

The Geologic Strata Wall

This strata model represents the most spectacular range of geologic formations found outside of the world's oceans. Included in this model are successive layers of rock strata extending from the very bottom of the Grand Canyon, representing rocks almost 5 billion years old, through strata representing formations found in Bryce and Zion National Parks in southern Utah. The recent deposits of the Los Angeles Basin, which can change with floods, appear at the very top layer of the model.

The chart next to the rock formation displays the name and approximate age of each of the rock strata, and the various creatures and plants that lived during that time period.

How it was done

Since it was important that this learning experience reflect scientifically accurate data, we invited a college geology professor to work alongside our graphic design consultant.

Once the designs were complete, the professor provided samples of the actual rock strata that we wanted to represent on the wall. The sculptor used these samples for texture reference as he carved each layer out of a wet stucco cement material.

The sculptor carefully carved each of the animals and plants shown on the time chart out of clay. Molds were taken from the clay pieces and the final resin plastic elements were made.

All the pieces were then mounted to the wall outside the Art Studio. This colorful and tactile permanent display brings the history of the earth beneath our feet to life.

Where will you find the Geologic Strata

The Geologic Strata is located on the north-west corner of the Children's Library. The Geologic Strata Wall can be found outside of the Children's Art Studio on the right side of the entrance.