



Director of Education

About Us:

The Powerhouse is Southwest Colorado's STEAM engine, empowering curious young learners through interactive experiences, discovery, and play. Launched as the Children's Museum of Durango in 1994 in a small attic space above the Durango Arts Center, the museum expanded to its current riverfront location and has welcomed 300,000 visitors since its opening in 2011.

The Powerhouse Education Program includes school field trips; out-of-school time STEAM enrichment programs; summer, holiday, and single day camps (up to 75 students per day); coordination of annual science and engineering competitions (Lego League, Destination Imagination, and San Juan Basin Regional Science Fair); and a new on-site early learning center opening in 2026.

Job Title: Director of Education

Reports To: Executive Director

Hours and Term: Full-time, exempt

Start Date: January 2026

Compensation: \$62,500–\$70,000

Travel: Less than 10%

Benefits: Flexible PTO, ICHRA health plan insurance plan, SIMPLE IRA with 3% employer match, monthly phone reimbursement

Roles and Responsibilities:

Reporting to the Executive Director, the Director of Education serves as a member of the Powerhouse leadership team. This person has responsibility for leading the education team, working with staff and constituents to communicate and deliver a vision for impactful STEAM education across age levels, building and stewarding relationships with education partners, managing a \$550,000 annual budget, and working with fellow Directors to secure grants and sponsorships to support education programs.

The Director of Education is responsible for the overall administration of The Powerhouse's education programs and services. This position provides the vision, strategic direction, and leadership to ensure that all programs align with and support the museum's mission and values, are coordinated and communicated internally and externally, and meet institutional goals and budgets. As a member of the Powerhouse's leadership team, the Director of Education contributes to institution-wide planning, goal setting, and policy.

Department Leadership

- Develop and manage annual department goals and objectives, program schedules, and budget
- Hire and manage year-round education team members
- Ensure excellence, effectiveness, and efficiency of program operations
- Build relationships with educational partners and peers, including school principals, superintendents, higher education partners, community organizations, and fellow museums
- Participate actively in community and professional networks to maintain relationships, build awareness of the museum, inform best practices, and explore opportunities for collaboration
- Promote education programs and showcase department accomplishments by working with marketing and communication staff and representing the museum at community events

Program Design, Management, and Evaluation

- Implement best practices in informal education, STEAM learning, and museum programs
- Support education staff in developing standards-informed lesson plans and units to support field trips, gallery presentations, enrichment programs, and school-based programs
- Develop programming designed to engage underserved populations, including incorporation of Native Ways of Knowing, populations underrepresented in STEAM fields, rural outreach programs, and financial accessibility policies
- Provide training and coaching to educators, museum staff, interns, and volunteers
- Lead ongoing evaluation and improvement of programs through formal evaluation measures
- Track program participation and impact metrics for reporting and program evaluation

Development and Fundraising

- Develop project plans and funding proposals in response to foundation and government funding opportunities
- Assist in cultivating relationships with education-focused individual, business, and foundation funders and maintain a portfolio of 5-15 major funder relationships
- Assist in securing gifts and sponsorships to support education programs
- Hold primary responsibility for complying with grant deliverables and reporting requirements

Program Delivery

- Negotiate and approve program service contracts
- Model effective instructional practices
- Communicate and maintain high expectations for student behavior
- Assist in program delivery as needed (less than 10% of overall responsibilities)
- Incorporate community volunteers to support education programs

Strategic Initiatives

- In collaboration with leadership staff, identify and assess future programming opportunities aligned with strategic plan goals
- Develop a 15- to 20-week pilot program for full-day Friday programs based in Cortez
- Plan for on- and off-site classroom and educational spaces to support program needs
- Hire and supervise the Director of Early Learning to manage a licensed early learning center scheduled to open in September 2026 serving 40-44 toddlers and preschoolers
- Support the Director of Early Learning and/or contract staff in developing curriculum, marketing plans, and operation policies for the early learning center and securing licensing through the Colorado Department of Early Childhood
- Evaluate whether or not to transition school-age camps to licensed programs

Requirements:

- A graduate degree in education is preferred. Candidates with Bachelor's degrees or other educational credentials alongside significant relevant experience will be considered.
- Candidates must be committed to informal learning and the role museums play in enriching children's lives.
- Five plus years of educational and/or nonprofit leadership experience
- Possession of a valid driver's license and clean driving record and ability to pass a background check
- Willingness to periodically transport students in a 12-passenger van
- Excellent presentation, writing, computer, interpersonal, & organization skills
- Ability to multitask with ease on a variety of projects

To apply: Email resume and cover letter to education@powsci.org by November 30, 2025.