Amazement Square

Amazement Square has some amazingly talented visitors! Throughout the Spring 2020 newsletter you will find several details from original artwork pieces that were completed during our Open Art Studio program in January.

Thank you to all of the artists who shared their talent with us to make our beautiful newsletter! Here are the full pieces of artwork.

Logan Doneghue
Preparator & Fabricator

How long have you been at A2?
I have been with Amazement Square for 7 years.

What are your responsibilities here?
My primary responsibility is the fabrication and maintenance of all the museum exhibits.

What is your favorite part about working here?
Being able to work in an environment where I can be creative and continue to learn.

Tell us a fun fact about yourself:
My wife and I are currently in the process of founding a non-profit organization called The We Recover Group. It aims to help people in our community who are suffering from addiction.

What is your favorite color?
Black
Weekly Programs

Buzzing Bee Programs
Saturdays at 10:30am and 2:00pm in Bee in the Know

Join us every weekend to catch one of our two new programs, Meet a Beekeeper and What's the Buzz with Melissa the Bee. These programs are designed to help you learn more about some of the main pollinators that are essential to our way of life. Program is free with museum admission or membership.

World of Wonders
Wednesdays at 10:30am in the Big Red Barn

Join us in World of Wonders where early learners, ages 3-5, focus on learning through inquiry, exploration, and PLAY! Each week we will read a new story and explore materials in hands on activities. Program is free with museum admission or membership.

Open Makerspace
Thursdays & Saturdays from 2-5 PM
Sundays from 3-5 PM in the Hive

The Hive is abuzz! Cultivate creativity and engage in the engineering design process while tackling prompts using unique materials. We look forward to seeing what you will build and discover! Program is free with museum admission or membership.

Art Expeditions
Fridays from 2-5 PM in the Imagination Studio

Take a journey in Art Expeditions and discover art and culture from around the world! Learn about different types of art and try your hand at different techniques. Program is free with museum admission or membership.

Open Art Studio
Saturdays 10 AM - 1 PM and Sundays 1-3 PM in the Imagination Studio

Let your imagination run wild! Join us in the studio where you can experiment with different materials while creating new designs and art pieces where the focus is all about the process! Program is free with museum admission or membership.
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Super Science Saturday
Second Saturday of the month
10:00am-1:00pm

Science is AWESOME and experimenting with the world around you is what it's all about! Join us every second Saturday of the month for some explosive, shocking and occasionally downright messy experiments all while exploring the incredible world of science.

March 14th – Nano Day

It's a big day for small science! Discover how atoms and particles one billionth of a meter long affect science in big ways. Explore how a thin film creates giant bubbles you can stand in, mix polymers with sand to create sculptures, and extract a sample of DNA!

April 11th – Earth Rocks!

Get ready to explore the 3rd rock from the sun in a whole new way! Discover the science behind caves, make your own toothpaste from minerals, and view the Earth from space in Amazon Square's portable planetarium. Be sure to join us for a demonstration of the rock cycle complete with volcanic eruptions!

May 9th – Slime University

Earn your degree in slimology! Explore how polymers work through exciting (and messy!) demonstrations and making your own slime!

Date Night Drop Off
March 13, April 11, and May 15
6:00 PM – 10:00 PM
$35 per child

Join us in celebrating you as parents with our popular Date Night Drop-off program. Bring your child(ren) to Amazement Square from 6PM – 10PM for a unique museum experience complete with a fun and interactive program, food and museum exploration while you enjoy a date night!

DIWine | An adults only makeshop
Second Monday of the month
6:00 PM – 8:00 PM

This casual style class will have you enjoying some tasty treats, sipping wine (or a nonalcoholic beverage), while socializing with other makers as the instructor works with the group through step by step instructions to create your own masterpiece. Additional details to follow on website.

Fairy Tale Tea Party
Saturday, April 4
10:00am-12:00pm
$15 per child/$10 per adult
(member adults are FREE)

Join us for a fanciful tea party with some of your favorite fairy tale characters from Lend Me a Princess. Enjoy trying different teas and a variety of traditional and tasty finger foods, while hearing the classic tale of Thumbelina. Make your own fairy wand or Thumbelina doll and visit with Sparkles the Unicorn. It's sure to be a magical day!

