

Celebrating 50 Years at the Inner Harbor

Annual Report 2024-2025



Dear Friends,

It has been a year of unprecedented progress as the Maryland Science Center approaches its 50th year at our Inner Harbor location. Since 1976 the Science Center has evolved to meet the needs of the many communities we serve. Our programs, our exhibits, and our partnerships with the education community and those who share our love of science have grown and changed with the times. Throughout our five decades however, one thing has remained a constant—our mission to promote science literacy and the importance of science in our everyday lives.

For only the third time in our history, we introduced a new identity and new branding for our institution. The new logo and supporting language helps us better communicate the experience of visiting our exhibit halls, encounters with staff, and access to our many programs and events. The new logo — what some see as a spring or coil, while others see a non-linear path — illustrates the energy, exploration, and imagination that are the hallmarks of the Science Center. Our tagline, Let's science, underscores the participatory and inclusive nature of everything we do.

This past year marked the launch of our 50th Anniversary Campaign. Enhancing the guest experience, creating a sustainable science center, and ensuring greater access for all, are the three pillars of this effort. This period of exhibit renewal will herald a transformation in our exhibit halls as we welcome new permanent exhibits and refresh our legacy experiences. We will also begin our outdoor greening project replacing hard surfaces and antiquated lighting with a new campus that reduces our impact on the environment. And we continue to eliminate barriers to participation with new programs like *Access Science* which allows eligible Marylanders to gain entry to the center for significantly reduced admission. For the hundreds of thousands of families, visitors to our state, and lifelong science enthusiasts who visit, these changes will be exciting additions. All these initiatives, and many more on the horizon, are helping us set the table for our next 50 years.

While planning for the future became a key part of this past year, so did our work at our home at 601 Light Street. This school year saw over 93,000 Maryland students and teachers visit our exhibit halls, planetarium, and *St. John Properties IMAX Theater.* As you know, the Science Center has welcomed in-state students to visit our exhibit halls for free when visiting on a field trip since its opening year. We are pleased that a number of our generous supporters renewed their commitment to ensure that this free admission policy will always be a part of our mission. We also welcomed our newest Outstanding Young Scientist and Outstanding Young Engineer awardees at an annual ceremony that also recognized innovative classroom teaching and presented a graduating senior in Baltimore City with a scholarship to help with their college expenses. And, as you'll see on the pages ahead, our work was not just here in our facility. Our outreach teams crisscrossed the state delivering programming in schools in every county, and our staffers were in Head Starts throughout Baltimore City helping young learners and their caregivers to begin to think about basic science concepts.

As you read our Annual Report and explore some of our programs in greater depth please know that all of this is only possible through the generous support of our many friends. We are thankful for the thousands of member households who show their commitment to our mission through both their annual membership and their many visits. Public and private support through donations are critical to our efforts to keep the Maryland Science Center fresh and relevant. State and local government support helps us build things like exhibits and programs and that same support helps us build relationships that benefit the citizens of Maryland. To all of you, we say thank you for being a part of the Science Center community. Let's science!



Mark J. Potter



Mark Zimely

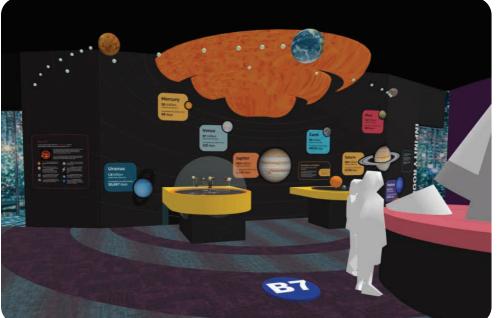
Mark Zimmerly Chair, Board of Trustees

Not 1, Not 2, But 3 New Exhibits Coming in FY 26!

Make, Presented By The Kahlert Foundation

Our new do-it-yourself workshop space takes creativity to the next level with drop-in activities that blend science, engineering, and technology. Visitors might take on a problem-solving challenge, prototype an inventive object, or investigate the inner workings of a familiar item.





Space, Presented By Northrop Grumman

Our new 5,000 square foot out-of-this world exhibit! *Space* examines the enormity of our universe through the lens of scientific discovery. Explore what it's like working in outer space. Engineer rockets, drive rovers, blast away asteroids, and search for exoplanets. Made possible by the State of Maryland, Jeramy and Jennifer Utara, and our 50th Anniversary Campaign donors!

