

1992 Exhibition Receives Largest Grant Yet



William H. Gates, III

William H. Gates, III, Chairman and Co-founder of Microsoft Corporation, has spurred development of the Museum's next major exhibition with a \$250,000 grant. The 3,600 sq. ft., \$1 million exhibition will show the remarkable capacity of the personal computer. Originally known as the Computer

Discovery Center, the exhibit, a joint project with The Boston Computer Society (BCS), will open June 13, 1992.

With a working title of "Tools & Toys: Explore the Personal Computer," the exhibition will be rich in hands-on experience for people of all ages and backgrounds. Over 30 interactive stations will offer visitors many applications on a variety of computer systems.

"It's very exciting to see that thousands of people will have the opportunity to explore creatively what the PC can do," said Gates. "With the Tools & Toys exhibit, computer novices will experience firsthand what an incredibly powerful tool the PC can be for education, improved productivity and entertainment."

Although 75 million personal computers are in use throughout the world, "few people

have used this tool to its potential," says Jonathan Rotenberg, founder and chairman of the BCS, the world's largest personal computer user group. "If they did, they would be more effective in their work and learning."

While a major goal of Tools & Toys is to build the novice's confidence, it will appeal to experienced users interested in expanding their repertoires. Distinctive environments will offer settings for different applications. One setting, called "Hear It, See It," explores multimedia. Visitors can merge text, sound, graphics and moving images to create their own presentations.

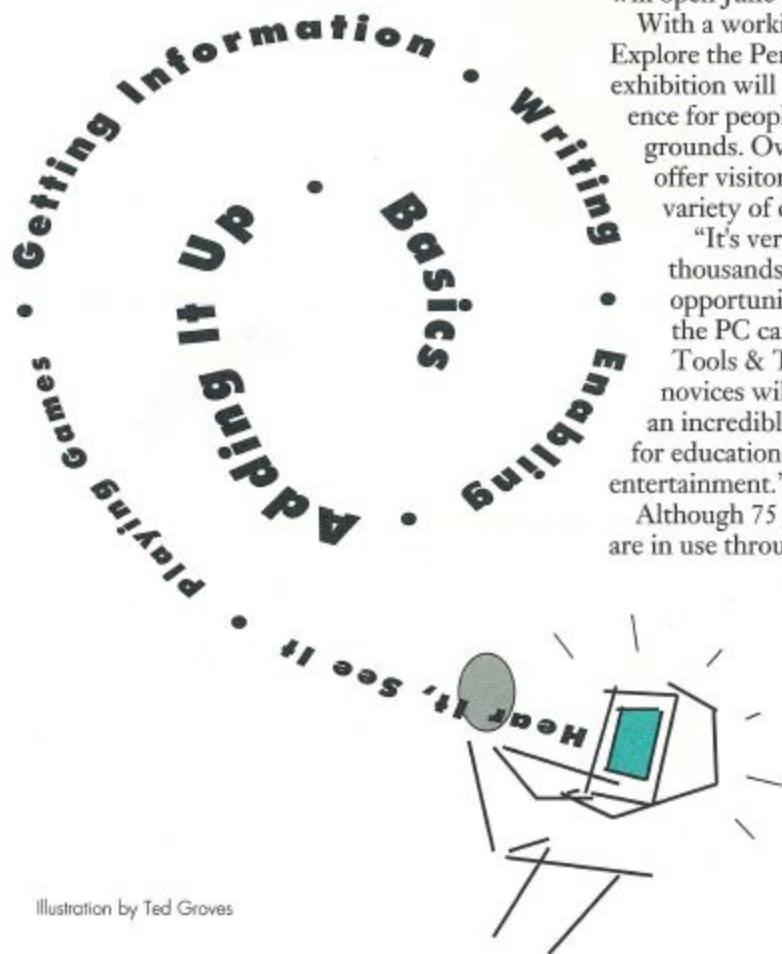
Another interactive environment will let visitors try computer systems used by people with special needs, including text recognition and voice activated systems. In "Playing Games," innovative education and entertainment software will be available—from simulations that let people build a city to games of strategy and adventure.

"Getting Information" shows visitors how to add their comments to on-line forums, get the latest information from worldwide news agencies or search for facts in a CD-ROM encyclopedia. The "Writing" and "Adding It Up" settings provide up-to-date advances in word processing and spreadsheets.

The last environment introduces people to the "Basics," including operating systems, utilities, and viruses. A forum will help visitors understand the rights and responsibilities of computer users—including the issues of privacy and piracy.

Many of the interactives will become part of the Exhibit Kits Program, a national project that distributes the Museum's exhibits around the world.

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New Exhibit *(continued from P. 1)*

Other individuals and corporations supporting this exhibit include: Steve Wozniak, Apple Computer, Inc., Raytheon Company, Cabot Corporation Foundation, Arthur Nelson, Steve Stadler and others.

The Museum has convened a distinguished panel of advisors to help

guide the content including: Richard P. Case, IBM Director of Technical Strategy Development, International Business Machines Corporation; Gardner C. Hendrie, Sigma Partners; Tracy Licklider, President, the BCS; Ike Nassi, Director, Eastern Research, Apple Computer, Inc.; Ed Belove,

former Vice President, Research and Development, Lotus Development Corporation; James Starkey, former founder and CEO of Interbase Software Corporation.