

Muttart Conservatory, City of Edmonton

Location: Edmonton, Alberta

Project: Mobile Education Station Modules

Industries: Exhibit design, Interactive spaces, Family attractions, Environmental & Natural Sciences

Installation Date: 2023

PROJECT SUMMARY

Built in 1976, the Muttart Conservatory is a dynamic botanical attraction within the heart of Edmonton, with continually changing exhibits and seasonal offerings. The Muttart staff noted an increasing number of families and young guests frequenting the centre, with little infrastructure in place specifically to engage a younger demographic.

Fuse was contracted to consult on the project, overseeing design and fabrication of mobile elements to engage toddlers and preschoolers from ages 0-5. Drawing on our background in childhood development and play, our team at Fuse incorporated various elements into the modules, including role play, loose parts, tactile and sensory experiences, and imaginative play. Designed to bring child-like colour and whimsy to the space, a bright but natural colour palette highlights the world of plants in an eye-catching and vibrant manner, welcoming passing children to come and play.





PROJECT ELEMENTS

The five module enhancements created for the space followed the journey from seed to harvest that many plants take. Young guests engage in dramatic and loose part play to follow plants along this journey. Through play in the five modules, “Junior Gardeners” are encouraged to:

- Plant and interact with soil-like medium and plant seeds in a **planting sensory bin**
- Pot their own pretend plants at a **children’s play potting bench**
- Harvest their own fruit and vegetables at their very own pretend **farmers’ market stall**
- Explore the plants they can find at the Muttart, and even make a few from their own imagination on the **double-sided magnet wall**
- Get hands on with composting worms in the **mobile worm bin**



PROJECT PARTNERS



Burke Group
Element Fabrication
Based in Edmonton, AB



Art Lab Design Build
Exhibit Design and Fabrication
Based in Edmonton, AB