

Have You Seen This Chicken?



The Creative Discovery Museum located in downtown Chattanooga is a wonderful place of bold creativity. I had the pleasure of meeting some of the event staff as I journeyed through the museum walls. The children's museum encapsulates uniqueness and confidence, inspiring kids to be themselves and discover the world around them. There are various levels of play, ranging from the farm area for toddlers to the stem robot application room for more advanced children. I had a great time experiencing the areas first hand, as well as learning about the various activities and events planned for the next coming months.

The first thing I noticed when walking in was the both calm and chaotic energies. Not a bad chaotic, more of a kid chaotic. The laughs and voices of children carry across the air, inviting each individual to unleash their inner creativity. Immediately I was hit with warmth and childlike wonder, of which I had not felt in months. There is a sweet nostalgia in this place, allowing relief to crash over my mind. As I continued into the building I was immediately greeted. The CDM had not quite opened to its full potential yet, as it was still early in the morning. The sense of stillness and anticipation flooded my senses and craved an excitement for the day.

I was led to the left, passing the gift shop and a cafe. I lingered behind a little, to engage with my surroundings and encapsulate the confidence of the location. Inside the room where my interview was to be done, I was cheerfully greeted by two other happy individuals. These three introduced themselves as the creative team, and I was immediately drawn towards their positive uniqueness. I sat down as they went in a circle to give their details and thoughts. All I could feel was burning engagement as I was just thrilled to be in their presence. The craft of the day to day business excited me to my core, as the Creative Discovery Museum is in fact the most enticing set of walls I have ever stepped foot in. I longed to be a child again, climbing through the world with a sense of curiosity that could not be killed. The various events and catering the museum has for several different groups of people is beyond imaginable. From sensory events to silent parties, the museum really does carefully examine its audience and provides opportunities for all kinds of play.

As the interviews were wrapping up, I could not stop asking questions about their biggest event of the year. AmuseUm. The word alone captures the minds of all kinds of people, anticipating what comes next. This year they are celebrating their 30th birthday on March 1st, 2025. When my ears first heard a glimpse at the event, they could not stop ringing. The questions poured out of me as I inquired more and more. It is a once a year event, raising money for all the other events for the year. As the team went on to explain the gala in small detail, as it is still being planned and released, their excitement only built my own. I was very happy to see such an invigorating group leading the museum events. It was relieving to see they were as excited, if not more, as the kids who came to play each morning. As the interview finished, I was craving more and more. They laughed at my restlessness and invited me to come back for a walk through on my own. I eagerly agreed, and started my self guided journey through the magnificent museum.

The first room I came across was Wallace and Gromit themed. Are you kidding! I could not be more excited. This is when I captured my first photo, have you seen this chicken? He seems to be worth a lot! As I continued into the room, I was greeted with a multitude of parents and children, interacting with Wallace and Gromit statues, rooms, and elements. I loved Wallace and Gromit growing up, and especially loved the details in the animations. It was truly amazing to see it come to life in such a manner. In fact, each room I walked into washed my thoughts

with another wave of creativity. Walking past children digging up dinosaur bones was nothing less than overwhelming excitement. The robot stem room was so enticing, I wanted to jump in and control the robots myself! Towards the back of the robotics room, there was a rocket launch area that shook me to my core. I absolutely love space, and was thrilled to see the interactive elements to show kids the wonders of the void above. My last stop, as to not spoil the whole museum for yourself, was the lookout tower. I climbed to the top, quickly realized how out of shape I was, and then looked out below onto downtown Chattanooga. Chattanooga has always occupied a spot in my brain, and I appreciate any opportunity I can have to see it. The view was immaculate. I took the deepest breath I could of the fresh Chattanooga mountain air and made my way back down and through the museum. I turned my special badge in, which I thought was fun, and then continued out of the building.

I left feeling nostalgic and sweet. I love the idea that children have the wonderful opportunity to grow here at this museum. The perfect balance of fun and growth is necessary for a child, and the museum has the unique possibility to do just so. I highly encourage everyone to check it out, whether for yourself or your own kids. It is an amazing opportunity to let your kids run out of steam while shaping themselves into future opportunists. Whether you want to be an astronaut or an anthropologist, there is a space for you at the Creative Discovery Museum.