



Museums in a Pandemic: Snapshot of Impacts

June 3, 2020

To understand how the COVID-19 pandemic is affecting the children's museum field, we surveyed ACM member institutions from May 7 to 18, 2020 about their experiences. Overall, 109 US-based children's museums and 6 non-US museums were represented in the responses. Here are several initial findings; future reports will provide more detail.

- **Federal Funding** – The Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) was the primary emergency funding source for US children's museums. For financial support, 101 US-based museums applied for PPP funds. Of those, 95 museums received PPP funding and 6 museums did not. Children's museums participating in the study cumulatively received \$29.34 million in PPP funds.
- **Other Funding** – Private funds were another source of financial support for some children's museums. Of those surveyed, 36 US-based museums reported receiving a total of about \$1.61 million funds from this source. Several non-US institutions also received funds from private sources.
- **Reopening** – In terms of plans for reopening, 43 US museums said they had identified their reopen dates. Of those, 39 planned to open before the end of 2020. Sixteen will reopen by June 15, 2020.
- **Memberships** – For museums in the US, 9 out of 10 extended renewal dates for memberships.
- **Staffing** – At the time of the survey, 75 US children's museums reported staff reductions. Of those, 32% of full-time staff have been furloughed, laid-off, or had reduced working hours. For part-time staff, 64% have been furloughed, laid-off, or had reduced working hours. We will continue to track children's museums experiences with staffing as the field navigates the pandemic.

ACM TRENDS

4.1

ACM Trends #4.1 by Knology is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-ShareAlike 3.0 Unported License



Knology Publication #IML.145.568.01

Recommended Citation:

The Association of Children's Museums & Knology. (2020). *Museums in a Pandemic: Snapshot of Impacts*. ACM Trends 4(1). New York: Knology & Association of Children's Museums.

This project was made possible in part by the Institute of Museum and Library Services. The views, findings, conclusions or recommendations expressed in this publication do not necessarily represent those of the Institute of Museum and Library Services.