

# Fuel your creativity at The Leonardo

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Staff Reporter

Who is Leonardo da Vinci? “He was an artist, he was an inventor, he was an anatomist and an engineer,” said Lisa Davis of The Leonardo. “He approached the world as this laboratory, grand experiment, this place to discover, uncover and explore.”

The Leonardo is an interactive museum that brings the worlds of science, art, creativity and technology together. Davis said they want to “help visitors get in a place of the unexpected so they can allow their imaginations to run wild.”

Vanessa Jordan, senior education major, said, “I would describe the Leonardo as an unexpectedly creative place to learn about the relationship between art and science.”

The Leonardo has many different exhibits that allow guests to explore Utah, science, art, animation, innovations, history and themselves.

## A Genetics Lab in a Museum?

In the Identity Exhibit, there is a lab where visitors can take part in a genetic study. Dr. Mario Capecchi, a nobel prize winning geneticist, brought his lab from the University of Utah to The Leonardo.

Davis said visitors can go through the inform consent process, give some saliva, take a cognitive test and become part of this research study that looks into their ancestry. The whole process takes about forty-five minutes.

“They are trying to determine if there is some genetic component for the ability to super task, they are linking the genetic material to how you perform on the cognitive test,” said Davis.

Danielle Follett, senior and former intern for the Leonardo, said, “Two employees participated and for one of them, it changed her life. She was adopted and didn’t know anything about her heritage.”

Davis said this is the first time any university has done research in a public museum.

## What was your Favorite?

“My favorite was the Human Rights exhibit because the pictures evoke a lot of emotions and understanding of the difficult times,” said Jordan. “I could have spent hours in there.”

The Human Rights exhibit, also referred to as “This Light

of Ours,” is one of the historical pieces at The Leonardo. “It is the story of the Civil Rights Movement as told literally through the lens of photographer activists,” said Davis.

One of the largest pieces at The Leonardo is located in the entrance of the museum. Hanging down from the ceiling is a piece called the Hylozoic Veil.

Visitor Brittany Williams from Waddell, Ariz. said, “The piece in the entrance was my favorite, it is so beautiful and so delicate. It amazed me that it responded to my movements.”

Davis said the Hylozoic Veil is a creation of a Canadian Architect and it is what he calls responsive architect technologies.

“The Hylozoic Veil, created by Philip Beesley, is an interactive and immersive sculpture that reacts to your movement,” said Follett. “It is really subtle, but as you move around it, it lights up and moves like a living creature.”

Another popular item was a film called “A Chair is A Chair.” This can be found in the Identity Exhibit. Natalie Becksted from Woods Cross, Utah, said, “I really enjoyed the film ‘A Chair is a Chair,’ it was really funny and relatable.”

“‘A Chair is a Chair’ is a little comedy that basically tells a story of a chair trying to find its parents,” said Follett. “It is just a cute, funny, simple way to look at the complex issue of where we come from and how it changes us.”

The Leonardo also offers a Digital Commons to let visitors get creative. “My favorite exhibit is Render, it’s an area where you can go and try out cutting-edge technology used in making movies and games,” said Follett.

## Don’t be Afraid to Check it Out

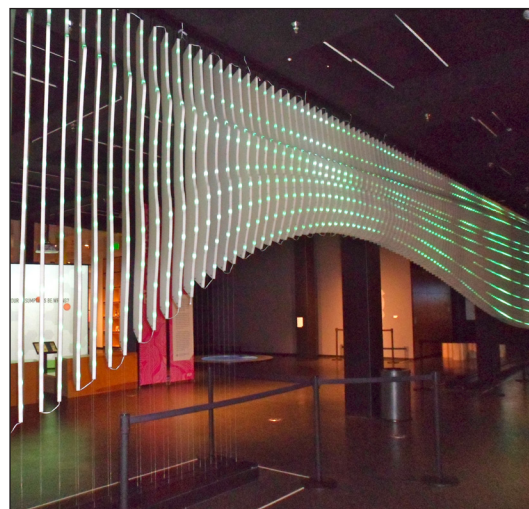
The Leonardo offers a wide range of topics for their visitors to explore and welcomes people of all ages.

It is open Wednesday through Sunday and stays open until ten on Fridays. General adult admission is \$14, but the price is \$10 for students with a valid student I.D.

The Leonardo is located on Library Square downtown at 209 East 500 South Salt Lake City, UT. For more information visit: [www.theleonardo.org](http://www.theleonardo.org) or call (801) 531-9800.



*The Hylozoic Veil, created by Canadian architect Philip Beesley, is called responsive architecture. The piece responds to visitor's movements by lighting up and swaying.*



*Dynamic Performance of Nature, created by Students from Columbia University.*



*Dr. Mario Capecchi's Genetics Lab.*



*The Leonardo Museum, located on 209 E. 500 S.*