

## Discovery Gateway Children's Museum CEO to Share Expertise at Utah Museums Association Annual Conference

Salt Lake City, UT — Sept. 16, 2025 — Kathleen Bodenlos, Chief Executive Officer of Discovery Gateway Children's Museum, will be a featured speaker at the upcoming Utah Museums Association Annual Conference, taking place September 23–26, 2025. The conference is the state's premier gathering for museum professionals, drawing leaders from across Utah to collaborate, share expertise, and inspire innovation in the field.

Bodenlos will present on "Strategic Planning: Simplified Process and Proven Results for All-Size Organizations," a panel discussion designed to help cultural institutions of every scale create actionable, sustainable strategies for growth. She will be joined by distinguished peers **Natalie Petersen** of the Utah Division of Arts & Museums, **Emily Larsen** of the Springville Museum of Art, and **Sonya Darter** of Thanksgiving Point.

A highly regarded leader in Utah's museum community, Bodenlos brings years of experience presenting at major conferences nationwide, including at the Association of Children's Museums' annual [InterActivity Conference](#). Under her leadership, Discovery Gateway Children's Museum has expanded its role as a statewide leader in hands-on, play-based learning—earning recognition for both its community impact and innovative programming. Her leadership has also been recognized with prestigious awards, including Utah Business 2024 CEO of the Year, which underscores her commitment to advancing access to education and the arts.

"I am honored to be part of this year's Utah Museums Association Conference," said Bodenlos. "Museums play a critical role in strengthening communities, and strategic planning is key to ensuring their long-term success and relevance."

The Utah Museums Association Conference serves as an essential forum for museum professionals to exchange ideas, foster collaboration, and advance the cultural landscape of Utah. With a focus on practical solutions and inspiring leadership, the panel promises to equip attendees with tools to help museums of all sizes thrive in a rapidly changing environment.

For more information on the Utah Museums Association Annual Conference, visit [utahmuseums.org](http://utahmuseums.org).

### About Discovery Gateway Children's Museum

Located in the heart of downtown Salt Lake City at 444 West 100 South, Discovery Gateway Children's Museum is a premier destination for hands-on learning and imaginative play. A staple in the community for almost 50 years, it features 60,000 square feet of interactive exhibits designed to spark curiosity and creativity in children of all ages. Additionally, it is Utah's only museum with a dedicated focus on STEM education, offering immersive experiences in science, technology, engineering, and math, alongside exhibits that highlight art, health, and community.

Welcoming 177,000 visitors annually, Discovery Gateway Children's Museum is committed to educational experiences that inspire lifelong learning and foster the next generation of innovators and leaders.

**For more information, media inquiries, and more, please contact:**

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