



## **Community Relations at the Museum of Science, Boston**

The role of Community Relations is to support the Museum's mission to "attract the broadest possible spectrum of participants" to STEM. Staff works both internally and externally to promote participation of new audiences, in particular those under-represented cultural, ethnic and disability communities, in all areas of the Museum.

### **Partnerships and Collaborations**

A major component of the strategy is developing partnerships and collaborations with Out of School community-based organizations such as after-schools, faith based youth programs, family shelters, ESOL programs and scouts.

Through these partnerships the Museum is able to leverage the resources available within various communities and also to reach new audiences. The Museum relies on these communities for consultation, evaluation, staff development, promotion, and recruitment. In return our partners utilize a number of resources available at the Museum like Engineering Adventures, the Computer Clubhouse and Volunteer positions,

### **Community Partners have access to;**

- Free or reduced admissions to the Museum
- MOS Street Team participation at Community Events facilitating STEM activities
- Invitation to Community Partner Events at the Museum
- ASL interpreting and Sighted Guides for visits to MOS
- Meeting space for Community Partners at MOS when available
- Connections to other Museum resources like youth programs, volunteering and internships.

### **We ask Community Partners to;**

- Write letters of support or thank you letters to our funders
- Give us feedback & advice by participating in focus groups & surveys
- Network with your colleagues about the program
- Participation in photo shoots

For more information please contact;
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## Museum of Science Launches Free Afterschool Curricula

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Out-of-school-time programs help close the “opportunity gap” in future STEM careers for young people from underserved and underrepresented populations--in part by offering an environment where kids can tackle STEM challenges without fear of failure. That's why [Engineering is Elementary](#)® (EiE), an award-winning curriculum project based at National Center for Technological Literacy® at the Museum of Science, Boston, has developed two new STEM curricula and is distributing them free of charge. [Engineering Adventures](#) is for students in grades 3 – 5 and [Engineering Everywhere](#) is for youths in grade 6 – 8.

“In recent years, OST stakeholder organizations including the National Afterschool Association, the Afterschool Alliance, and the Coalition for Science Afterschool have publicly expressed a need for STEM activities in OST programming,” says EiE’s director of curriculum development, Melissa Higgins. “But high quality engineering activities for OST are lacking—a gap that Engineering is Elementary aims to fill.”

**Real-world problems:** Both of the new curricula present real-world problems and challenge kids to engineer solutions. “Engineering Adventures” (EA) offers six flexible units featuring a fictional brother-sister duo, India and Jacob—globe-trotting, engineering-savvy tweens who guide kids on engineering adventures around the world. For example, the unit *To the Rescue* takes kids to Thailand in the wake of a tsunami, to engineer aid packages that can survive the drop from an aircraft; the unit *Shake Things Up* takes kids to Haiti after an earthquake to engineer earthquake-resistant buildings.

Developed with support from Bechtel Corporation and NASA, EA makes educator guides available as [free downloads](#) from the EiE website. There’s also a free professional development workshop guide that prepares OST staff to lead engineering activities. Printed guides and materials kits are available through the EiE Store.

- See more at: <http://www.eie.org/news/museum-science-launches-free-afterschool-curricula#sthash.VBbPjzv8.dpuf>