



Representative Programs

Science Cafés

COPUS's monthly newsletter, the *COPUS Clarion*, highlights the outstanding programs of its participants, which facilitate sharing of innovative ways to communicate science. Featured programs range from very simple things that an individual can do, to elegant community endeavors. Here are a few examples of programs highlighted in the *Clarion*.

➤ Whether run by individuals or organizations, science cafés draw crowds to intimate public venues like pubs and coffeehouses, to share drinks, food, and good conversation about science. Anyone can start a café. The basic format is flexible enough to adapt to any local audience.

-Ben Wiehe, Outreach Coordinator, WGBH Educational Foundation
Printed in 2008 August *COPUS Clarion*

Science Festivals

➤ Science Festivals are a fantastic way to support a multidisciplinary, locally connected community of peers in working together to engage the public in science. They can take many shapes and sizes but all offer dynamic opportunities for peers and colleagues in a community to think strategically about the way they promote and communicate the science that is happening in that local area to the public.

"Why bother? Because science is so inherently important, so intensely interesting and so directly relevant to people's lives; and because, by throwing opening the laboratory doors, science festivals can create genuinely inspirational experiences – for everyone, but especially for the potential scientists of the future. Heaven knows that, with so many problems and challenges facing the United States in the 21st century, inspiring the next generation of young scientists seems like a pretty important thing to be doing right now."

-John Durant, Director, MIT Museum, and Executive Director
Cambridge Science Festival, Printed in 2008 June *COPUS Clarion*

"Student Biotech Expo"

➤ This exciting program from the Northwest Association for Biomedical Research in Seattle represents a new type of 'science fair'; one that values the diversity of student talents and abilities and that promotes life long appreciation of science. Gone are the restrictions to traditional research projects, the Expo engages students in exploring science in whatever context resonates with them -- research, music, art, architecture, law, or education. Careful pairing of students with mentors allows students to explore unusual translations of their favorite hobby or activity while exploring science. The Expo represents the culmination of collaborative effort between students, teachers, mentors, judges, sponsors, and the program organizers. By engaging students in new, creative ways that value their individual strengths and talents, the Expo is helping to strengthen both future scientists and Seattle's bioscience community.