Animal Architects Underground" by Rebecca Rissman, your family can take part in some fun activities. StoryWalk® combines the love of reading with healthy, fun activities that fit the theme of the story to exercise your brain and body. Included with paid admission.

Omaha Children's Museum

Jurassic Nebraska

Now-January 7, 9am-4pm

Experience what life would be like if dinosaurs were around in our everyday life; toss a football against some ferocious defenders, explore and discover fossils in a giant dig pit, climb Chimney Rock to look a T-Rex in the eye, and more! Regular museum admission.

Dinosaur Dominion

June 23-25, 9am-4pm

Join the museum for themed activities and explore the new exhibit, Jurassic Nebraska! Regular museum admission.

Omaha Children's Museum cont..

Membership Drive – 2023-2024

Now – July 5

The Omaha Children Museum's membership drive is currently underway. During this time, faculty, staff and students can receive a discount on family and grandparent memberships. New memberships will receive \$10 off and a renewal of membership will receive \$15 off. Memberships include free admission to the museum, discount on campus, birthday parties and museum store purchases, as well as discounted admission to more than 250 other children's museums. Find more information [here](#).

Sensory Sunday

July 9, September 10, 9-11am

When you visit Omaha Children's Museum during Sensory Hours, the lights and sounds on most of our exhibits will be adjusted to be more sensory-friendly. Sensory Hours are included with regular museum admission.

Fairytale Ball Family Fun Weekend

July 21-23, 9am-4pm

As part of the Family Fun Weekend series, sponsored by Runza, the Fairytale Ball Weekend activities will be included with museum admission (and free for member families). Dance with princesses, make royal crafts, and create life-long memories! Dressing up is encouraged. All activities end 30 minutes before close, and are while supplies last.

Omaha Community Playhouse

Respect

Now – June 25, varying times

Respect... is the acknowledgment of various influential female recording artists for their valuable contributions to the music industry. *Respect* is a journey that spans the 1960-1980's music era honoring some of the most iconic women of our time. Together we will travel deeper into their stories and how their dedication and sacrifice paved the way for many who followed in their footsteps and will continue to empower for many years to come. Tickets start at \$40. To order, call (402) 345-0606 or purchase online [here](#).

The Wizard of Oz – Youth Edition

June 22 - 25, varying times

Join Dorothy and her loyal companion Toto as they "Follow the Yellow Brick Road" through the Land of Oz, determined to reach the Emerald City, where the great and powerful Wizard of Oz will help them get home. Of course, along the way, Dorothy encounters witches, Munchkins and talking trees. But most importantly, she befriends three unique characters: a Scarecrow with no brain, a Tin Man with no heart, and a Lion with no "nerve." Tickets are \$10. To order, call (402) 345-0606 or purchase online [here](#).

Omaha Performing Arts

Madagascar the Musical

June 17, 2pm

Are you ready to "Move It, Move It"? Join Alex, Marty, Melman and Gloria as they bound out of the zoo and onto the Orpheum stage in this live musical spectacular! This smash hit musical features all of your favorite crack-a-lackin' friends as they escape from their home in New York's Central Park Zoo. Along the way, they find themselves on an unexpected journey to the madcap world of King Julien's Madagascar. Tickets start at \$20. Use the promotional code 'UNMC2223' for a 10% discount plus reduced handling fees. Purchase [here](#).

The Rose Theater

Rose Theater Membership Drive – 2023-2024

Now – June 30

The Rose Theater membership drive is under way and will run until June 30. During the drive, The Rose Theater will be offering discounts on its 2023-2024 family membership to UNMC employees, faculty and staff.

For \$125 for a family of four, members will receive:

- Four free tickets to each of the six regular season shows.
- Discounts on tickets to the Rose's two premium-event shows, "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer" and "Charlie & the Chocolate Factory."

Plus, significant discounts on Rose Theater classes and campus (up to \$45 per class). Find more info [here](#).

Beauty and the Beast

June 9-25, varying times

Join Belle, Lumiere, Cogsworth, and all of your other favorite characters in the Beast's castle for an escape to a world where redemption starts with learning how to love and how to be loved. A world where beauty is not just skin deep and Belle sees the human behind the façade of Beast's curse. Tickets start at \$27. Purchase online [here](#).