DISCOVERY EXPO COMMUNITY DAY

Megan Mayhew

(Ueda Photography)





Brains, potatoes, space, robots - the Discovery Expo Community Day on Saturday October 19th had it all! From 10am-1pm, the Discovery Building on UW-Madison's campus hosted over 100

presenters sharing their science at over 40 unique hands-on exploration stations, with activities ranging from virtual reality, health and medicine, chemistry and physics demonstrations, and more!



Festival: a weeklong celebration of science, art, and technology spanning 52 counties in Wisconsin. This year's theme was agriculture and highlighted the interconnectedness of agriculture within our

state's economy, society, well-being, and the overall future of humanity through the lens of science, art, and technology.

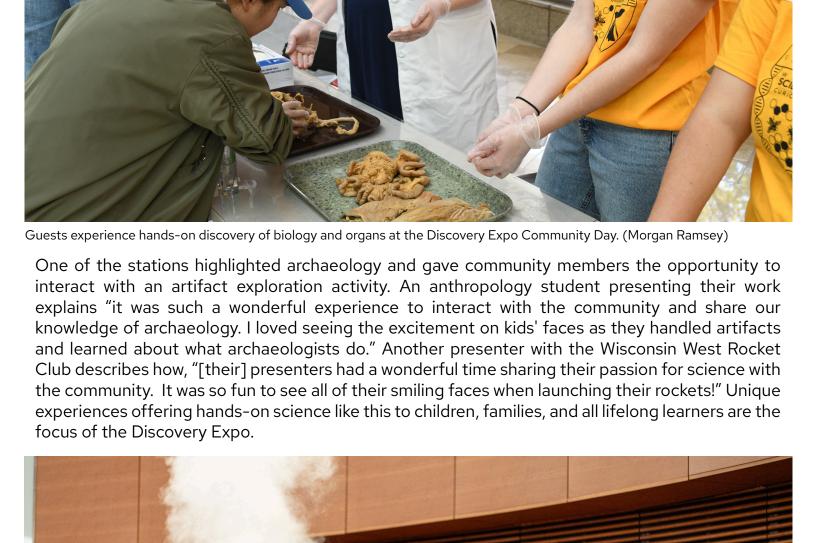
The Discovery Expo Community Day, presented in partnership with the Morgridge Institute for Research Community Engagement Team, was part of the statewide 2024 Wisconsin Science



with the community and share our science! I also loved seeing all of the other interesting science happening on-campus and around Madison." With a wide variety of disciplines showcased, there was something for everyone and endless possibilities to learn something new, even for

experienced scientists.

station learning how potatoes grow, interacting with live calves, holding a model (or a real) brain, exploring archeological finds, and so much more. A presenter added, "it was super fun to engage



Bucky and Bassam Shakhashiri demonstrate the wonders of science during Celebrating the Joy of Science and the Arts with Bassam Shakhashiri and Friends. (Ueda Photography) The Discovery Expo Community Day was followed by Celebrating the Joy of Science and the Arts with Bassam Shakhashiri and Friends. The show featured live science experiments that wowed

audiences of all ages and included special guests Bucky Badger and Beesly - the Wisconsin Science Festival honey bee mascot! Bassam created the show to foster public awareness and appreciation of science and art through engaging demonstrations - blending art, science experiments, explanations, and music. Bassam Shakhashiri, an original visionary behind the Wisconsin Science Festival, is a retired UW-Madison Chemistry professor who was known for his

colorful and entertaining chemistry demonstrations, including an annual Christmas science presentation. The Wisconsin Science Festival was honored to host one of his famous shows this year.



Overall, the 14th Wisconsin Science Festival and the Discovery Expo Community Day were very successful events, bringing scientists and the community together to explore and engage with science, art, and technology in our state. We are already looking forward to next year's festival and hope to see you there in 2025!

A young attendee uses a microscope to get a closer look at biological samples. (Ueda Photography)