



## Fireworks of Glass

*Fireworks of Glass*, housed at The Children's Museum of Indianapolis, is renowned artist Dale Chihuly's largest permanent installation of blown glass. Completed in 2006, the 43-foot-tall tower comprises more than 3,200 individually blown pieces of glass rising above a "floating" glass ceiling of 1,600 pieces covering an innovative hands-on glassblowing exhibit. The tower is bathed in natural light during the day



and spectacularly lit at night. *Fireworks of Glass* offers children and families a unique opportunity to encounter a world-class work of art.

*Fireworks of Glass* is located in the museum's core, a five-story central atrium, and is seen by more visitors than any other exhibit. Over a period of 50 years, an estimated 60 million children and families—and up to 7 million schoolchildren and their

teachers—will view *Fireworks of Glass*, an extraordinary work of art that would not typically be found in a children's museum.

During the formal announcement of *Fireworks of Glass*, Chihuly said, "As a parent and an artist, I'm especially looking forward to leaving a legacy at The Children's Museum, a place where I hope my work brings joy to children who visit from all over the world."

### Fireworks of Glass Ceiling

The cross-shaped ceiling contains brilliantly colored glass pieces in a myriad of shapes. Exotically named pieces such as *Sea Tubes*, *Hornballs*, *Persians*, and *Putti* are displayed inside a suspended glass ceiling with the tower mounted above. On the museum's Lower Level, visitors can sit on a revolving platform below the illuminated ceiling and talk about what they see overhead.

### The Interactive Hands-On Exhibit

The Lower Level under the tower houses an interactive exhibit where visitors create their own sculptures from colorful, glass-like, molded polyvitro shapes. Families can blow virtual glass art on computer touch screens, while boxes pop up with information about Chihuly, his art, the glassblowing process, and the design, creation, and installation of *Fireworks of Glass*.

### Facts about *Fireworks of Glass*

The tower weighs approximately 18,000 pounds (or nine tons), and the ceiling weighs approximately 20,000 pounds (or 10 tons). Construction of *Fireworks of Glass* began in mid-July 2005 and was completed in early 2006, followed by the grand opening March 18.