

Commercial Real Estate

# CRE Best Projects 2024: Kaleideum Children's Museum and Science Center

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Kaleideum Children's Museum and Science Center in Winston-Salem, the winner in the education category for the CRE Best Projects Awards. BLUM CONSTRUCTION



By Lloyd Whittington - Editor in Chief, Triad Business Journal  
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## KALEIDEUM CHILDREN'S MUSEUM AND SCIENCE CENTER

Winner

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### Education

**Why selected:** A project in the works for eight years, the Kaleideum in downtown Winston-Salem came about from the merger in 2016 of SciWorks and the Children's Museum of Winston-Salem. The new downtown facility had an overall budget of about \$48 million, including some \$29.5 million in construction, and created or supported about 109 jobs. The museum expects its experiential learning experiences to attract some 300,000 visitors downtown annually.

**Date of completion (certificate of occupancy):** 9/7/2023

**Location:** 120 W. Third St., Winston-Salem 27101

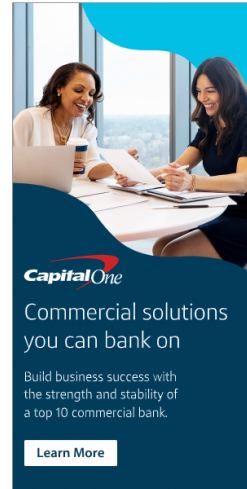
**Project owner/developer:** Kaleideum, a 501(c)3 nonprofit (was supported by Forsyth County and city of Winston-Salem)

**General contractor:** Blum Construction

**Architect:** STITCH Design Shop / Gensler

**Engineer:** Stanford White (MEP); Engineered Concepts (structural); Stimmel Associates (civil); MLA Design Group/Surface 678 (landscape designer)

**Highlights of the project:** The newly built facility is a 74,000-square-foot innovative and dynamic experiential learning museum, with a mission to inspire wonder, curiosity, and



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lifelong learning at all ages. An array of hands-on exhibits, interactive displays, and educational programs blend science, technology, engineering, arts, and mathematics (STEAM) disciplines.

**Challenges overcome to complete this project:** Special coordination with exhibit trade partners was essential, with Blum as the general contractor coordinating all mechanical, electrical and plumbing requirements with exhibit vendors. The vendors scheduled and met milestones for exhibit installation crews, which were required to schedule six months out. Alex Irvin, a senior superintendent with Blum, discussed and provided solutions for “wet” exhibits that impacted the overall health of the building and provided constant feedback on evolving exhibit design and its effect on building infrastructure, to help drive decisions by user groups.



A rendering depicts the planned look of the Kaleideum under construction in downtown Winston-Salem. [Expand to read more](#)  
KALEIDEUM

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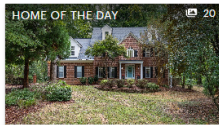
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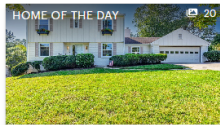
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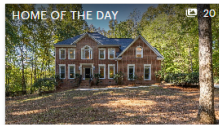
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