



IT'LL GROW YOUR MIND.



Meet the CEO

Q&A with Jen Stancil

Q: How did you start in the museum field?

A: As I was visiting friends on the East Coast and contemplating whether to pursue a Ph.D., my travel found me at museums in every city we visited. The light bulb went on and I knew I MUST work at one! I went on to work at McWane Science Center and Exploris (which is now Marbles Children's Museum), in both cases preparing those museums to open their doors to the public. Then, at the Carnegie Science Center, I directed a pilot program from Carnegie Mellon University, into an international educational touchstone for girls and science.

Q: Your background is as a scientist – biology and animal behavior. How does that apply to a museum?

A: The pivot point in the story above is a talented woman named Judy Diamond, who connected not just the professional dots for me, but also the personal ones that afforded me my first opportunities. As an animal behaviorist herself, Judy studied visitor behaviors – things like the amount of time spent engaged in an exhibit – for the Smithsonian and the Exploratorium, and correlating them to how kids and families learn. I began to do the same and develop the educational suites of programs – summer camps, overnights, events – for these museums.

Q: You recently won an Emmy®! Congratulations!

A: Thanks! What an honor! I most recently worked for the PBS Affiliate, WQED, in Pittsburgh and during that time I had an idea for a TV show about the intersection of today's prolific new media and parenting. We lovingly refer to it as the digital Wild West. So, I made a half hour talk show with nationally prominent experts talking about everything parents needed to know about – screen time, cyberbullying, and new educational movements like digital badging. The three seasons of the show filmed in the Fred Rogers Studio, where the Land of Make Believe came to households for decades and changed how we grew up. That, in itself is an amazing honor and responsibility. To win an Emmy is a big cherry on top.

Q: Tell us a little about your family.

A: My husband, John, currently works for the Carnegie Libraries of Pittsburgh and is an amazing partner who believes as strongly as I do about working in the community to inspire everyone to learn. He is



excited to move back to the South, where he grew up. My daughter, Avery Grace, is in 3rd grade and is the most creative person I know. Her talents include engineering Rube Goldberg machines and inventing games – both digital games and ones we just play around the house. I can't wait for us all to be in Tampa together soon!

Q: What's your favorite part of the museum?

A: The kids and their giggles, surprises, their energy and those moments when they teach something to someone else or have a revelation themselves. I love how relationships show themselves in playful corridors throughout the building. It means learning is here, its happening now.

Q: What are your hopes for the future?

A: My hopes for Glazer Children's Museum is that it becomes a prominent thought-leader in the early childhood sector, both locally and nationally. When we do this while simultaneously delivering amazing daily adventures at the museum that help **every** child in our region reach their full potential, we'll know we've had a good day at the office.