

## The Robert & Mary Galvin Physics Forest

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Kidspace Children's Museum  
Pasadena, CA

Design / Build: Hands On! Inc.



Kidspace Children's Museum is driven by a powerful mission statement; "Nurturing the potential of all children through kid driven experiences, inspiring them to become joyful, active learners." Not long ago, this popular destination for school children and families worldwide had a vision of adding a new science and physics-focused interactive outdoor exhibit. With this idea and an empty half-acre lot, Kidspace chose Hands On!, Inc., a designer of exhibits and experiential environments, to help bring their vision to life.

Working with Kidspace board member and CalTech astrophysicist Dr. Mike Brown, Hands On! created an outdoor learning environment like no other. The Galvin Physics Forest offers a captivating, kinetic learning environment that encourages science experimentation through the lens of play. The exhibition is a wondrous mix of the natural and manmade media, with each exhibit beautifully integrated into a custom landscape of native plants. Wheels roll, rockets blast and balls fly as families experiment with the forces that define the shape of our world.

Because of the high traffic, heavy use area as well as the high-UV Southern California environment, Hands On! required materials that were durable and long-lasting, yet capable of showcasing eye-catching vibrant colors and graphics. Hands On! decided iZone Imaging's Custom High Pressure Laminate (CHPL) was the perfect choice for their exhibit. iZone's CHPL was incorporated into a series of large, round, double-sided graphic signs ("lollipops") that are placed at eye-level near the exhibit experiences so that they are easily noticed. These bright, iconic signs are bold, playful and very identifiable markers that not only communicate information to visitors, but also serve as clear navigational tools and meeting markers throughout the exhibit.

The "lollipops" encourage both children and parents to interact with the experiences and experiment beyond the most basic actions of the exhibit. Using inquiry-based questions and prompts, the signage also assists in the development of fundamental thinking skills that are the building blocks for better understanding the world in which we live. The result? Guests of all ages are joyfully learning and building confidence and capability in science, and Kidspace Children's Museum has experienced record-breaking attendance!