

# **Even Space Shuttles Have Expiration Dates: Gracefully Ending Successful Programs**



**ASTC Annual Conference  
Monday, September 23, 2019**

**Toronto, ON, Canada**

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All good things must come to an end.  
-Geoffrey Chaucer

# Gracefully Ending Successful Programs

## Session Overview

- 3 Case Studies
  - Sciencenter – Egg Drop
  - Madison Children’s Museum – Discovery To Go
  - Denver Museum of Nature & Science – Passport to Health
- Sunsetting Approach
  - Brief synopsis of program
  - Changes that lead to the sunsetting
  - Communication and Implementation
  - Reflections on lessons learned
  - Growth and new directions post-sunsetting
- Analyzing the Vitality of Your Programs
- Sunsetting Considerations with Audience and Partners
- Q+A



# Gracefully Ending Successful Programs

## Session Goals



1. Learn about different examples of sunseting successful programs that puts community partnerships at the center and that allows for post-action growth.
2. Receive resources for examining the vitality of programs to assist with decision-making for sunseting.
3. Learn strategies for considering and incorporating audience and partner needs and relationships when sunseting programs.

# Case History: Sunsetting the Egg Drop

Charlie Trautmann, Sciencenter

Sept 23, 2019

# OUTLINE

1. Program description
2. What changed?
3. Steps we took to communicate the problem
4. Reflections & lessons learned
5. Growth & new directions

# 1 – Program Description



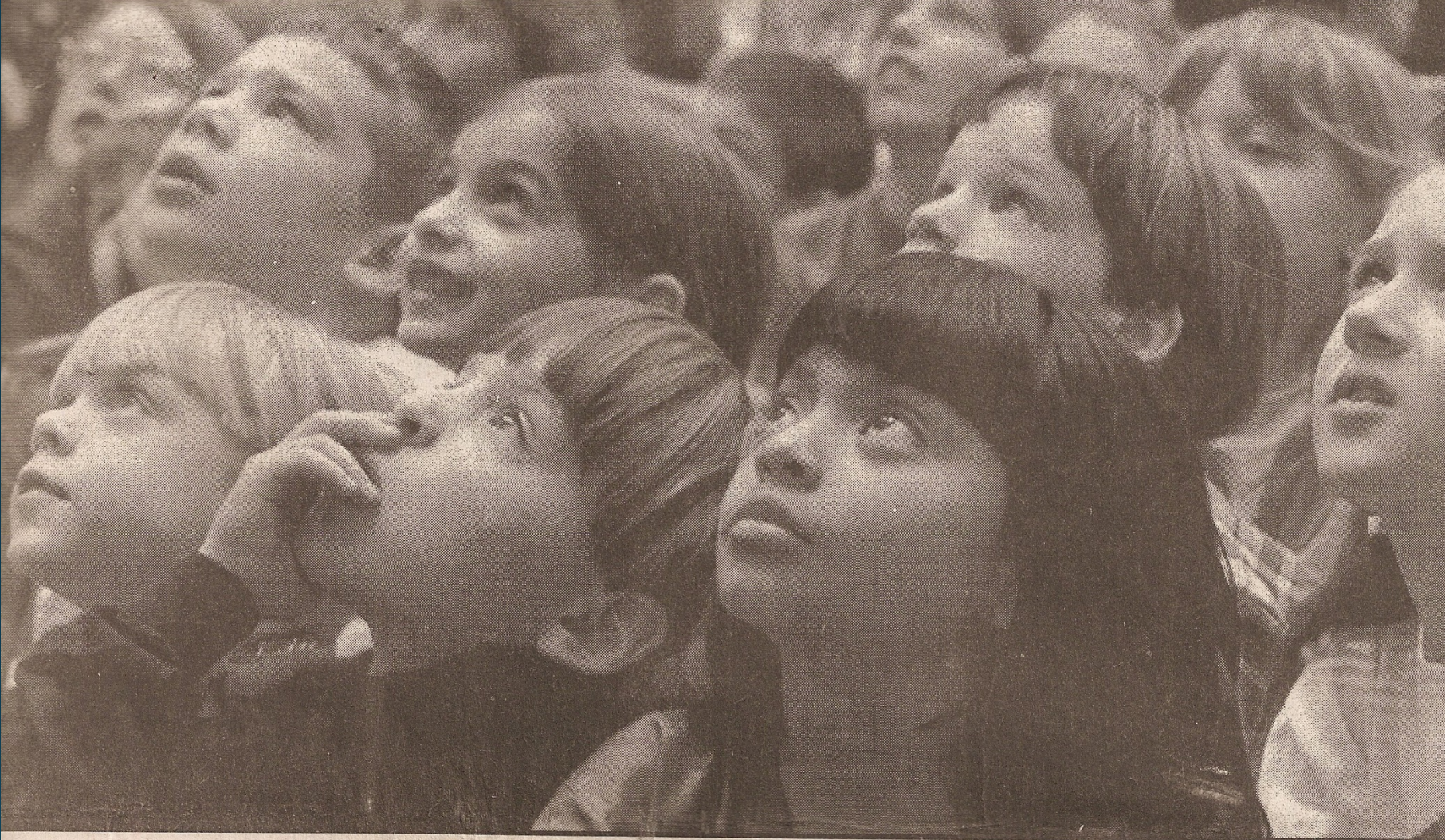












BILL WARREN/Journal

**COMING DOWN:** Children in Center Ithaca look up as one of many *Drop is let go from an upper balcony. The contest let children a*  
*sual entries in the Sciencenter's 12th annual Community Egg adults design devices that would shield an egg from the fall.*

