

The Users' Perspective



The HFES Potomac Chapter Newsletter

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President's Corner *by Michael Eidelkind*

"Welcome to Baltimore." That's what WE will be saying to HFES members from around the world in October. That's right, I said WE. As you've undoubtedly heard by now, we, the 84 current members of the Potomac Chapter, together with the George Mason University student chapter, will be playing host to the national society's annual meeting at the Baltimore Marriott Waterfront. This is an exciting time to be a member of our chapter. What is even more wonderful is that hosting the national meeting is not a first occurrence for our chapter – we're old pros at this. You may remember we jumped into the fray of planning and hosting in 2002 when the planned Pittsburgh location switched abruptly to Baltimore around 8 months before the meeting. That meeting was considered a rousing success by most people who attended and likely a major reason why HFES is back just five years later. We are looking forward to improving on that success this time around.

Back in January we asked for volunteers to help with the planning and I'm pleased to report that a number of you have responded. Technical tour planning has been accomplished by Lisa Follette, Dick Horst (technical tours lead from 2002 reprising his role!), and Tyson Rose. They have already lined up a number of fantastic tours that HFES members will certainly register for. The tour locations in many instances are the places where Potomac chapter members work – the Army Research Laboratory in Aberdeen, the US Consumer Product Safety Commission in Gaithersburg and the Maryland Advance Simulation, Training, Research and Innovation (MASTRI) Center in Baltimore to name a few. Zack Koutsandreas has stepped up to help with filling the exhibitor space. Derek Schultz has assisted with identifying the keynote speaker. Other members will be more active this summer and fall as the meeting gets closer.

Hopefully you've already seen the June Bulletin – our chapter is front and center!

In other news, our chapter has been very active in 2006-2007. Derek Schultz has overseen a fantastic program of monthly meetings and symposia. In December Dr. Ben Bederson of University of Maryland talked to us about the International Children's Digital Library (ICDL), a freely available online library of children's books from around the world. In January nearly 40 people turned out for Dr. Deborah Mayhew's talk on Cost-Justifying Usability in the Product Development Lifecycle. And in February Dr. Sharon Laskowski presented "Developing Standards for the Usability and Accessibility of Voting Systems." All three events took place at Positano in Bethesda, a fine Italian restaurant that has been

graciously hosting our monthly meetings for the past year. For anyone who has not attended these, the restaurant provides us a private room with an oversized table so everyone can sit and face each other. The treatment by the wait staff is outstanding, the quality of which one would expect from a gathering of many more than our group. I would greatly encourage our Virginia membership to fight the traffic and join us at these events. It has been well worth it (and I get there from Chantilly).

In March we once again co-hosted with APA Divisions 19 and 21 the Annual Joint Symposium on Engineering Psychology. The two-day symposium at George Mason University, featured in the April HFES Bulletin thanks to Jerry Krueger, hosted 120 attendees and participants and for the first time required simultaneous sessions to fit everything in. The evening dinner (officially our March monthly meeting) included a talk by Sharla Rausch, Director of the newly formed Human Factors Division of the Science and Technology Directorate at the US Department of Homeland Security. In May we co-sponsored "Living Rooms: Human Factors and the Industrial Design Contributions to the Home as a Health Care Venue." This two-day event, which we co-sponsored with the national society and the Industrial Designers Society of America, took place downtown in Washington.

Finally, I want to point everyone in the direction of our Membership Directory. This file, available in PDF format on our Website, was just updated in May. It contains not only biographical information of our members, but also a summary of where we work, our By-Laws and a history of our officers. In this the 50th anniversary year of HFES, our Potomac Chapter is celebrating its 40th Anniversary. Take a look at the lists of past officers. You may be surprised to learn who ran our chapter in the 1960s and 70s. Perhaps it will inspire you to take an active role in our chapter now so you can see your name on the same list with some of the "dignitaries." Many of our positions require limited time commitment. Give me a call or drop me an email and I'd be happy to find a position that fits your life.

Book Review by Chang Soo Nam

Usability and Internationalization of Information Technology
Edited By Nuray Aykin
2005, 392 pages, \$39.95
Lawrence Erlbaum Associates, Mahwah: NJ
ISBN: 0-8058-4479-1

Usability and Internationalization of Information Technology focuses primarily upon internationalization and localization of information technology from the design perspective. It is intended to introduce readers to cultural issues, providing practical examples and guidelines for designing usable, useful information technology products across cultural boundaries. Of the 11 chapters from notable authors, two chapters focus on guidelines and practices for internationalization and localization. Another six chapters explain cultural considerations and guidelines in the design of information technology, as well as usability evaluation methodology and cost-benefit analysis for cross-cultural design. In particular, Emilie Gould's chapter is an excellent summary of intercultural communication theories which can be applied to design interfaces for culturally diverse audiences. Three chapters cover case studies on international user interface design.

