



Powerhouse Science Center

Future home of the Discovery Museum Space & Science Center

BY JENNIFER VON GELDERN

The Powerhouse Science Center, with the City and County of Sacramento, has an opportunity to transform a local landmark – the PG&E Power Station Building on Jibboom Street – into a magnificent visitor destination. This signature development combines this historic structure’s renovation and the newest exhibit techniques to create Northern California’s premier science center. With \$35 million in place for this \$40 million project, only \$5 million remains to be raised to make this Sacramento’s next blockbuster debut.

“The new Powerhouse will play a significant role in regional development,” says Shahnaz Van Deventer, Director of Marketing and Development. “We currently serve 80,000 constituents across 19 counties, providing STEM education programs to more than

360 schools annually, from a 10,000 sq. ft. facility on Auburn Blvd. The new facility will allow us to showcase state-of-the-art exhibits and education programs which will become a model for 21st-century informal science education. The new center will be five times the current size and support 225,000-plus visitors annually.”

In addition to NASA’s newest installation of the Challenger Learning Center, Powerhouse will also feature Northern California’s only public planetarium with a full digital dome and latest imaging equipment. An Innovation Center will offer hands-on experiences and numerous galleries — including water conservation and energy education, nature discovery, and biotech and ag-tech components — that will prepare youth for our region’s future.

Powerhouse will also offer adult programming. “STEM education is the future and the voting public needs to understand science- and technology-based policies, referendums, and bills. In addition to inspiring youth to pursue STEM fields of study, we’ll educate the general public to build a STEM-literate community.”

“Thriving cities have science centers,” concludes Van Deventer. “Sacramento already has solid arts, theaters, and sports representation – it’s time for a science center as the next major civic amenity. Powerhouse is on the brink of becoming the city’s next highlight as a regional, statewide, and nationwide destination. Come on board and help us to the finish line!”

Powerhouse Science Center
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