# Best creations t egg drop



THANK YOU  
M&T Bank  
The M&T Bank  
Eagle  
Wegman's  
Carmax



 M&T Bank







## 2 – What Changed???

1. Volunteers moving on, more staff time
2. Event didn't connect participants with the Sciencenter enough
3. A Halloween event at the museum started

# 3 – STEPS TAKEN TO COMMUNICATE

1. Meetings, meetings, meetings!
2. Analysis of costs (incl. staff)
3. Process of decision making – “consult”

# 4 – REFLECTIONS & LESSONS LEARNED

*Change is hard!*

# 5 – GROWTH & NEW DIRECTIONS



# Madison Children's Museum – Discovery To Go



# Case Study: Passport to Health



# Passport to Health

- Started in 2008
- Funding from The Colorado Health Foundation
- In conjunction with *Expedition Health* permanent exhibition
- Targeted 5<sup>th</sup> grade students, their families, and teachers
- Title 1 Schools
- Served more than 30,000 students
- From more than 60 unique schools.
- 86% of students eligible for free or reduced-price lunches
- 70% Latino/Hispanic, and overall 87% from communities of color
- Forged relationships with many community partners

# Passport to Health

**What does it accomplish?** P2H has a proven track record, increasing students', families', and teachers' understanding of health science, raising health literacy, and inspiring healthy lifestyles.

PROGRAM COMPONENT	DESCRIPTION
Teacher Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Program orientation and health science-based professional development</li><li>• Online teacher resources and lessons at <a href="http://www.dmns.org">www.dmns.org</a></li></ul>
Family Access	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• All participating students and teachers receive three tickets good for their family's admission to the Museum.</li></ul>
Fitness Physiology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Overview of circulatory, respiratory, and musculoskeletal body systems</li><li>• Hands-on investigations to discover how physical activity affects each system</li></ul>
ExerScience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• A self-guided visit through Expedition Health</li><li>• Activity stations where students test and measure how physical activity and proper nutrition benefit their systems and organs</li></ul>
Family Fit Fest	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Engage families in physical activities</li><li>• Inspire families to make healthy choices together</li></ul>
Family Health Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Families participate in health-themed activities and exhibitions throughout the Museum</li><li>• Families learn about and access healthy-living resources from community partners.</li></ul>



# Passport to Health

- What Changed?
  - Funding
  - DMNS Strategic Directions
  - Educational Approach



# Passport to Health

- Sunsetting Plan
  - Communication – celebration, transition, future
  - Transition Year programming and support
  - Repurpose funding for new programs – *Body Systems in Motion*

OLD COMPONENT	NEW OFFERING
1 P2H-Specific Teacher Professional Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Health-related professional development classes, including those related to learning and the brain</li> <li>• Dates and topics will be shared at a later date</li> </ul>
2 Museum Passes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All participating students and teachers <b>will continue</b> to receive a pass they can redeem at the Museum for entry for their family</li> </ul>
3 Fitness Physiology At Your School	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• One of our award-winning <b>Virtual Academy</b> programs: <a href="#">Virtual Heart</a>, <a href="#">Virtual Lung</a>, <a href="#">Virtual You've Got Guts</a>, and <a href="#">Virtual New Me: Puberty</a></li> </ul>
4 ExerScience At the Museum	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• One of our <b>Field Trip Adventures</b> programs during a field trip to the Museum: <a href="#">Heart Lab</a> or <a href="#">Lung Lab</a></li> <li>• A self-guided visit through Expedition Health</li> <li>• District bus costs will still be covered 100%</li> </ul>
5 Family Fit Fest At Your School	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Family Fit Fest</b> will continue to be offered in conjunction with a school-wide family event (as requested)</li> </ul>
6 Family Health Day At The Museum	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Families will be invited to attend a health-themed <b>SCFD Community Free Day</b> at the Museum in winter/spring 2019</li> </ul>



# Passport to Health

- Reflections on Lessons Learned

- Commitment to Bilingual Spanish/English programming and staffing
- Changed our definition of “family”
- Changed our language and terminology
- Learning ecosystem approach

- Growth and Moving Forward

- *Body Systems in Motion* legacy
- Expanding role and importance of bilingual educators
- Community engagement approach

# Assessing the Vitality of Programs:

## Decision-making and Audience Considerations

Charlie Trautmann and Eric Godoy

Sept 23, 2019

# OUTLINE

1. 3 levels of program assessment
2. Creating decision-making guidelines
3. EXERCISE: Generating decision guidelines
4. Example of guidelines
5. Using the guidelines in practice

# **1 – Three Levels of Program Assessment**

## 2 – Creating Guidelines for Decision Making

1. Include the most important inputs, outputs, and impacts/outcomes
2. Keep the list manageable (10–15 total)

# 3 – SMALL GROUP EXERCISE

1. Think about a program that you might want to sunset
2. List 3 criteria that you think are important in making the decision
3. Discuss with your group
4. Make a group list of 8-10 decision guidelines



# 4 – Sample Decision Guidelines

*(see handout)*

# 5 – Using Decision Guidelines in Practice

1. Keep the right people in the loop
2. Communicate the decision
3. Evaluate at each step
4. Monitor risk regularly

# Assessing the Vitality of Programs:

## Decision-making and Audience Considerations

Charlie Trautmann and Eric Godoy

Sept 23, 2019

# Sunsetting Programs – Audience Considerations

1. Landscape of Audience and Partners
2. Assessing Impacts, Possible Strategies
3. EXERCISE: Develop a plan
4. Example of guidelines
5. Using the guidelines in practice

# Questions?





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