The book is clearly written and well organized, with most chapters containing practical design and cultural issues that should be considered to make information technology products communicated across boundaries of culture and languages, as well as more general information about globalization management, planning for international user studies, and cost justification for cross-cultural user interface design. It should prove to be a useful resource for students interested in internationalization in the user

interface design and for practicing designers who want to stay abreast of current approaches to the design and evaluation of cross-cultural interface design. Those who are seriously looking for either a theoretical foundation on the design aspects of internationalization and localization or practical techniques and tools may find the scope of this book limited.

This book provides an excellent overview of the cross-cultural design of information technology products and its usability. I highly recommend it to human factors/ergonomics practitioners and students.

BIOGRAPHY:

Dr. Chang S. Nam is an assistant professor in the Department of Industrial Engineering at the University of Arkansas. He received his Ph.D. in industrial and systems engineering in 2003 at Virginia Tech. He is the founder and director of the Human-Computer Interaction Lab. His research focuses on haptic virtual environments, cognitive ergonomics, adaptive and intelligent human-computer interaction, and usability engineering.

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UPA-DC Metro Chapter - Second Annual Conference - Call for Participation

User Focus, the second annual UPA-DC Metro Chapter conference on usability and user experience, is being planned for Friday, October 12, 2007 in Washington, DC. The conference will have two tracks spanning the entire day and will include topics for people new to usability as well as for experienced usability practitioners.

We invite you to share your ideas and experiences with fellow practitioners by submitting proposals for conference sessions. If you are thinking about doing a UPA, STC, IA Summit, or CHI presentation in 2008, this is a good chance to practice and get some feedback on your presentation. Students are also encouraged to present on practical subjects of interest to the professional community, since this is a good way for building up resumes and practicing your presentation skills.

For more information, see <http://userfocus.org>

Next Potomac Chapter HFES Meeting - 9/11/07 by Derek Schultz

The next Potomac Chapter meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 11, 2007. The meeting will feature Dr. Janice (Ginny) Redish (Redish & Associates) who will be talking about and signing copies of her new book, *Letting Go of the Words* (just published mid-June) at Positano in Bethesda, MD .

More details will follow closer to the event.

For additional information, contact:

Derek Schultz
301-656-1897
mediadesign@att.net

For more recent job postings, visit the HFES POC Job Openings at <http://users.erols.com/hfes poc/jobopen.htm>

To advertise your position on this HFES POC site and in the HFES POC newsletter, contact:
Jack Laveson
Phone: (703) 642-3677
j.i.laveson@ieee.org

The Department of Homeland Security is looking for two social scientists for the Science and Technology Directorate, Human Factors Division.

The job closing dates are June 29th and July 5th.

The job descriptions are in Word format at <http://users.erols.com/hfes poc/dhs-jobs.doc>

Scientific & Technical Advisor for Human Factors Federal Aviation Administration Washington, DC

The Federal Aviation Administration Human Factors Research and Engineering Group provides scientific and technical support for the civil aviation human factors research program and for human factors applications in acquisition, certification, regulation, and standards. It develops and assures implementation of human factors policies, regulations, programs, and procedures which promote the safety and productivity of the national airspace system. It also formulates and manages the aviation human factors research program and provides human factors support to acquisition and regulatory activities.

We anticipate at least two openings!

Help the FAA develop the next generation air transportation system (NextGen) by identifying challenges, understanding barriers, and developing solutions across the parameters of capacity, safety, environment, controller efficiency, and pilot workload. Apply with us to manage human factors programs and projects within a portfolio of research and engineering for **Research Program Leader** for *air traffic control systems* or *flight deck and aviation maintenance*.

You will plan, design, and develop human factors research programs and projects. Work with operational sponsors to develop and manage project requirements. Coordinate with human factors scientists to provide technical products that satisfy the operational requirements. Identify and assess existing or potential issues, risks, and solutions involving human factors in civil aviation operations; plan multidisciplinary research or engineering projects to achieve the programs' strategic objectives. Plan, defend, and manage budgets in support of research and engineering projects.