Military Appreciation Day
Saturday, May 16

We are so thankful for all that our active duty and retired military service men and women did/do to protect our freedoms on a daily basis. Military service members and their immediate family are invited to come and explore the museum and take part in the weekly programmatic activities that we offer for just $5 per person on Saturday, May 16 – must present a military ID at check-in. Additionally, we will be hosting a special program where visitors can write a Thank You card to our military service men and women overseas.

Saturday STEAM Makeshop!
First Saturday of the month
10:30am-12:30pm
$15 per child, members receive a 10% discount

This Spring, join us in the Hive for our Saturday STEAM Makeshops! Each month will feature a different project to create. Makeshop is recommended for guests ages 8-12. Adult supervision is required during the program. Program admission includes all project materials but does not include museum admission.

March 7th – Hanging Picture Frames

Build your own hanging 8x10 wooden picture frames. Measure and cut your wood, assemble the pieces, and add backing to create your own frame. Add a layer of beeswax to finish your project. Guests will use hand saws and staple guns to complete their project.

April 4th – Blinking Light Circuits

Dive into circuitry and electronics by soldering your own blinking light circuit using a 555 timer. Guests will use soldering irons and wire cutters to complete their project.

May 2nd – Reed Baskets
Learn the basics of basket weaving and weave your own reed baskets.

St. Patrick’s Day
Tuesday, March 17

May the luck of the Irish be with you! Wear something green to the museum and get a special treat!
**Spring Break Programs**

**Planetarium**
10:30 AM – 12:00 PM  
Genworth Education Center  
Come hear the stories of the constellations inside our planetarium!

**Creating Constellations**
12:30 PM – 2:00 PM  
Genworth Education Center  
Connect the dots in a Spring night sky to create your own stories!

**Solar Powered**
2:00 PM – 4:00 PM  
Genworth Education Center  
Experiment with solar power and see how we can draw energy from our closest star!

**Look Out! Seed Bombs!**
10:30 AM – 12:00 PM  
Community Room  
Learn which plants are helpful to pollinators and make a seed bomb to help create more green spaces!

**Soil Erosion Lab**
12:30 PM – 2:00 PM  
Community Room  
How does what’s planted in soil help stop erosion? Test different soil textures and plants to find the answer!
Spring Break Programs

Thursday, April 16
Animal Adventures

Spring on the Farm, Baby Chicks!
10:30 AM – 12:00 PM
Genworth Education Center
Come visit with some baby chicks and learn all about springtime on a farm!

Lynchburg Humane Society Adoption Day
12:30 PM – 2:00 PM
Genworth Education Center
Spring is about fresh starts! Visit with the Lynchburg Humane Society and give a new beginning to an animal in need with adoption.

Friday, April 17
Pollinators in Action

Life as a Butterfly
10:30 AM – 12:00 PM
Community Room
Learn about the life cycle of the butterfly and visit with some Monarch butterflies.

Are You A Bee?
12:30 PM – 2:00 PM
Community Room
Explore a day in the life of a honey bee and participate in a pollen gathering relay race!
StoryMakers
March 12-13th
$90 per camper, members receive a 10% discount
8:45 AM to 3:30 PM
Wear your PJ's and gather round as we share classic stories and create our very own. Campers will write, illustrate, and bind their own story books to share and take home.

Future Foodies
April 13-17th
$225 per camper, members receive a 10% discount
8:45 AM to 3:30 PM
Grab your apron and let's get cooking in this camp all about food! Discover the science behind nutrition, learn cooking basics, and compete in daily food challenges.
WonderCamp Junior
Ages 3-5 (not entered kindergarten)
Full Day

- **Ooey Gooey Science**
  June 8-12
  What makes things, sticky or oozy? Experiment with slimes and play dough to discover the science of all things ooey gooey.

- **Mini Makers**
  June 22-26
  Empower your inner maker as you create moving robots, tinker with toys and design your own inventions with recycled materials.

- **Biospheres for Beginners**
  July 13-17
  Join us as we explore nature through play! Using nature and your senses as your guides, get up close and personal with dirt, flowers, trees and even a critter or two!

- **Space Adventures**
  July 27-31
  What makes the world go round? Explore the Earth and Space through play and blast off with us in our rocket as we explore the solar system!

WonderCamp Junior
Ages 3-5 (not entered kindergarten)
1/2 Day

- **½ Day Dino Days**
  August 3-7
  Dig into prehistoric discovery to take a close-up look at the fierce creatures who once roamed the earth, even a creature or two!

- **½ Day Storytime**
  August 10-14
  Enjoy the art of storytelling and create stories of your own through writing and illustration.

