2022-2023



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Annual Report

SCHOOL BUS



Dear Friends,

We present to you the Maryland Science Center's 2022-2023 Annual Report. As you will see in the Year in Review, this past year was one of growth and renewal.

We continue to live our mission every day to promote science literacy and informal STEM education through our work at our campus at Baltimore's Inner Harbor and across the State in schools and other venues wherever learning takes place.

At our core, the Maryland Science Center is a community that shares our love of science and understands the importance of science education. Through the support of this community we are able to achieve our goals and extend our reach. On behalf of our staff and volunteers, our Board of Trustees, and the many audiences we serve we extend our gratitude for your generosity. As the largest provider of informal STEM education in the State, we are committed to making sure the support from our many friends goes directly to our mission. We appreciate your partnership. Let's science.



Mark J. Potter President & CEO



Hack Zime

Mark Zimmerly Chairman, Board of Trustees



The Year In Review

The past year at the Maryland Science Center was one of growth and renewal. Growth in the audiences we serve, growth in our dynamic programs, and renewal at our home at Baltimore's Inner Harbor and beyond. From students on field trips to audiences at schools across the state, the numbers of learners we reached through our signature brand of science education increased dramatically. The Science Center also experienced advances in its many programs that serve audiences from preschoolers to lifelong learners. Looking back, it is our community of people who share our love of science and science education that is the real place of growth and we look forward to expanding our shared mission every day.



Once schools let out for the summer our campus at the Inner Harbor came to life with daily visits from families, friends, and members. Summer campers eager to keep the learning spark alive participated in week-long day camps exploring everything from astronomy to paleontology. And adults attended sold out programs like Music Under the Dome and Grown Up Field Trips utilizing the facility on summer evenings that offer extra time to explore what the Science Center has to offer.

A fast-paced summer quickly turned to Back-To-School and within weeks MSC's exhibit halls and classrooms were buzzing with students on field trips. *Science Beyond the Classroom—Powered by Constellation*, along with additional funding from many generous supporters, assured that MSC's long standing policy of free admission for all Maryland students translated into free visits for in-state field trips.



Fall also marked a return to a focus on the guest experience with facility improvements and exhibit renewal. Thanks to support for capital projects from the State of Maryland, the Science Center has replaced worn carpet, upgraded mechanical systems, and improved infrastructure in a building that has been an anchor institution at Baltimore's Inner Harbor since 1976. Vision also turned to the sky as our unique collaborative approach to exhibit development focused on a new earth and space science exhibit to replace the existing set of interactives. A team of industry experts, members of the education community, and MSC staff developed a plan for an exhibit that is appealing to all our audiences and meets the education standards critical to today's teachers. The highly anticipated exhibit will be a much needed replacement for one of our oldest legacy exhibits and a new look at one of our core areas of exploration. Staff and volunteers also began the rigorous and technical work necessary to return our rooftop urban Observatory back to a working facility.

Behind the scenes the Science Center's volunteer program expanded as well. Almost 100 volunteers make possible everything from membership renewal mailings to exhibit troubleshooting and repairs. Volunteers also work with the Education Department to help deliver on-floor experiences to schools and families on the day of their visit. Volunteers are an integral part of the MSC operation and provide vital services that a non-profit like the Science Center would otherwise have to fund through operations. Volunteering at the Science Center ensures that every dollar is put toward the maximum effort to keep exhibits and programs fresh and vital during a time when science education is so important.

As the calendar moved to shorter days and longer nights MSC's outreach teams packed their vans with all the supplies necessary to deliver innovative, entertaining, and educational programs at schools across the state. The Maryland Science Center Traveling Science Program once again delivered unique assembly and classroom programs to every county in the State of Maryland—many too far from Baltimore City to make a field trip practical. The power of Live Science captured the imagination of school kids gathered in cafeterias and gymnasiums eager to take a break from classroom learning and witness our science specialists.

Educators and Administrators also invited MSC teams to their school for family engagement experiences during Family Science and Family Engineering Nights. While students conduct experiments at different stations around the room, teachers and administrators use the time to meet with parents to discuss their child's learning progress. Principals and Administrators tell us time and again that Family Science and Family Engineering Nights are their single most attended events for

parents and children at their schools. Title I schools can offset program costs using Parental Involvement Funding which helps limit barriers to participation in this unique experience.