For more information and application instructions, send an email according to your interest to...

Air Traffic Control Systems -- Dino.Piccione@FAA.gov

Flight Deck and Aviation Maintenance -- Tom.McCloy@FAA.gov

Posted - June 9, 2007

Aviation Human Factors Specialist Washington, DC

TEKsystems has partnered with a leading Government Integrator in the Washington DC area to help identify a Performance Management Analyst/Human Factors Specialist for a full-time career.

Roles and Responsibilities:

- Provide analytical and technical support to FAA systems (current and new) being proposed for use in NextGen.
- Conduct information gathering efforts through interviews, attending meetings, organizing workshops and performing analyses.
- Work with all NextGen stakeholders to determine human factors research requirements for current and planned Operational Evolution Partnership and NextGen support activities including system requirements, aviation R&D planning and project required resource allocation.
- Developing a strategic plan which portrays the most effective mid and long term resource allocation that best supports OEP and NextGen activities.

Required Skills:

- Understanding of aviation human factors challenges and issues.
- Strong communication and writing skills.
- Ability to survey and integrate large amounts of data.
- Understanding of flight deck and/or air traffic control human factors issues.

Pluses:

- Strategic planning experience
- Developing research plans
- FAA or NASA

If you are interested, please contact:

Bryan Scherich, Technical Recruiter
TEKsystems
12353 Sunrise Valley Dr, Suite B
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Posted - June 1, 2007

Social Tour Recommendations for HFES 51st Annual Meeting *by Tyson Rose*

The HFES Potomac Chapter put together a tour team, led by Lisa Follette, Dick Horst, and Tyson Rose, to identify a list of recommended social tours in Baltimore. The tour team reached out to chapter members for suggestions, reviewed the suggestions, and compiled the results in the following table. This final list was sent to HFES national and served as input for their consideration when choosing social tours that will be available in October during the HFES annual meeting.

Social tour name, location and description	Web site reference	Lead information
1 Baltimore Museum of Art - 10 Art Museum Drive, Baltimore, MD 21218-3898	www.artbma.org	443-573-1821
<p><u>Description</u> The Baltimore Museum of Art is home to an internationally renowned collection of 19th-century, modern, and contemporary art. Founded in 1914 with a single painting, the BMA today has 90,000 works of art—including the largest holding of works by Henri Matisse in the world. Throughout the Museum, visitors will find an outstanding selection of European and American fine and decorative arts, 15th- through 19th-century prints and drawings, contemporary art by established and emerging contemporary artists, and objects from Africa, Asia, the Ancient Americas, and Pacific Islands. Two beautifully landscaped gardens display an array of 20th-century sculpture that is an oasis in the city.</p> <p><u>Group tours</u> Bring your group to enjoy the BMA together. The BMA offers groups of 12 or more guided tours or self-guided visits of the collection and special ticketed exhibitions. To make reservations for your group to tour part of the BMA collection, call 443-573-1821.</p> <p><u>Guided tours</u> Docent-led tours last approximately one hour and can be tailored to the needs of each group. Foreign language tours may be available upon request. Docent-led tours are free for BMA Members; and \$7 per person for non-Members. Advance reservations are required eight weeks prior to visit. A full, non-refundable payment must be received the day of the visit. To make reservations, call 443-573-1821.</p> <p><u>Dining options</u> <i>Gertrude's</i> restaurant at the BMA offers on-site dining for groups by reservation. To make a reservation call 410-889-3399, ext 105, or visit www.gertrudesbaltimore.com and www.johnshields.com/restaurant/rest/gertrudes.html</p>		
2 Baltimore Museum of Industry – 1415 Key Highway Inner Harbor Baltimore MD 21230	www.thebmi.org/	call 410-727-4808 Ext. 119 events@thebmi.org
<p><u>Description</u> From food canning to broadcasting, visitors can interact with the technologies which forged the Industrial Revolution and brought us to the 21st century. Step into vividly-recreated workshops on machining, printing, garment-making and metalworking. Walk through an 1886 bank building... Step into the 1910 Bunting Pharmacy, where Noxema was invented... Learn about the country's first gas company, plus Baltimore's contributions to the glass making industry. Walk along our Maryland Milestone Wall and experience local innovations which touched the world... from the world's first disposable bottle cap to America's first umbrella company... from the invention of the world's first typesetting machine to the invention of modern radar, and much, much more... Learn Baltimore's role as one of the busiest and most important ports in America. See a replica of an early dock and dockmaster's shed. Walk through the original 1865 Platt Oyster Cannery structure, the only surviving cannery building. Look outside and see the coal-fired S.S. Baltimore, the only operating steam tugboat on the East Coast -- a National Historic Landmark lovingly restored and maintained by our team of volunteers. See the 1937 Mini-Mariner, the flying prototype of the WWII flying boat bomber, restored by some of the same Baltimore-area workers who built it. See artifacts from other sectors of transportation, such as a 1922 steam roller and a 1914 moving van.</p> <p><u>Tour information</u> Thank you for considering the Baltimore Museum of Industry as a possible site for your special event, meeting or celebration. Our waterfront campus offers a breath-taking view of the Inner Harbor and a free, on-site parking lot. We hope you find the attached information about our one-of-a-kind venue helpful. To check available dates or set up an appointment for a site visit, please call 410-727-4808 Ext. 119, or email us at events@thebmi.org.</p> <p><u>Dining options</u> Our <i>Decker Gallery</i> offers a unique and historic backdrop for corporate events, cocktail receptions, banquets, fundraisers, reunions, weddings, Bar and Bat Mitzvah celebrations, reunions and anniversary parties. It accommodates 300 guests for a seated, served event, 250 seated with space for a dance floor and food stations and 500 or more for cocktail reception-style service. A floor to ceiling wall of windows, and an outdoor waterfront promenade afford a spectacular view of Baltimore's Historic Inner Harbor. The Decker Gallery is available daily from 6:00 pm to Midnight.</p>		

