

## Abra Payroll Brings “Winds of Change” to Museum

Ever wondered what it's like to hear the roaring winds from a Category 1 hurricane? This is one of the many interactive experiences available to the public at Tampa, Florida's Museum of Science & Industry, nicknamed “MOSI.”

Open since 1982, MOSI is now one of the most popular educational destinations in the Southeast, with some of the most innovative and hands-on exhibits in the country. One permanent exhibit, “Gulf Coast Hurricane,” lets audiences experience the impact of 74 mph hurricane force winds, and teaches them how to “Get Smart, Get Ready” for a tropical storm.

### Bringing It All Under One Umbrella

MOSI includes an IMAX Dome theater, a gift shop and 25 separate support divisions, such as operations, food and beverage, finance, marketing, and janitorial, among others. The museum nearly faced a disaster of its own — because of its inability to accurately forecast budget and project payroll. Its online payroll system was unable to efficiently integrate with its general ledger. As a result, the accounting and payroll departments had to manually re-key departmental salary, taxes and benefits information into a centralized payroll and general ledger component. Since each of these departments conceptually operates

as an individual business, with their own P&L statements, benefits package, salaried workforces, etc., the museum had to be able to estimate costs by functional area in order to assess departmental profitability. “We were definitely beginning to feel the rumbling of trouble,” said CFO Jeanette Baker. “We needed a much more flexible and powerful budgeting and reporting tool.”

While MOSI's previous payroll system did enable online payroll processing, it was delivered through an application service provider (ASP), which allowed for few customizations to enable functionalities like detailed or ad hoc reporting. “Most of our reports couldn't be customized,” said Baker. “We needed a system that enabled department heads to manage their profitability and, at the same time, allowed corporate executives to see the holistic financial picture.”

The museum employs a large number of temporary and seasonal workers, so it needed to process on-demand checks between pay cycles. In addition to integration and reporting flexibility, MOSI also needed to process payroll more quickly.

“It just became too frustrating, because we realized there had to be a better system—one that solved all of our needs,” said Paula Borrer, payroll processor for MOSI.



### CUSTOMER

Museum of Science and Industry

### INDUSTRY

Science and technology-based museum

### LOCATION

Tampa, Florida

### NUMBER OF LOCATIONS

One

### SAGE PRODUCTS

Abra Payroll

### CHALLENGE

Integrate payroll system within its corporate general ledger and gain ability to allocate salary, taxes, and benefits expenses from its 25 different departments

### SOLUTION

Abra Payroll, part of Abra Suite — the market leader in HR, payroll, benefits, and compliance solutions, targeting the needs of small to mid-sized companies

### RESULTS

More accurate budget forecasting and payroll by integrating projections from each of its various departments; Decreased payroll process time by 50 percent

## Calming the Storm

After conducting due diligence and speaking with three different solution providers, Baker and her staff turned to Caisson Group, a Sage business partner. The museum selected Abra Payroll as its new payroll solution.

“The entire [implementation] process was so smooth,” said Baker. “Caisson Group knew their stuff. If there’s one aspect to this process that I vividly remember, it’s the time and effort that Caisson took to ensure [we] were fully [educated] on the Abra Payroll system,” said Borrer.

## Clear skies ahead

MOSI has realized significant returns on its investment using Abra Payroll. “Running a payroll cycle used to take nearly three days to complete,” said Borrer. “Abra’s ability to integrate with our general ledger, and collect and allocate budgeting and financial data from our various departments, has reduced this process to just one and a half days.”

The payroll department formerly spent more than eight hours entering and manually verifying timecard information using a basic Internet connection and standard reports. Now the data can be entered, sorted, and verified in just three hours.

“Abra Payroll is the complete solution,” said Baker. “With the click of a button, my team can process payroll and generate the reports I need for our executive board. Now, I have the time to devote to other larger strategic issues, and [my team has] the reports and analysis to ensure MOSI remains profitable and successful. Abra Payroll really rescued us,” added Borrer. “Now, if Sage could only develop a system to better forecast hurricanes...”

## About Sage

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and the specialized needs of the construction, distribution, healthcare, manufacturing, nonprofit, and real estate industries. Sage North America employs more than 5,000 people and supports nearly 2.9 million small and medium-size business customers.

The Sage Group plc, formed in 1981, was floated on the London Stock Exchange in 1989 and now employs 14,800 people and supports 5.7 million customers worldwide. For more information, please visit the Web site at [www.sagenorthamerica.com](http://www.sagenorthamerica.com) or call **866-308-2378**.

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Jeanette Baker  
Chief Financial Officer  
Museum of Science and Industry