



## Generous Grant From First 5 Sacramento Will Allow Powerhouse Science Center To Devote Entire Area to Young Children

*First 5 Sacramento Provides \$250,000 That Will be Used to Build First Discovery Room to Support School Readiness Program*

SACRAMENTO, CA. – The Powerhouse Science Center in Sacramento today announced it has accepted a \$250,000 grant from First 5 Sacramento. The grant will help build a room that will support a school readiness program by featuring age and development-appropriate learning activities.

Located on the scenic banks of the Sacramento River, the Powerhouse Science Center will be the premier science and space learning center serving Northern California. It will serve as a model for 21st-century experiential education in science, math, technology, engineering, and space – and an exemplary “green” building that functions as an environmental teaching lab.

The Center, which will cost an estimated \$50 million, has nearly completed its pre-construction phase. The project is scheduled to be completed in 2013.

The grant will fund the First Discovery Room, a 625 square-foot, semi-enclosed space located within the main Powerhouse building – the historic PG&E power station. The room will serve as an affordable, accessible, and culturally-sensitive space dedicated for children zero through five years of age, their families, and caregivers to experience an array of school readiness, parenting, and community building activities.

“The Powerhouse Science Center is an innovative educational center that will cater to many different age groups,” said **Michele Wong**, Interim Executive Director for the Powerhouse Science Center. “First 5 Sacramento focuses on the early growth experiences for children, so this generous grant means we will definitely have an area that can help provide the zero through five age children and their families with many wonderful experiences that will enable the children to be more successful in school and ultimately have a better opportunity to succeed in life.”

The First Discovery Room will provide a wide variety of school readiness and community building programming, including:

- Community Meeting Area that will help build community by providing a safe, comfortable place where families can interact with their children in an

instructional manner while socializing with other parents, children, and community members.

- Stage, with Movable Puppet Theatre and Hidden Storage Area.
- Play Diner featuring healthy food choices and pretend play, and school readiness activities.
- Reading Cabin featuring a cozy space where youth and caregivers can interact and read.
- Take-Away Kiosk, with free, helpful publications.
- Tot Crawling Area where the youngest children can interact with age and developmentally appropriate manipulatives while learning to socialize with each other.

“We are very excited about partnering with the Powerhouse Science Center and what this will mean for the many families that we represent,” said **Roger Dickinson, Chair to the First 5 Sacramento Commission**. “First 5 Sacramento partners with high quality learning programs that are committed to providing children with the necessary tools to make them successful life-long learners. One of our primary goals is preparing children to enter kindergarten ‘ready to learn.’ The Powerhouse Science Center will be a great asset in helping First 5 Sacramento achieve that objective.”

Situated in the River District off Jibboom Street, the historic PG&E Power Station B was the first-choice location for the Powerhouse Science Center because the historic building’s position on the riverfront is highly visible, creating greater awareness for the imaginative science facility.

A premiere Northern California science and space learning facility, the Center project is a unique public, non-profit educational institution that involves a partnership between the Powerhouse Science Center, PG&E, The City of Sacramento, and 28 other Founding Partners who have declared a commitment to the project.

In restoring and reusing this property that is now owned by The City of Sacramento, the Center will serve as a model for 21st-century experiential education in science, math, technology, engineering, and space, and be utilized as a field trip destination for pre-kindergarten to 12<sup>th</sup> grade students from throughout the region.

The Powerhouse Science Center will include:

- Generous exhibit space for current and traveling exhibits
- Science laboratories and classrooms
- 150-seat full-dome planetarium
- New Challenger Learning Center
- Robotics exhibit and lab
- Environmental exhibits
- Outdoor stage and screen
- Cafe with outdoor seating
- Restaurant with riverfront views
- Spacious entry, reception, event and meeting areas
- Bookstore and gift shop

- Auto and bus parking areas

For more information on the Powerhouse Science Center, visit [www.powerhousesciencecenter.org](http://www.powerhousesciencecenter.org), email [info@PowerhouseScienceCenter.org](mailto:info@PowerhouseScienceCenter.org), or call 916 853-0343. Visit us on Twitter, Facebook and Flickr.

### **ABOUT FIRST 5 SACRAMENTO**

Research shows that a child's brain develops most dramatically in the first five years and what parents and caregivers do during these years to support their child's growth will have a meaningful impact throughout life. Based on this research, California voters passed Proposition 10 in 1998, adding a 50 cents-per-pack tax on tobacco products to support programs for expectant parents and children ages zero to five. In the last year, First 5 Sacramento distributed approximately \$16 million a year in Prop 10 revenues to programs and services that meet local needs. Each county has a First 5 Children and Families Commission providing unique local services for that county. Surrounding First 5's include: First 5 Yolo: 530-669-2475; First 5 Placer: 530-745-1304; and First 5 El Dorado: 530-672-8298.