Social tour name, location and description	Web site reference	Lead information
<p>An unforgettable waterfront setting with a spectacular view, our open-air <i>Pavilion</i> accommodates 300 guests seated and many more for cocktail reception-style service. See-through walls can be dropped during inclement weather. It is perfect for any event; from a casual Crab Feast, Bull and Oyster Roast or family picnic to the most formal wedding ceremony and reception. The Pavilion is available daily from 7:00am to Midnight. (Summer Hours Vary) We are happy to open our galleries for your guests including the Machine Shop, Oyster Cannery, Garment Loft and Print Shop, where food and beverage is prohibited and the new Transportation Gallery, where food and beverage service is permitted, all for an additional charge.</p>		
<p>3 Clipper City - 803 Light Street Baltimore, MD 21230</p>	<p>www.clippercitiy.com</p>	<p>(410) 837.6700 info@clippercitiy.com</p>
<p><u>Description</u> Clipper City was designed to entertain visitors, corporations and local patrons in a manner that can't be duplicated anywhere in the world. The ship and the business were built to offer a unique experience in Baltimore's Inner Harbor, the Chesapeake Bay and beyond. Clipper City sails daily from the Inner Harbor April through October. She charts from other Maryland ports including Annapolis, St. Michaels and Havre de Grace several times each year. Our daily sails originate from Harbor Place, between the Maryland Science Center and the Baltimore Visitor Center. Most afternoon trips are two hours. Corporate and private sails are generally three or four hours. While the crew manually sets the sails, we pass The National Aquarium, the three-masted Constellation, Christopher Columbus Center, Fells Point, Fort McHenry and many other attractions. Once past Fort McHenry, the water opens up about a mile on either side. If winds are favorable we venture beyond the Francis Scott Key Bridge and around Fort Carroll. The Captain doesn't plan a specific spot as a destination, but uses the wind and tide conditions to set the course for the day.</p> <p><u>Dinning options</u> Catering - Food and beverage are an important part of entertaining aboard Clipper City. A complete beverage bar is on deck amidships, and you can order any drink you would find in a fine restaurant or pub. Frozen drinks are a ship specialty.</p>		
<p>4 Fort McHenry National Monument and Historic Shrine - 2400 East Fort Avenue, Baltimore, MD 21230-5393</p>	<p>www.nps.gov/fomc</p>	<p>Visitor Info (410) 962-4290 Group Arrangements (410) 962-4290 ext. 243</p>
<p><u>Description</u> Visitors to Fort McHenry National Monument and Historic Shrine should begin at the Visitor Center. A short orientation film, The Defense of Fort McHenry, is shown three times per hour: on the hour; twenty minutes after the hour; and twenty minutes till the hour throughout the day. Restrooms, exhibits and a gift shop are also located in the building. Plan to spend about one hour touring the fort - all self-guided. An entire visit usually requires two hours. Both the Visitor Center and the fort are accessible to wheelchairs. The Accessibility link offers more details.</p>		
<p>5 The National Aquarium - 501 East Pratt Street, Baltimore, MD 21202, the anchor to Baltimore's Inner Harbor</p>	<p>http://www.aqua.org/</p>	<p>Reservations/Group Sales: reserve@aqua.org General Aquarium questions - 410-576-3800</p>
<p><u>Description</u> The award-winning facility was designed by Peter Chermayeff of Cambridge Seven Associates in Boston, Massachusetts. It measures 115,000 square feet and holds more than one million gallons of water. The Aquarium uses sophisticated theme exhibits, state-of-the-art technology, and exciting architecture to re-create underwater environments for its visitors. More than 10,500 specimens and 560 species are in the collection. Discounted rates for reserved groups of 15 or more are available. The Aquarium offers convenient services for special needs visitors. A drop-off circle is located in front of the Aquarium on Pratt Street, and an accessible entrance is located just beyond the main entrance. Blind or deaf visitors may use audio tours and scripts of public presentations. Additional resources are available, and with advance notice, we make special arrangements to accommodate our visitors' needs.</p> <p><u>Dining at the Aquarium</u> There are several convenient dining facilities located throughout the Aquarium. These locations serve a variety of food and beverage options. Box lunches provide a speedy, low-cost option for large groups while visiting the Aquarium.</p>		

