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Museum at Statehouse a mix of high-tech, historical exhibits



JENNA WATSON | DISPATCH

Luke Schobert, 11, left, and Mark Schobert, 9, of Lewis Center, view an interactive screen at the Ohio Statehouse Museum Education Center. The \$3.6 million museum has been open for five years.

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By [Alan Johnson](#)

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The Ohio Statehouse Museum Education Center, which opened five years ago yesterday, has been visited by more than 379,000 students and others from every Ohio county.

The challenge: how to keep them coming.

The \$3.6 million museum on the ground floor of the Statehouse was dedicated on June 10, 2009. It has several interactive exhibits, including one in which visitors can try to balance a Civil War-era state budget and another where they can pretend to be the governor delivering a State of the State speech.

“Our goal at the Ohio Statehouse is to inspire future leaders of Ohio,” said William Carleton, executive director of the Capitol Square Review and Advisory Board, the agency in charge of the Statehouse and grounds.

Charles R. Moses, chairman of the Capitol Square Foundation, the private group that raises funds for the Statehouse and museum, said new exhibits are being planned, but he said it’s too soon to unveil them.

He said the Statehouse became a “destination” for visitors following an overall renovation completed in 1996 and the opening of the museum.

Moses said the idea is to provide a balance between high-tech exhibits that tap the imagination of today’s youngsters and time-tested displays that include information and artifacts of times gone by. The museum will work with the Creative Learning Factory in July to host teacher-training sessions, “Using the Statehouse as a Teaching Tool.”

The museum is open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Monday through Friday and noon to 4 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday.

More information is available at www.ohiostatehouse.org.

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