By Spring the field trip season was in full bloom with many days welcoming thousands of school kids along with their teachers and chaperones. By the end of the school year over 70,000 Maryland students and teachers visited MSC exhibit halls and attended classroom programs, planetarium presentations, and giant screen films. Total student visits more than doubled over the previous year. Over 7,000 students from



neighboring states also visited—recognizing the quality and depth of learning with a visit to the Science Center.

Our Traveling Science teams delivered programs to over 28,000 students in their schools with another 6,000 attending Family Science and Engineering Nights. And our work with the Early Childhood Education community through our Ready, Set, Go Science program translated into over 10,000 young learners and educators taking advantage of this introduction to basic science principles and the tools to teach them. We also paused to honor this year's Maryland Outstanding Young Scientist, Outstanding Young Engineer, and Maryland Educator of the Year. At the ceremony, the annual Glass Scholarship was also awarded to a worthy Baltimore City graduating senior to help support their college education. Reflecting on the year in review, the Science Center welcomed almost 225,000 visits to the exhibit halls and theaters. Among those visitors were over 80,000 member visits from over 8,000 member households underscoring the value our many friends and fans see in investing in a community hub that promotes science learning. Paired with off-site programs, the Maryland Science Center reached over 317,000 people in total, an increase of over 120,000 people from the previous year. Growth and



renewal—the hallmark of this past year.

Of course, none of this is possible without the support of our generous friends. Foundation support from Northrop Grumman Foundation, Kahlert Foundation and the Middendorf Foundation helped underwrite program costs and boost technology upgrades. MSC's annual celebration of science education-Solstice-once again raised over \$230,000 through generous corporate support and individual ticket sales. And the State of Maryland provided much needed capital funds and operating funding along with additional support from Baltimore County, Howard County, and Prince George's County. We are grateful for the generosity of so many and thank every one of our partners who keep the mission of the Maryland Science Center moving forward to achieve maximum impact.

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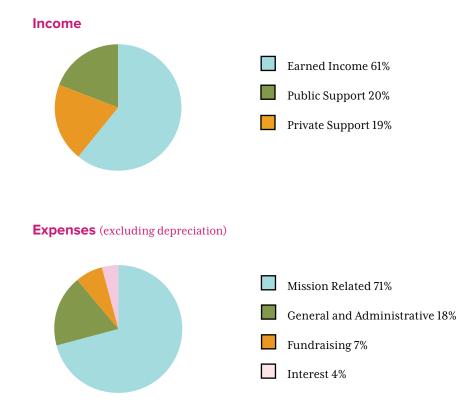
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We are the Maryland Science Center. We inspire. We empower. We engage. Let's science!

FY 2023 Financial Summary



A History as Rich as the Science it Shares

The Maryland Science Center has been sharing its love of science since its inception as the Maryland Academy of Sciences in 1797.

As Maryland's oldest scientific institution and one of the oldest such institutions in the entire nation, the Academy was an amateur scientific society whose members met to discuss papers and to advance understanding of "natural sciences." With the opening of the Maryland Science Center at Baltimore's Inner Harbor in 1976, the Academy fulfilled its vision of establishing a permanent location dedicated to engaging, interactive science.

From astronomy to paleontology, the human body to physics and phenomena, the Maryland Science Center is packed with innovative exhibits that demonstrate the wonders of scientific discovery with a focus on open-ended exploration.

The Science Center provides interactive science experiences for families, students, educators, and learners of all ages. We offer a variety of exhibits, live science demonstrations and activities, as well as the St. John Properties IMAX Theater, Davis Planetarium, and Crosby Ramsey Memorial Observatory. These exhibits provide the backdrop for an audience-driven experience that is enhanced through staff interaction. For almost 50 years, the Maryland Science Center has provided valuable educational experiences at our location in Baltimore City and through outreach programming across the mid-Atlantic region. No other Maryland institution dedicated to informal science education reaches more students and teachers.



601 Light Street Baltimore, MD 21230 www.marylandsciencecenter.org The Maryland Science Center is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.

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