For more Information
Visit www.amazementsquare.org
WonderCamp Explorer
Completed K – 2nd grade

**LEGO**
June 1-5
Design and build at an entire camp dedicated to LEGO®s. Discover new ways to create using LEGO®s through daily challenges including, art, architecture, and more!

**Slime University**
June 8-12
For the advanced slime student, Slime University dives deep into the science of polymers and natural oozes. Of course, it also involves making a lot of sticky, icky slime.

**Mad Scientist**
June 15-19
It takes mad curiosity to make scientific discoveries! Become a mad scientist as you conduct hands-on science experiments that bubble and fizz with fun.

**Robotics**
June 22-26
Use the engineering design process to design, build and code robots using technology, electronics and other materials.

**Big Messy Art**
July 6-10
Calling all artists! Are you ready to get messy? Explore art in a BIG way and create your own masterpieces in this colorful and creative camp!

**Ecosystem Explorers**
July 13-17
Investigate the natural world and the animals that live within it as you become an environmental engineer.

**Steam Makers**
July 20-24
What can you make with cardboard, electronics and recycled parts? Join us for tinkering, building and creation where out of the box thinking is required!

**Space Voyagers**
July 27-31
Do you have what it takes to be an astronaut? Join us as we take a voyage through the solar system, exploring the planets and star systems. This camp is out of this world!
WonderCamp Adventurer
Completed 3rd - 5th grade

LEGO Tech
June 1-5
You can build just about anything with LEGO®s. In this camp, explore LEGO® robotics and stop motion animation as you create your own movie masterpiece.

Woodworking Apprenticeship
June 15-19
Learn the craft of woodworking from our resident Master, and complete your apprenticeship by creating functional and beautiful wood pieces. Our goal is that the student becomes the teacher.

Marionette Masters
July 6-10
Dabble in the fine art of puppet-making while you experiment with different types of puppetry, and make your very own marionette!

Time Travelers
July 20-24
Jump through time to explore history through a unique lens! Build your own time machine to travel to the past and explore life in different eras through archeology, storytelling games, dance and historic trades.

Visit www.mazementsquare.org for more Information
STEAM After School Makeshop

After school programming is STEAMing ahead with our first workshop, Project Pet Palace, already completed! The STEAM Makeshop After School program is a series of workshops offered in the museum’s Genworth Education Center and is designed to assist students in grades 4-6 with the engineering and design process through inquiry and problem solving. Each series includes six 1.5 hour workshops where students use professional tools and equipment to complete designs related to a real world problem. Participants may enter their final project in Amazement Square’s STEAM Fair in May to win prizes for themselves AND their school!

Participants in the first series, Project Pet Palace, have been working hard on researching the best materials and constructing cozy homes for their pet of choice. Miss out on the first Makeshop? No worries! There is still room to register for the next two makeshops, Slimeology and Tap into Tomorrow! Each series costs $100.00 and includes six workshops, tools and all supplies. Space is limited to 20 participants in each series so register early!
A² STEAM Fair
Saturday, May 16
10:00 AM - 2:00 PM

The first annual A² STEAM Fair combines science fair flair and a festival atmosphere to create an exciting new event! The fair will showcase our city's student's skills & abilities by incorporating a classic Science Fair with HIVE Makerspace challenges and traditional festival offerings such as face painting and a bounce house! Throughout the day, family and friends can enjoy visiting vendor and education booths, and have fun watching and learning from other student's projects. Students will present their findings and overall project layout to a group of judges and the winners for the various ages groups will receive phenomenal prizes!

Featuring
Bounce house from Hill City Inflatables
Balloon Dude Travis
Dog On It Hotdog Food Truck
Popcorn and Sno cones

Vendors
Lynchburg Water Resources
Wiley Wilson/Marquis Reynolds
Dr. Eric Goff, Univ. of Lynch, sports physics
Rebecca Duncan, hand rehabilitation fabrication
VA Cooperative Ext, Smart Farming
Amazement Square and Sandusky Middle School take on the Future City Competition!

After 5 months of brainstorming, dreaming, construction, preparation and practice, Team Amazing City was finally ready to compete. On January 25th, 2020 the team traveled to Raleigh, NC to present their city model and oral presentation at the Regional Competition at North Carolina State University. The team presented in front of a panel of three judges for the main competition, speaking for seven minutes and answering questions with confidence. They also presented and answered questions for a variety of specialty judges, elaborating on topics such as modern transportation in their city, and their solutions to their threat to the water system. The students also had time to explore the exhibit hall and check out the other projects, learning more about the engineering design process from other students.

