STEM education
Images of STEM from the internet – where is the natural world connection that Nicole and Jennifer outlined
STEM Education

Science: the ecology of tide pools
STEM Education

Technology: Gathering evidence
STEM Education

Bioengineering
STEM Education

Mathematics

[Image of STEM Education with a graph showing Apatosaurus Femur Length vs Age]
The Collectors’ Corner Neighborhood Trading Place is based on the successful model of the Collectors’ Corner, established at the Science Museum of Minnesota in 1999.
Collector’s Corner
Neighborhood Trading Place

Making personal connections with the natural world

Inspiring a Passion for the Natural World Trade by Trade
Collector’s Corner
Neighborhood Trading Place

Learning motivated by personal experience and interest

A Partnership between the Science Museum of Minnesota, Washington County Library and the Saint Paul Public Library
The Science Museum of Minnesota’s Collectors’ Corner reinforces and extends both children’s and adults’ natural curiosity about the world, and teaches lessons about the ethics of collecting, conservation, and environmental stewardship. Trading place participants explore natural science by bringing in things they find in nature.

*Edited from Congressional Testimony - 9/11/08*

*Eric Jolly, President, Science Museum of Minnesota*
Informal Science Learning
-National Science Foundation

“Informal learning happens throughout people's lives
Informal Science Learning

- based on their particular needs, interests, and past experiences
Informal Science Learning

- multi-faceted
- voluntary, self-directed, and often mediated within a social context
Informal Science Learning

• provides an experiential base and motivation for further activity and subsequent learning
Informal Science Learning

Partnerships between science-rich institutions and local communities show great promise for structuring inclusive science learning.
Synergy of Partnerships

A pilot program
R.H. Stafford Library – Washington County Library System
   Rice Street Branch Library – Saint Paul Public Libraries

Currently, both sites have a total of 1580 traders, and 4740 trades.

Libraries are perfect partners:
popular and accessible destinations for families (including under-served families), reference repositories with knowledgeable staff, interested in offering more programming related to science, technology, engineering and math.
Synergy of Partnerships

Libraries and Museums

Opportunities to balance informal and formal STEM education for kids.

Partnerships can provide the best of both for STEM education.
Rice Street Library, St. Paul

Space for all learners to engage with ideas, bringing their prior knowledge and experience to bear.

- Residential/commercial area
- Neighborhood library
- Nearby elementary school
- Community program hub
Learners **thrive in environments** that acknowledge their needs and experiences

- Facilitators, and mentors play a critical role in supporting science learning
Garlough Environmental Magnet School, West St. Paul

- Reflect a view of science as influenced by individual experience ... forms of participation in science that are also familiar to nonscientist learners—question asking, various modes of communication, drawing analogies, etc.

“fantastic way to motivate kids to write and research, plus the curators have gained so much setting it all up and managing it”

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8pTnpLtwWhY&feature=youtu.be
Indoor-Outdoor Nature Programming
Partnerships support STEM in NATURE

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