

AT RANDOM
GRANTS AND GIVING

City's science-education experiment gets repeat

By Charles Storch
Tribune staff reporter

The Chicago Way is getting a lesson in the scientific method.

Efforts are under way to increase the awareness and appreciation of science among local children and adults. First comes Chicago Science in the City, a two-week series of programs in public schools, universities, libraries, laboratories, parks, museums and other settings that kicks off at Daley Plaza on Tuesday.

This event, which debuted last year, is being sponsored by the city and a group of corporate and private funders led for the second year by the **Motorola Foundation** in Schaumburg. The sponsors have arranged for science carnivals, museum exhibits, demonstrations, lectures, films and workshops throughout the city and at **Fermilab** in Batavia and **Argonne National Laboratory** near Lemont.

But an even more ambitious "Year of Science," possibly running from 2008 into 2009, is on the drawing board at the **Museum of Science and Industry**.

The museum has received two planning grants totaling \$400,000 from the **John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation** (which also is a sponsor of Chicago Science in the City), and the museum has been seeking to hire staff for the project, according to a museum spokeswoman. She stressed that the project is in the early stages and offered few details, including whether other institutions might participate.

In a job posting for a Year of Science director, the museum said the project is intended "to celebrate and promote awareness of Chicago's heritage and assets in science and technology while finding opportunities to educate local citizens (adults and students) on how science and technology affect our everyday life." It also should build interest in "careers in science and policies impacting science."

New player: Livingstone Partners LLC, a boutique investment banking firm with offices in Chicago and abroad, has formed the **Livingstone Foundation**. Managing partner **David Su-**

laski said the philanthropy would be funded from the firm's profits. Areas of interest are the arts and medicine.

Grants: Polk Bros. Foundation recently awarded \$10.8 million in grants to Chicago groups. Among the larger awards were \$1 million over four years to **Chicago Youth Centers** to upgrade nine centers in Chicago and for naming rights to its **ABC Center** in the North Lawndale neighborhood; \$1 million over four years to **Black Ensemble Theater** toward the construction of a theater and cultural center in the Uptown neighborhood; \$750,000 over four years to the **Erikson Institute** toward its new home at 111 W. Illinois St.; and \$750,000 over four years to the **Jewish Council for Youth Services** for a new family center in the Lakeview community.

Wal-Mart Foundation gave \$4 million to **America's Second Harvest's Backpack** program, under which the

Chicago-based food-bank network provisions needy schoolchildren on weekends and other times when federal breakfast and lunch programs are not available.

Chicago Communities in Schools received \$250,000 from the **Chicago Sun-Times**, \$190,000 from the **Gilead Sciences Foundation**, \$150,000 over two years from **Circle of Service Foundation** and \$90,000 from Polk Bros. Foundation.

The **Catholic Archdiocese of Chicago** disbursed \$533,000 among 21 social-justice groups, including \$50,000 to **WomanCraft Inc.** and \$40,000 each to the **Chicago Worker's Collaborative** and **Logan Square Neighborhood Association**.

La Grange-based **Community Nurse Health Association** received \$51,528 from **Visiting Nurse Association Foundation** for nurse practitioners in its pediatric and adult clinics.

The **National Endowment for the Arts** gave \$70,000 to the non-profit **Dalkey Archive Press**, based at the **University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign**, for publication of a bilingual anthology of contemporary Mexican short stories.

People: Art Resources in Teaching appointed **Nami Sheridan** as executive director. ... **Victoria Dinges** joined **Allstate Insurance Co.** in Northbrook as assistant vice president of public social responsibility. ... **Howard Brown Health Center** hired **Paul Fairchild** as chief development officer. ... **Shane Johnson** is the new development director for **Ronald McDonald House Charities of Chicagoland & Northwest Indiana**. ... The **Donors Forum** promoted **Robert Eder** to senior vice president for finance and administration and **Robin Berkson** to senior vice president for membership and external relations.

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