Social tour name, location and description	Web site reference	Lead information
6 U.S. Naval Academy & City Dock – Visitor Center is located at 52 King George St., Annapolis, MD 21402	www.navyonline.com	Phone: 410-263-6933
<p><u>Description</u> The Visitor Center features the film "To Lead and To Serve," guided walking tours of the Naval Academy, a sample midshipman room, Freedom 7 space capsule, an original Dahlgren boat howitzer, the original wooden figurehead of the USS Delaware (used for the casting the statue of Tecumseh), an exhibit on the life and times of John Paul Jones, Revolutionary War naval hero. Historical Tour - Life at the U.S. Naval Academy past and present. Tour includes Lejeune Hall, Dahlgren Hall, Bancroft Hall, Tecumseh Court, Herndon Monument, Chapel and Crypt of John Paul Jones. Photo ID required; parking for vehicles with DoD stickers and handicapped tags only. Summer: Parking at Navy-Marine Corps Stadium, Rowe Boulevard, recommended. Round trip shuttle service available to downtown for \$.75. Rest of Year: Parking garage on Main Street or street parking outside Gate 1 and at City Dock (two hour limit). http://www.usna.edu/SecuInfoPers/FAQS.htm</p>		
7 Baltimore & Ohio Railroad Museum - 901 West Pratt Street in Baltimore, MD, 10 minutes from Inner Harbor	http://www.borail.org	Phone: 410-752-2490
<p><u>Description</u> Comprised of the oldest and most comprehensive collection of railroad history in the Western Hemisphere, the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad Museum, Inc. is a unique cultural and educational asset for the city and the region. An unparalleled roster of the 19th and 20th century railroad equipment, original shop buildings, and surviving tracks at the historic Mt. Clare site provide an integrated resource to present virtually every aspect of American railroad development and its impact on our society, culture and economy. Located among Baltimore City's historic southwest neighborhoods, at the original site of the historic Mt. Clare Shops, the B&O Railroad Museum is recognized universally as the birthplace of American railroading. The Museum campus offers several one-of-a-kind venues for your private gatherings and our professional event planning staff is ready to assist you in every detail from start to finish.</p>		
8 Top of the World – World Trade Center - 401 E Pratt Street, 27th floor, Baltimore, MD 21202	http://www.viewbaltimore.org/toptheworld/topoftheworld.aspx	Phone: 410-837-VIEW (8439)
<p><u>Description</u> Top of the World is the perfect starting point for any visit to the city and provides a breathtaking view of Baltimore's skyline, harbor and beyond. This city attraction featuring a spectacular 360-degree panoramic view of Baltimore has stationed binoculars and photo-map guides to help guests learn about local attractions, hotels, sites and neighborhoods. In addition, it is a fully handicapped accessible attraction. Located on the 27th floor of the World Trade Center, the world's tallest pentagonal building is home to the only Baltimore attraction to offer an awe-inspiring view of Maryland's urban center. Top of the World has expansive windows that frame the Inner Harbor, the surrounding city and beyond to the Chesapeake Bay. <u>Group Tours</u> We welcome all groups, including school tours, senior outings and family reunions of 10 or more, seven days a week, 362 days a year. On Mondays and Tuesdays through Memorial Day, Top of the World is open by appointment only for groups of 25 or more. Call for more information, group rates or to schedule your private tour at the TOP! Harbor Park Garage is Top of the World's preferred parking facility. The garage is located at the corner of Lombard and Market streets at 55 Market Place, Baltimore, Maryland 21202.</p>		

