

## Commissioner Steele promotes Innovation Studio at Museum Of Science and Industry

**Black Creativity Initiative Aims to Engage More African-American Youth in STEM and Highlight the Contributions of African Americans**

The Chicago Museum of Science and Industry (MSI) has launched an exciting winter education program to engage more African-American youth in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM)

and to highlight the contributions of African-American Innovators. Approximately 12,000 guests will visit the **Innovation Studio** in its 5-week run from January 15 – February 21, 2018.

The **Innovation Studio** is a pop-up maker space experience for youth and families to learn the innovation process and practice creativity and STEM skills, while creating physical objects to solve challenges. This



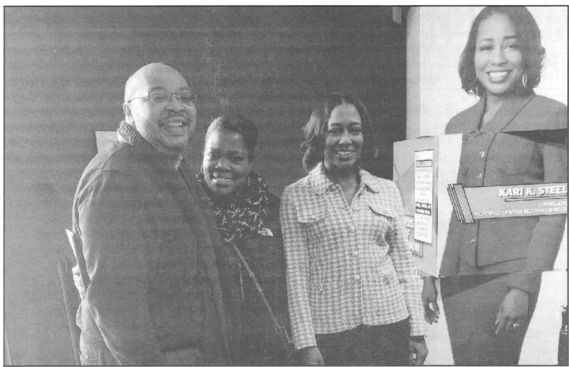
MWRD Commissioner Steele with grandmother and grandson at MSI Innovation Studio.



MWRD Commissioner Steele with youth group at MSI.



MWRD Commissioner Steele with MSI staff during her visit on the first day of the MSI Innovation Studio.



METROPOLITAN WATER RECLAMATION DISTRICT (MWRD) Commissioner greets visitor of the Museum of Science and Industry Innovation Studio (MSI) on the first day of the exhibit.

is part of the Museum's **Black Creativity Initiative** and includes a **Gallery of Innovators for 2018**.

As a result of Commissioner Steele's leadership and community outreach regarding water quality issues she was invited to be included as one of several Innovators showcased in the MSI **Gallery of Innovators for 2018**. As chemist and environmentalist Commissioner Steele is actively engaged throughout the year in various initiatives at the Museum and Science and Industry that promote water health and environmental quality.

The **Black Creativity Initiative** coincides with Black History Month and is part of several experiences at MSI during the Innovation Studio dates. "Each opportunity to reach a youth and share my experience will hopefully encourage them to become a future pioneer in STEM. The Museum of Science and In-

dustry is an ideal destination for exploring all the possibilities that can inspire youth to greatness," said MWRD Commissioner Kari K. Steele. The Innovator Studio does not generate revenue and is included in the general admission for the public. The experience is completely free for Illinois school groups. Visitors will see life-size images of each Innovator, hear short professional video interviews and learn about what makes each of them a unique Innovator.

The **Museum of Science and Industry, Chicago (MSI)**, one of the largest science museums in the world, offers world-class and uniquely interactive experiences that inspire inventive genius and foster curiosity. For more information, visit [msichicago.org](http://msichicago.org) or call (773) 684-1414.

The Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago (MWRD) protects the health and

safety of the public in its service area, protects the quality of the water supply source (Lake Michigan), improves the quality of water in watercourses in its service area, protects businesses and homes from flood damages, and manages water as a vital resource for its service area. The District's service area is 883.5 square miles of Cook County, Illinois. The District is committed to achieving the highest standards of excellence in fulfilling its mission.

For more information about the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago and the Office of Commissioner Kari K. Steele, visit [www.mwrdd.org](http://www.mwrdd.org) or call (312) 751-5694. Stay connected: "Like" Commissioner Steele's Facebook Page at [Commissioner Kari K. Steele](https://www.facebook.com/CommissionerKariKSteele); "Follow the Commissioner" on Twitter and Instagram @ [CommKSteele](https://twitter.com/CommKSteele) and "Connect" with her on LinkedIn at [Commissioner Kari Steele](https://www.linkedin.com/in/CommissionerKariSteele).