DEAR FRIENDS,

We are pleased to present to you the 2019-2020 Annual Report. In these uncertain times, Science matters—now, more than ever. With your generous support the Maryland Science Center continues its mission of underscoring the importance of science education in our everyday lives.

In the more than 40 years that the Science Center has operated at its Inner Harbor location it is safe to say that there has never been a year quite like this one. When we closed back in early March, we thought it would be for a few weeks. We never anticipated that months later we would not only have to work to ensure that our mission endures, we would also have to reinvent ourselves to continue to serve our many audiences. That process continues today and we have adapted whenever, and wherever we can, as we have for decades.

Initially, the Science Center migrated to a completely virtual presence. We worked to provide resources and programs to support parents suddenly faced with becoming in-home educators. We took our popular on-site experiences and moved them completely online. And our Education Team created innovative, livestream programs that allowed participants to work on activities at home with guidance from our team in real time. As summer arrived so did the in-person visits and a return to some familiar routines, but many others, especially our vital work in schools and Head Start programs, remained suspended.

It was extremely gratifying to see visitors return to our building and we look forward to that day when we return to classrooms and day care centers, summer camps and libraries, and students on field trips return to the Science Center. Until that time we will continue to evolve as an institution. The Science Center is part of a community that values our signature brand of science education and together we will grow with time and change. It is your continued support as members of this community that give us the tools we need to remain vital.

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, our staff, our volunteers, and all those who benefit from your donations we say Thank You. We are extremely grateful for our partnership and together we will continue the important work of the Maryland Science Center.

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For the first time in over 40 years the Maryland Science Center’s annual fundraiser—Solstice—did not take place. We are grateful to our funders who, even in the absence of a physical celebration, continued their support.

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Contributions to the Revitalization Today–Securing the Future! campaign reinvigorate the Maryland Science Center experience, support critical programs, and create the financial stability that will enable us to support the next generation of thinkers, innovators, and leaders. To date, $7,215,840 has been raised of our $7,500,000 goal.

The success of the Maryland Science Center and the Revitalization Today–Securing the Future! Campaign depends on you. It’s only through your commitment to education and our children that we can provide the experiences, knowledge, and curiosity that will create the future that our children want and deserve.

We invite you to make that commitment through a generous contribution to the Revitalization Today–Securing the Future! Campaign.

To discuss how you can support science education, please contact Marty Perreault at 410.545.5970 or mperreault@mdsci.org.

Many thanks to all members who gave to the Revitalization Today–Securing the Future! Campaign.

This report reflects gifts to the Maryland Science Center from July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2020. Every effort has been made to ensure accuracy.

Please call the Development Office at 410.545.5894 for more information or questions.
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HISTORY OF THE MARYLAND ACADEMY OF SCIENCES AND THE MARYLAND SCIENCE CENTER

The Maryland Academy of Sciences is Maryland’s oldest scientific institution and one of the oldest such institutions in the entire nation.

At its inception in 1797, the Academy was an amateur scientific society. Members met to discuss papers on astronomy, botany, zoology, and other subjects then known as the “natural sciences”.

As the Academy continued its work through the 1800’s and 1900’s, its ranks included distinguished members named Pratt, Carroll, Latrobe, Audubon, Goucher, and Pershing. As the years progressed, the Academy moved from location to location seeking larger space where visitors could engage in science rather than a place where they look at static collections of rocks and fossils. The vision became reality with the opening of the Academy’s Maryland Science Center in 1976 at Baltimore’s Inner Harbor.

For more than 40 years, the Maryland Academy of Sciences, through its programs and exhibits at the Maryland Science Center and throughout the Mid-Atlantic region, demonstrates a commitment to emphasize the importance of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM). No other institution in the state reaches more teachers and students through its outreach programs and on-site visits dedicated exclusively to informal STEM education.