New Demonstration Stage

Science is a bubbling, chilling, and electrifying experience with presentations offered daily on a variety of topics. The new Demo Stage will provide a muchlarger space for exciting science programming! Made possible by our 50th Anniversary Campaign donors!



Celebrating Science in Our Baltimore Home

Three floors of interactive exhibits and programs designed to be pushed, pulled, stacked, and splashed, bringing everyday science to life and folding you into the wonder of our world. Every visit is a new adventure!



93,454 Free Field Trips for Maryland Students and Educators

Our hands-on exhibits and electrifying demonstrations help bring classroom concepts to life! Thanks to *Science Beyond the Classroom, Powered by Constellation* all Maryland students, teachers, and chaperones who visit the Science Center receive free field trip admission. Funding is also provided by the Maryland State Department of Education, The Kahlert Foundation, Transamerica Foundation, Prince George's County Community Partnership Grants Program, Delaplaine Foundation, The John J. Leidy Foundation, Goldsmith Family Foundation, and our generous donors. We also thank Baltimore City, the Citizens of Baltimore County & the Baltimore County Commission on Arts and Sciences, and the Howard County Arts Council and the Howard County Government for their operating

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support which provides critical support for all our programming. More than 7,100 out-of-state students on field trips from DC and six states received reduced admission.

Expanding Access

MSC is committed to removing as many obstacles to participation as possible to ensure that all Marylanders have access to our exhibits and programs. Through *Access Science*, over 1,800 Marylanders from 22 counties enjoyed reduced admission on weekends and during the summer.

4,046 Children and Adults Spent the Night at Our Museum

Overnight programs include all of your favorite Science Center exhibits, multiple themed activity stations, and an interactive planetarium show. At the end of the night, roll out your sleeping bag right in the exhibit halls!



489 Scouts Explored

Engineering, robotics, paleontology, and more through hands-on learning experiences at the Maryland Science Center! Our workshops for scouts include activities that fulfill badge earning requirements for Girl Scouts, Cub Scouts, and Scouts BSA.

13 Chances To Cheers To Science

Who said science is just for kids? Over 5,000 adults raised a glass at *Let's Science Happy Hour*, rocked out in the planetarium for *Music Under the Dome*, and let their inner child loose for a *Grown Up Field Trip*.

One Night of Scientific Celebration in Support of a Full Year of Scientific Exploration

Solstice, our annual fundraising gala, provides an opportunity to dance the night away while supporting free field trip admission and our outreach programs.

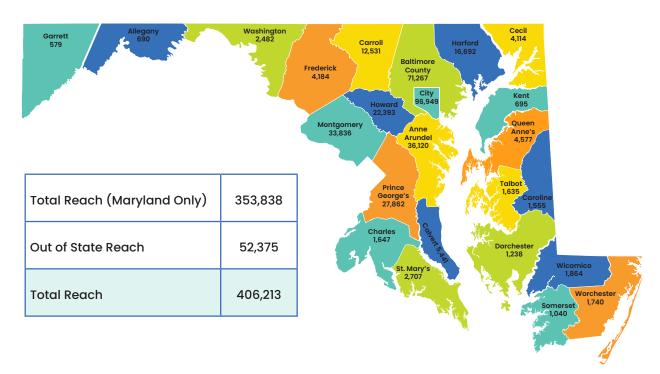


Our Mission Is Not Confined to Four Walls

Through our programs, we reach audiences in every part of Maryland and beyond, because every child deserves access to education, science, personal insight, innovation, and invention. Our educators are out in communities throughout the city and across the state delivering science programming to pre-schools, elementary schools, community centers, libraries, and everywhere in between.



Marylanders served by the Maryland Science Center July 2024 - June 2025





Reaching 31,992 Students in Every Maryland School District and Beyond

MSC's Traveling Science Program delivered classroom and assembly programs that educate as well as stimulate interest and enthusiasm for science.

100% of Teachers Surveyed Affirmed

That our *Traveling Science Program* provided their students with an educational experience that enriched their classroom lessons.



Reaching 11,194 Baltimore City Students, Families, and Educators

Our *Ready, Set, Go Science* outreach program prepares preschoolers for academic success in 58 Head Start classrooms across
Baltimore City.

