



When you walk into SciWorks on Hanes Mill Road in Winston-Salem, all you really want to do is explore. There's so much around...a bigger-than-life dinosaur head, a giant piano keyboard to play on (yes, a la Tom Hanks in *Big*), a racetrack to zoom around on, animals to get to know...and the list goes on. It may all look like play, and there is plenty of that built in, but it is really all there for the purpose of hands-on learning for kids and their families about the many scientific influences in the world.

SciWorks – originally named the Nature Science Center – was a project thought up and started by the Junior League of Winston-Salem. The concept of such a place started in 1962, and in 1965 the Center officially opened in the barn and silo in Reynolda Village with a total of just 4,000 square feet.

After many phases of fundraising over the years, a location change in 1974 and physical growth at the current location, the place that has been known as SciWorks since 1991 encompasses nearly 50,000 square feet of museum space, grounds and offices at 400 West Hanes Mill Road. SciWorks currently welcomes around 80,000 through its doors each year – about one-fourth of these are school groups, while others are families holding annual memberships, as well as general visitors.

The most popular exhibits at SciWorks tend to be the animals, the physics attractions and the sound exhibits. While these are all permanent fixtures, SciWorks also features traveling exhibits for periods of time throughout the year. In October, two exhibits will move into SciWorks, one dealing with flight and the other with the world of nanotechnology.

But behind all of the fun and all of the learning, SciWorks is a fully-functioning business. With an annual budget of \$1.3 million, the staff of a mere 12 full-time and 10-12 part-time employees is steering quite a ship. "They are just outstanding," said Paul Kortenaar, Executive Director of SciWorks. "I can provide vision, but in order to pull it all off, we have to have a terrific staff. And we do."

Also keeping SciWorks on track in the business world is Butler + Burke, who started working with the center a little more than a year ago. "One of the greatest things Butler + Burke did was to make sure that we are following best practices in all areas," Kortenaar said. "They understand our procedures in payroll, accounts receivable and accounts payable and do a great job of keeping us on track."

SciWorks is a wonderful – and long-standing – treasure of teaching and fun for Winston-Salem and the Piedmont as a whole. Head out there for a visit soon. Who doesn't want a chance to check out a giant dinosaur head?

To learn more about SciWorks, call (336) 767-6730 or visit [www.sciworks.org](http://www.sciworks.org).