Amazing City scored well for innovative use of recyclable materials and for excellent teamwork and although Amazing City did not place in the competition finals, our students gained confidence and experience by presenting their project.

A new group of students from Sandusky Middle School will take on the challenge for the spring semester. They will be challenged with a new threat to their water system and will present their city at Amazement Square’s STEAM Fair on Saturday, May 16.
Amazement Square has the privilege of facilitating visual art programming with 80 students who have special needs during the 2019-2020 school year through a long-standing seventeen year relationship with The Kennedy Center in a program called “VSA” or Very Special Artists.

Students from Sheffield Elementary, R.S. Payne Elementary, Appomattox Middle School, Altavista Combined School, Liberty Middle School, and Liberty High School are participating in the VSA program this school year.

Students will complete three art projects during the VSA program and will be invited to attend a special event at Amazement Square for a celebration of the program where teachers, students, and families can view all of the students’ artwork on display and have the opportunity to enjoy some fellowship with students from other schools. All artwork will be submitted to The Kennedy Center and select pieces will be chosen to go on display at The Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C.!

Through the VSA program, Amazement Square aims to reach students that do not currently have access to art class or art programming in hopes of bringing meaning to art-making and encourage creativity within our young students.
Every membership purchased in March receives:

A FREE admit one pass!

Purchase a membership during Amazement Square's 19th Birthday Party and be entered for a chance to win a FREE week of summer WonderCamp, a $225 value!

Already have a membership?

Renew now to extend your current expiration date one year
OR
Give 365 days of exploration and learning to someone else!
Memberships make excellent Birthday gifts and they won’t end up in the bottom of the toy bin and they are tax deductible!
Rentals

From intimate gatherings to bustling receptions, our Genworth Education Center is the perfect space to complement your event! Our 6,000 square foot exhibit hall is one of the largest rental spaces in the area and is the perfect space for a wedding reception, reunion, luncheon, cocktail party, promo or corporate event. Design your layout, be creative with decorations and hire the caterer, band, or DJ of your choice. Our state of the art AV equipment (sound system and projectors) support a wide range of presentations, videos, images and/or music to perfectly complement your event. The Genworth Education Center is fully equipped to address all your rental needs with options for tables, chairs and linens and will fit in any budget.

For additional information and to schedule a tour, please call us at 434-845-1888.

Birthdays @ The Square

There’s no better place to have a birthday!

We love celebrating our guests and birthdays are our favorite. With several rooms to choose from and various activities to keep the birthday boy/girl and their guests engaged and entertained you can rest assured that this will be a birthday party to remember and museum members receive a $25 discount!

Get Up to 50% off birthday packages when you book a 2020 party in the month of March.
Amazement Square Celebrates 19 Years!

Amazement Square’s Monster Birthday Bash

Saturday, March 21st

WE ARE TURNING 19!

We are so excited to celebrate our birthday with you this year. It will be a MONSTER birthday bash with various monster themed activities! In addition there will be exclusive savings on birthday parties and memberships as well as special discounted admission rates. Don’t miss this incredibly fun and exciting event!
PRESENTS A FREE CELEBRATION FOR FAMILIES!

Family FunFest

Saturday
April 25th
10 AM - 1 PM

IN AMAZEMENT SQUARE’S
Genworth Education Center

ACTIVITIES FOR AGES BIRTH - 8 YEARS:

Face-Painting!
Giant Legos!
Tummy Time!
Play Centers!
Plant Station!
Dress-Up Fun!

Parent and Child Activities!

*Children 5 and under who complete all activities earn FREE admission to Amazement Square!
Also featuring: Bubble Bonanza* Kinder Dance * Kinder Woods

Contact glc@vaaeyc.org to request more information.
What sounds do you hear when you think of Downtown Lynchburg?

Picture Amazement Square in your mind. What do you hear? If you could pick one sound what would it be? A giggle, an elated scream, Joshua’s greeting as you walk through the front doors, golf balls rolling down the roller coaster?

Come and check out our most recent exhibition, Electri-City: The Sounds of Hill City, and discover the sounds of downtown Lynchburg!

The exhibition features six panels that incorporate a unique conductive paint technique to highlight the landmarks of six prominent downtown streets. We welcome you to explore this gallery and see how technology and art are fused together to represent our amazing downtown Lynchburg in a fun and dynamic way!