6,423 Children and Parents in 9 Maryland Counties and Baltimore City

Engaged in a *Family Science* or *Family Engineering Night*, an evening devoted to family fun, community building, and learning through STEM activities or design challenges.

596 Educators

Participated in professional development workshops to help them inspire, empower, and engage their students with science! At the Maryland Science Center, we do more than inspire students and captivate families; we teach teachers.



MSC Across Maryland

Making sure that all students and families have access to Science Center programs is central to our mission. MSC educators met with community members in Baltimore City's Cherry Hill neighborhood to hear how we could support their work. As a result of these conversations, our educators visited a summer reading program multiple times over the summer, leading hands-on STEAM projects and assembly presentations.



Transforming Our Future

As we celebrate our first 50 years, we are looking towards our future — continuing our work to inspire, empower, and engage Maryland's students, educators, and families. Our goal is to raise \$15+ million to support three major initiatives. Thanks to our generous donors, \$13,553,927 has been raised to date, and our transformation has already begun!

Improving Access For All Marylanders

We will reach more communities — at our Baltimore home and on Main Streets across Maryland — ensuring access for more Marylanders at the state's only comprehensive science center. Thanks to Constellation's generous \$850,000 gift, they've extended their support for free field trip admission for Maryland schools — *Science Beyond the Classroom, powered by Constellation! Access Science* provides reduced admission for anyone with a Maryland SNAP or WIC card. *MSC Across Maryland* brings our educators and MSC vans to more Marylanders across the state.



Enhancing Visitor Experiences – And Creating New Ones!

We will enhance our guest experience through exhibit creation and renovation, infrastructure improvements, and investing in our staff. Three new exhibits are debuting in FY26, along with improvements to *Dinosaur Mysteries* and other exhibits.

Prioritizing Our Environment

We will create a more sustainable MSC, reducing our impact on the environment through a transformation of our campus. In late 2025, thanks to a gift from the

France-Merrick Foundation, our Key Highway plaza will become greener and more welcoming for our guests and community. Groundbreaking is expected in mid-2026 for our Harbor Plaza Transformation, creating an inviting, engaging, and educational green space for all to enjoy!

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Thank you to everyone who has supported our 50th Anniversary Campaign!

The success of the Maryland Science Center and our 50th Anniversary Campaign depends on you. It's through your commitment that we thrive as we continue to inspire, empower, and engage for generations to come.

We invite you to make the commitment through a generous contribution to the 50th Anniversary Campaign. To discuss how you can support science education, please contact Marty Perreault at mperreault@mdsci.org or 410.545.5970. Thank you!

All Thanks to You

On behalf of our Board of Trustees, our staff and volunteers, and the citizens of Maryland and beyond that we connect with every day, we thank you for your generosity. Let's science!

Annual Appeal

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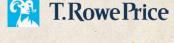
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We are the Maryland Science Center. We inspire. We empower. We engage. Let's science!

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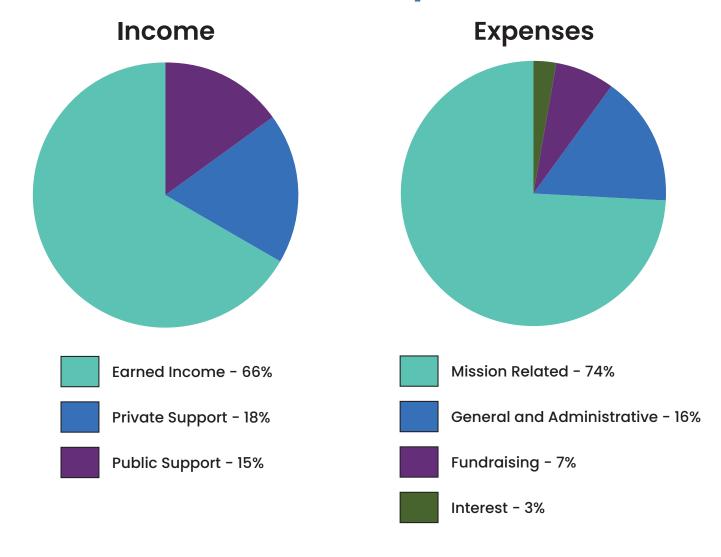
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FY 2025 Financial Summary



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 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.mdsci.org

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