Bradbury Science Museum Association launches new docent program

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As museums go, the Bradbury Science Museum is a small facility. In fact, the Museum galleries encompass only around 8200 square feet, making it miniscule in comparison to museum giants such as the Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum in Washington, D.C. (over 161,000 square feet) or the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York (over 2,000,000 square feet). Our foundation and current mission, however, stand upon some of the most influential and compelling scientific discoveries of all time, making the Bradbury’s story-telling every bit as meaningful and deep as the stories told by many more prominent museums.

Our hometown community, which includes Los Alamos and White Rock, is also on the small side with a population of only around 18,000. That said, our residents come from exceptionally diverse and dynamic backgrounds from Northern New Mexico, throughout the nation, and dozens of countries around the globe. Many of them work at the Lab, though many don’t. Many instead support our community through small business endeavors, as educators, law enforcement, or in the hospitality business. Others contribute as artists, blue collar workers and many other professions, all vital to support this small but quite cosmopolitan community. Los Alamos may be small geographically and in terms of population, but our people offer a wealth of opportunity and support to their town and neighbors, just as in larger cities.

So, we have a small, but contemporary, National Nuclear Security Administration museum whose mission is to “stimulate interest in and enthusiasm for science, technology, engineering and mathematics and promote public understanding and appreciation of Los Alamos National Laboratory.” We also have a diverse and engaged local community that understands the value of service and supports the notion that access to education is a basic human right. Additionally, the Museum has two highly skilled and experienced educators on staff and thoughtfully designed, onsite educational programming available to K-12 students, free of charge. What we don’t currently have is docents, or “science explainers,” to help us accommodate large groups and enhance each student’s experience when they come to the Museum on school-sponsored fieldtrips.

Enter the Bradbury Science Museum Association (BSMA), 501(c)3, a non-profit created in 2015 to support the Museum’s educational mission. Just in time for field trip season, the BSMA is set to roll out a new volunteer program (the Bradbury Science Museum STEM Education Docent Program) supporting Museum Exploration field trips and is looking for potential volunteers to help bring the wealth of knowledge embodied in our citizens to the Museum’s small but mighty staff and programming! If you’re interested
in giving of your time and expertise alongside the Bradbury staff, have a passion for science or education, enjoy working with school-aged children and adolescents, and can pass a background check, the BSMA’s new program may be a great fit for you.

More information will be available on the BSMA website in the coming weeks, closer to the kick-off of this exciting new program. In the meantime, please send your questions or expressions of interest to padresher@lanl.gov and thank you for your interest in the Bradbury Science Museum.