



2020/2021
**Annual
Report**



Dear Friends,

We are pleased to present the 2020-2021 Annual Report. With the challenges of the past year it is even more important than ever to demonstrate that science matters.

As you read the Year In Review you will notice a recurring theme—innovation and adaptation. This past year the institution found ways to ensure that its mission would not be compromised. Our staff found ways throughout the year to deliver our signature brand of science education through new ways of connecting with our many audiences. Whether online, on-site, or a combination of the two, the Science Center continued to deliver programming and resources reaching a broad and diverse collection of learners throughout the State and beyond.

Of course, none of this would have been possible without the generous support of our Science Center family. Individual contributions, corporate support, foundation grants and City, State, and Federal programs allowed the Maryland Science Center to continue to live its mission. Our connection with our community who share our belief in science literacy has never been stronger.

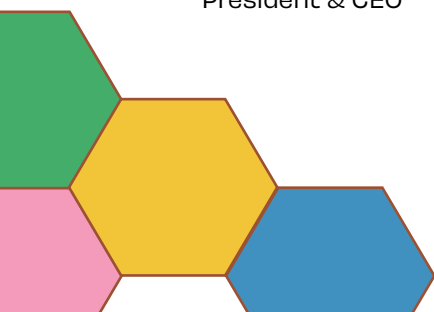
On behalf of the Board of Trustees, our staff, our volunteers and the many Marylanders who have benefitted from your support we express our gratitude. The Maryland Science Center has always been a collaborative effort between the institution and its many friends. We value our partnership and we look forward to continued growth as an institution committed to science education.

A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink.

Mark J. Potter
President & CEO

A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink.

David B. Amy
Chairman, Board of Trustees



The Year In Review

As the pandemic loosened its grip on the city and state, the Maryland Science Center returned to in-person operation in July of last year. The Science Center has been operating continuously since then and does so to this day. With an abbreviated operating schedule and capacity restrictions, the institution was limited in its scope but not in its imagination. The challenges created opportunities and MSC seized the moment at every turn.

With guests returning to the exhibit halls for summer, a unique hybrid approach was adopted for almost all programming. Promotional weekends like Bubble Days and Mess Fest had both live and virtual components to maximize our reach. Visitors to the facility were greeted with smaller crowds and an increased chance to interact with exhibits and staff at a more focused and slower pace. Those who followed the events online created their own special day with at-home activities and live feeds of the on-floor activities. The hybrid approach proved so popular that it found its way into educational programming as the school year opened with most schools fully virtual or a combination of online and on-site learning.

As fall approached our Education Department created an entirely new set of learning experiences that still held true to the Science Center's signature style of science education. Classrooms across the state, and indeed the region, signed up for live stream programming delivered to schools, homeschool cooperatives, and learning pods in real time each day. Teachers, parents, and the education community as a whole welcomed the chance to partner with MSC to deliver thoughtful, engaging content to students working in new environments. The Science Center's trusted interactive programs helped educators keep the online classroom full of diverse programs on many topics in the science education sphere including paleontology, anatomy, astronomy, physics, and more.

And the innovation wasn't just limited to schools. Workshops returned to classrooms at the facility and online for scout groups earning badges in robotics and engineering. Winter saw the finalization of plans to build an all new 12,000 square foot replacement for the popular Human Body exhibition on Level Two. With a grant of \$1 million from the State of Maryland, construction began on the new installation set to open in fall of 2021. The content of the exhibit was the result of a team approach including Maryland teachers, MSC staff, and members of the Science Center's Scientific Council. The new exhibit, along with a new exhibit on mathematical patterns in nature, continues a period of exhibit renewal that is keeping the visitor experience fresh and engaging. Plans are coming together for an update to the Space and Aerospace exhibit which is also funded by a grant from the State. The new Space exhibit will debut sometime in 2022.



MSC's commitment to informal science education was demonstrated again later in the year as the usually busy Spring field trip season was largely prohibited under Covid rules. The Science Center met the challenge with a commitment to deliver online programs to every county in the state as a replacement for outreach activities usually performed by the Traveling Science Program. Unique astronomy programming, including live look-ins to the planetarium, were the centerpiece of this effort. Additionally, all Maryland students PreK-12 were admitted free to the facility until the end of the school year. The combined effort reached thousands of students across Maryland and ensured that access to innovative science education would not be hindered by the pandemic.

Summer day camp returned as Camp MSC welcomed back students eager to spend time away from screens. Camp MSC is purposefully designed to incorporate imagination into a hands-on approach to exploring a variety of topics in week-long sessions. Children and parents welcomed the chance to put down tablets and laptops in favor of pencil and paper and construction tools to create robots, conquer engineering challenges, and more. Every camp session included time to visit the exhibit halls as well.



And finally Solstice, the Science Center's long-running annual fundraiser celebrating science education, returned after a one year hiatus with a different format. The annual evening celebration switched to an afternoon picnic with guests of all ages attending. Special screenings in the St. John Properties IMAX Theater, on-floor activities, and a chance for guests to experience the rooftop terrace were all part of the day's celebration along with a look through the telescope in the rooftop observatory. The day was a reminder that the support of our friends, especially corporate support, is a crucial source of funding in good times and challenging times alike.

Looking back at the year revealed a steady stream of improvisation as the institution took on the many facets of operation under a pandemic. Ever-changing protocols were met with adaptation and innovation. The institution was fortunate to be the recipient of many City, State, and Federal programs offering monetary support to bridge the gap until a new normal emerges. Throughout the time MSC's commitment to upholding its mission and continuing to be a resource for the education community and all Marylanders never wavered. Indeed, as the Science Center navigated through turbulent waters the reach and connection to the community was strengthened. We look forward to a time in the near future when all MSC programs, outreach, and activities return and we are able to travel across the counties and across the state and welcome visitors to our Inner Harbor location once again.



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*We are the Maryland Science Center.
We inspire. We empower. We engage. Let's science!*

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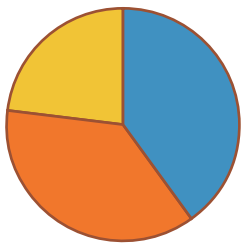
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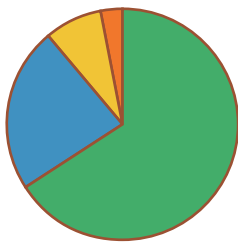
FY 2021 Financial Summary

Income



- Private Support 40%
- Public Support 37%
- Earned Income 23%

Expenses (excluding depreciation)



- Mission Related 67%
- General and Administrative 23%
- Fundraising 8%
- Interest 2%

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 45 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.



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Thank you to everyone who supported the *Revitalization Today–Securing the Future!* Campaign

This report reflects gifts to the Maryland Science Center from
July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021.
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