

For Immediate Release

Thinkery announces new summer hours beginning Thursday, May 20

The museum will add two more open days per week and extend hours for General Admission, along with free Community Night hours each week.

[5.5.2021] – Austin, TX – Summer is almost here, and that means more time for learning and fun at Thinkery! The museum is excited to announce its expanded Summer Hours, which will take effect beginning Thursday, May 20. The museum will move to a five-days-a-week schedule for General Admission visitors and eliminate timed sessions on those dates.

The new summer schedule will also include free, in-person Community Night sessions each **Sunday from 3 pm—5 pm** and the return of Thinkery Field Trips for the first time since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Per the [current guidance from the CDC](#), Thinkery will continue to require face masks for **all** visitors ages 24 months and older, regardless of vaccination status. Capacity will be limited in accordance with the current COVID-risk guidelines in place for Austin-Travis County.

“Thinkery is a top destination for kids and families in Austin, especially during the summer,” said Andy Bell, the museum’s Chief Executive Officer. “We’re delighted to be able to add more hours and more days, and to expand access for more kiddos to come learn and play with us.”

What’s New

- Beginning Thursday, May 20, Thinkery will be open every **Wednesday through Sunday from 10 am-5 pm** for General Admission. This adds two days (Wednesday and Thursday) to the existing weekly schedule.
- The museum currently operates separate, two-hour General Admission sessions on operating days. **Beginning May 20, those timed sessions will be eliminated, and General Admission will be available throughout the day.**
- [Baby Bloomers](#), the popular program reserved for families with children ages 0-36 months, **will begin an hour earlier**. The program will run **Saturday mornings from 8 am-10 am** throughout the Summer.
- Thinkery is dedicated to delivering hands-on, STEAM-focused learning opportunities to children throughout Central Texas, regardless of means. The expanded summer schedule includes the **return of weekly Community Night hours**, which provide visitors the opportunity to enter the museum **free of charge**. Community Night hours will **be Sundays from 3 pm-5 pm**.
- Thinkery will be open to schools and day camps interested in bringing [Field Trips](#) to the museum. Field Trips are available Wednesday – Friday, with three available time slots per day.

- Thinkery will offer guests the opportunity to book [private parties](#) in the evenings once General Admission hours are over. These two-hour private sessions will give groups the opportunity to play, learn, and explore the museum exhibits with a closed guest list.

Masks ARE still required at Thinkery

- The health and safety of guests, staff, and the broader Austin community remains Thinkery's top priority. While the threat of COVID-19 has been diminished, it remains a very real concern. In accordance [current CDC guidance](#), Thinkery **will continue to require face masks for all visitors ages 24 months and older**, regardless of vaccination status.

"One of the best parts of working at Thinkery is seeing the smiling faces of the little ones as they explore our exhibits," said Rachel Hamilton, the museum's Associate Director of Guest Services. "We look forward to being able to see those smiles again, believe me. But as an organization dedicated to promoting science, we will continue to observe the best practices outlined by the CDC for masking in indoor spaces."

"If you or any member of your group are not able to wear a mask for any reason, we would invite you to plan your visit for a future date, when the mask requirements are no longer in place."

Tickets for all General Admission sessions may be purchased in advance on [Thinkery's website](#). Visitors are encouraged to review the website for additional details on health and safety requirements, reserving tickets, and other helpful information prior to visiting the museum.

For more information on Thinkery's Summer Hours or to schedule an interview or on-site visit, please contact Jeff Dellinger at jdellinger@thinkeryaustin.org.

About Thinkery

Thinkery is Austin's home for "why" and "how." Our mission is to create innovative learning experiences that equip and inspire the next generation of creative problem solvers. Thinkery offers 40,000 square feet of indoor and outdoor exhibits for children and families to learn through play. It's a place where science and families play side by side and people connect with ideas by doing, making and experiencing.

Thinkery is a 501(c)(3), private nonprofit organization; last year we served more than 460,000 children and their grown-ups.