

What role did you play in the creation of Discovery Boxes?

- Volunteer in the beginning
- Curriculum
- Jill was the one who was the director of education until 2007
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Can you describe the process/steps involved in creating the Discovery Boxes at the Mayborn Museum Complex?

- Houston McGough took the idea of "Discovery Rooms"
- Strecker Museum and Youth Cultural Center existed
- Smithsonian had a "Discovery Room" you could access thematic boxes in them
- Houston suggested it to the staff as an interesting idea
- The initial funding came from the Junior League of Waco '84
- Then the staff brainstormed
- School of Ed provided all of the written Materials
- Staff investigated the structure of the boxes, weight, etc.
- Did not want a wooden box because of the weight
- Boxes were adjusted to the climate here in Waco
- Boxes were popular, down swing when the new building was built bc people spent more time in programming
- After the new building there was a revamping
- As the staff grew, more people helped to develop boxes
- The two rooms that existed were the Pioneer Room and the Native American and then Mammals, Reptiles, Amphibians, Birds
- Room- at the Youth Cultural Center
- Over the years the boxes were revamped and or duplicated
- The science boxes were added later
- At one point they went back to the league and asked if they would want to donate more money or help to develop the boxes (some teachers who were a part of junior league volunteered to help develop new ones in the summer)
- Environmental boxes were in conjunction with Make Waco Beautiful
- The Medical and health boxes had things donated from Doctors
- The boxes developed over time
- Christmas around the world was developed bc the museum already had that type of program

What were the original reasons behind creating this type of outreach program?

- teachers from field trips at the museum would ask if there was anything to bring to their classroom
- museum staff asked how long would be long enough ? one week based on teacher lessons
- logistically it would not work to have staff go out to the school
- They would use the boxes in summer camps for girl scouts and boy scouts
- Used in overnights
- became a good resource to the museum staff programming

-Made sure that the boxes were not too rigid in lessons because they wanted to keep them K-12.

-All of the marketing was word of mouth, and informal

-Teachers were able to check out boxes more than a year in advance

-But eventually just one school year

-Quickly acquired a steady group of teachers, who would develop their curriculum around the boxes

-Teachers felt that the hands on curriculum was essential

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-There was an evaluation in the box that the teachers requested new materials and themes for box

As the museum went from social sciences to natural history, those boxes were developed

Which models or resources were consulted to create the boxes?

-other museums who mailed their boxes

-the mayborn wanted their boxes to be free because of the amount of inner city children and schools