



**San Antonio \**  
Making San Antonio

LEARN MORE

San Antonio Express-News  
**Only \$1 per Week / All Digital Access**  
Save Today  
ExpressNews.com | eEdition | iPad app

# Kids can explore science possibilities in DoSeum exhibit

By Silvia Foster-Frau | October 9, 2017



Photo: Billy Calzada /San Antonio Express-News

---

IMAGE 1 OF 5

Gabrielle and Garrett Rivera attempt to make the robotic head at left mimic their facial expressions at the Science Fiction, Science Future exhibit at the DoSeum on Saturday, Oct. 7, 2017. The exhibit includes ... [more](#)

---

The “Back to the Future” movies had a lot of hits and misses when it came to predictions of the future — sure, the Chicago Cubs did eventually win the World Series, but we still don’t fly DeLorean cars through time.



But at the DoSeum’s new exhibit, the point is not to be right — the point is to imagine the possibilities.

“This exhibit will make you question what is fact, what is fiction and what is possible,’ said Sandra Garcia, the vice-president of marketing at the children’s museum, as the traveling exhibit opened there last week.

Called “Science Fiction, Science Future,” it is 6,500 square feet of futuristic interactives. Kids can control balls with their minds, control computers with their eyes and create a “perfect cyborg,” among other things, at 16 different stations.

Created by the nonprofit Scitech in Perth, Australia and later produced by Imagine Exhibitions Inc. in Atlanta, the exhibit will run until Jan. 6.

“We need to create the next generation of people who go out there and do cool things,” said Pranav Bhounsule, a University of Texas at San Antonio professor of mechanical engineering. “Right now there’s so many jobs in STEM in the U.S., but there aren’t enough people with the qualifications to take those positions.”

Employment in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math, or STEM, is projected to grow almost 9 percent from 2014 to 2024, compared to 6.4 percent growth in non-STEM jobs, according to the U.S. Department of Commerce.

Bhounsule said these exhibits are important because they can spark a child’s interest in

---

science and lead them to pursue a career in it. He and a group of students programmed a robot to say “welcome to the DoSeum” in English and Spanish to advertise the exhibit.



Jake Foster, 13, was ambling around the DoSeum on Friday and was tickled to find a new exhibit. His siblings are home-schooled and this was their week off.

“I like all the different things you can do. It’s not just sitting and reading — you can interact with different things along with learning about stuff,” he said.

He particularly enjoyed the activity where participants sit in front of a computer, a laser tracking their eye movements so they can navigate the screen without a mouse.

“I’m really excited about this because it gives my kids a glimpse into possibilities that we don’t normally run into on a regular basis,” said Wendy Foster, Jake’s mother.

Her kids also played at the mind control station, where receptors in headbands tracked their neural activity. Participants who manage to be more relaxed can move a ball further away from themselves and toward partner on the opposite side.

One station asks kids to draw examples of what they think the future will look like. Only one drawing had been submitted early Friday, when the exhibit had just opened: a robot dad on wheels had replaced a frowning “old dad,” as the sitting figure was labeled. With laser eyes, the robot produced the homework of a child (labeled “me,” with no name) out of thin air.

Emily Foster, 11, said she imagined “a bunch of robots running around” in the future.

“People say drones will do a lot of stuff we do — maybe pizza deliveries,” Jake Foster said contemplatively.

Another station scans kids’ wristbands, which are printed with glyphs, or black and white symbols that link to animation on the screens. Afterwards, it tells them what futuristic job they could have.



**RELIVE**  
**THE SPURS'**  
**MOST**  
**MEMORABLE**  
**MOMENTS**

Now available  
**\$29.95**  
for the DVD only

**SN**  
SPECIAL MATCH  
REEL

San Antonio Express-News  
ExpressNews.com | mySA.com

at to [mySA.com/shop](http://mySA.com/shop) [CLICK HERE](#)

“I always tell them that the job they may have when they’re older may not be in existence right now. I hope it will open their eyes to the possibilities,” Wendy Foster said. “But the important thing is to know how to learn and think and then you can do anything.”

[sfosterfrau@express-news.net](mailto:sfosterfrau@express-news.net)



**Silvia Foster-Frau**

Education Reporter for  
the San Antonio Express-

News