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Editorial

Family Fun Days are work of art

Kids laughing, carefully explaining their crafts projects and hooting through long plastic music-making tubes. Brightly painted faces, each one a work of art, flashed in the sunlight as girls and boys darted from art stations to dress-up stations to a flavored ice booth. These were the sights and sounds of the Family Fun Day hosted by Yucca Valley's Hi-Desert Nature Museum and Community Services Department.

The fun was based on the museum's kid-friendly exhibit, "Framed: Step Into Art," where children can literally step into the frames of life-sized paintings to interact with props.

Like the traveling exhibit, the Family Fun Day catered to children of different ages, abilities and family situations. They could make art, crafts and music, watch a puppet show, dress up in costumes or get their faces painted, all for free.

It was a place where they were safe and encouraged to be creative, and hopefully learn a little about art at the same time.

The staff at the Hi-Desert Nature Museum and Community Services Department make events like this one spectacular. They've transformed the community center into a Jurassic jungle filled with dinosaurs, a farm and the Old West at past Family Fun Days. And they do it with less money and fewer staff members than the town budget offered several years ago when real estate and tax revenue was booming.

It seems like government workers, maybe more than any other group of employees, are often derided or criticized, but this hard-working crew deserves praise and applause from all of us in town for their creativity and hard work.