	Social tour name, location and description	Web site reference	Lead information
9	Edgar Allan Poe House and Museum - 203 North Amity Street Baltimore, Maryland 21223	http://www.ci.baltimore.md.us/government/historic/poehouse.html	Phone Number: 410-396-7932
	<p><u>Description</u> The house was built around 1830 in what was then considered the country. The new Baltimore and Ohio train station had opened a few short blocks south of the Poe House in 1830. It now houses the B & O Train Museum. In the 1930's the buildings in the area were razed for the construction of the Poe Homes, a public housing project. The house was scheduled for demolition but public vigilance and interest forced the Housing Authority to spare the site. The Edgar Allan Poe Society was given control of the house and it opened as The Edgar Allan Poe House in 1949. An exhaustive search of city registers, deeds and maps proved that Poe in fact did live in this house. In 1979, the society approached the City of Baltimore to request that the City restore the property. It took \$90,000 of City and State funds to repair the deteriorated house. The Commission for Historic and Architectural Preservation (CHAP) a City agency, now maintains the site as a historic house museum, and sponsors tours and activities throughout the whole year. Poe's gravesite is nearby (Westminster Graveyard in downtown Baltimore).</p>		
10	"Royal Blue" Yacht Charters - Inner Harbor East Marina, 801 Lancaster St., Baltimore MD 21202	http://www.baltimorecharters.com/	410-837-9100
	<p><u>Description</u> Baltimore Yacht Charters, LLC., is the exclusive agent of the yacht..."Royal Blue". The 75' yacht with her spacious decks, two bars and large galley, is approved for 149 passengers. She is tastefully decorated and fully equipped for luxurious entertaining and dining. Her uniformed, experienced crew will make your event a truly memorable occasion. Beautiful views of the bay. New Marriott Waterfront Hotel adjacent to our marina. General Information: baltimorecharters@comcast.net</p>		
11	Maryland Science Center - Inner Harbor 601 Light Street, Baltimore, MD 21230	http://www.mdsci.org/	24 Hour Information Line: 410-685-5225 Talk to a Science Center Operator: 410-685-2370
	<p><u>Description</u> Serving more than half a million visitors per year, the Maryland Science Center is one of Baltimore's Inner Harbor main attractions. Entertaining and educational to the young and old alike, it is undoubtedly one of the city's most exciting places to visit. With hands-on exhibits and spectacular displays in the wonderful world of science and technology, the Maryland Science Center is a great way to gain hands on experience and first-hand knowledge. One of the oldest scientific institutions in the United States, the Maryland Science Center was originally a meeting place for an amateur scientific society where members would discuss papers on a variety of natural science topics. Today, the Science Center, commonly referred to as the Science Museum, is a reputable learning center for all ages. At the Baltimore Maryland Science Center you'll find three floors of demonstrations to exercise your imagination and challenge your mind. See exciting combustible reactions, eye-boggling optical illusions and find out about lasers. Hands-on exhibits include a voyage through the human body and learning about how microbes work for us.</p> <p><u>IMAX Theater</u> The Science Center has become such a spectacular experience that it's hard to believe it has been around since 1976. With a larger than life, five-story 3D IMAX Movie Theater, complete with surround sound and stadium seating, the objects seem to leap off the screen, looking real enough to touch and making you feel like you're IN the movie! Just put on your 3D glasses and prepare for an incredible adventure to fantastic places like the Amazon, the Nile or Mount Everest. The IMAX Theater offers a variety of changing shows and features.</p> <p><u>Planetarium</u> Maryland Science Center's Davis Planetarium features programs to explore the sky and discover space exploration at its finest. Travel the seasonal night sky to examine the sun and stars from a safe distance or board an imaginary spacecraft to find yourself dodging asteroids and exploring different worlds. Travel to distant galaxies while relaxing in total comfort.</p>		

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