**Rachel Meyer**

**Executive Director, CuriOdyssey**

Our fresh emphasis on a world-class, interactive learning environment stems from CuriOdyssey’s new leadership. Formerly Chief Curator of Exhibits at the Exploratorium and a protégée of founder Dr. Frank Oppenheimer and later Executive Director of the Palo Alto Junior Museum and Zoo, Rachel Meyer has been the Executive Director of CuriOdyssey since 2007. She brings both a deep, practical knowledge of how children learn and a keen understanding of the science of natural phenomena. She has put that knowledge and experience to work building a new model for a comprehensive science learning environment for children.

The result has proved the theory. Rachel’s leadership and the work of the talented team she has assembled have strengthened the long-beloved wildlife center and added a heavily attended science center. Her working model for a new and expanded CuriOdyssey has already won national awards and recognition and is rapidly gaining fresh visibility for its inventiveness and effectiveness as a learning resource for children. Most recently, the 55,000-member National Science Teachers Association has awarded Rachel their 2013 Award for Distinguished Informal Science Education.