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SPACE AND MAKE  
OPENINGS

SPRING EVENTS  
AND ACTIVITIES

KIDS ROOM  
EXPANSION

# Explorations

Spring 2026

A Publication of the Maryland Science Center

**Celebrating 50 Years  
at the Inner Harbor**



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**FROM THE PRESIDENT'S OFFICE**

**Celebrating Our Past and Preparing Our Future**

Fifty years ago, the Maryland Academy of Sciences opened the first jewel of Baltimore's Inner Harbor: the Maryland Science Center. Our founders' vision was to provide residents of, and visitors to, Maryland with access and opportunity for scientific discovery. Fifty years later, through our exhibits, outreach, and programs beyond our Inner Harbor walls, that mission is very much alive.

As we continue our year-long golden anniversary festivities, we have a lot to celebrate. Over the past year, we've added hands-on programs and upgraded many interactive experiences at our Inner Harbor museum. *Space*, presented by Northrop Grumman, and *Make*, presented by The Kahlert Foundation, opened in December; it's gratifying (although not unexpected) to see students and families exploring, asking questions, and discovering answers. We're grateful to Northrop Grumman and The Kahlert Foundation, as well as many other supporters, for enabling us to bring these exciting experiences to our visitors.

The debuts of *Space* and *Make* are just two of the many projects we undertook during our anniversary year. As you'll read in the following pages, our new *Demonstration Stage* is open with exciting live shows that bring science to life, and an addition to the *Kids Room* expands opportunities for our youngest scientists. Our harborside exterior lighting finally brings long-overdue illumination to our corner of the harbor. We refreshed *Dinosaur Mysteries* with updated technology and a new mural. We've completed phase one of restroom renovations, an important (albeit not very glamorous) part of our plan to accommodate our guests throughout their entire visit.

In this anniversary year, we've also expanded our programs outside of our Inner Harbor walls. In communities throughout Maryland, our *Traveling Science Program*, *Family Science and Family Engineering Nights*, and *Ready, Set, Go Science* in 55 Head Start classrooms across Baltimore City continue to reach tens of thousands of children, teachers, and parents across the state. Through *Access Science*, families who might not otherwise visit the Science Center enjoy reduced admission and the chance to explore and learn together. And our *Science Beyond the Classroom*, powered by Constellation free admission program keeps growing—by the end of the school year in June, we hope to welcome over 100,000 Maryland students and teachers on field trips.

These significant enhancements are only possible through the generous support of a wide variety of donors, including the State of Maryland, corporations, foundations, individuals, and our members. They all recognize the value of our unique brand of informal science education to spark curiosity and invite exploration as we encourage the next generation of scientists and leaders. We thank them.

Our work continues, as does our 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Campaign—an ambitious effort to raise \$15 million to transform how we deliver informal science education. We'll soon break ground on the renovations of the harborside and Key Highway plazas to make them more environmentally friendly. We'll continue to refine and enhance our experiences to meet the changing interests of our visitors and new scientific discoveries.

And we'll continue to celebrate. Please join us on Saturday, June 13 for a festive, day-long commemoration of our history, our future, and the wonder of scientific discovery. I hope to see you and celebrate with you there.



Mark J. Potter  
President and CEO

**New Space for Space. More Making in Make. Two Interactive Experiences Now Open!**

With the snip of the scissors and the cutting of the ribbon, the Maryland Science Center's two newest interactive experiences officially opened on December 11.



Visitors love exploring space and better understanding our planet in the new *Space*, presented by Northrop Grumman exhibit. In interactive simulations and engaging experiences, they're steering rovers on the moon, building and launching rockets, and identifying planets through sound. And in the process, they're discovering the scientific process. True to the Science Center's philosophy, *Space* teaches through trial, error, and discovery—letting guests test ideas, learn from setbacks, and celebrate ingenuity.

"How does that work?" Can I do it?" Look what I made!" The new *Make*, presented by The Kahlert Foundation makerspace on the second floor has become a hot spot for visitors to explore DIY projects and learn about tools and materials such as woodworking, soldering, circuitry, power tools, 3D printers, and sewing machines. They're using their creativity, as well as their art and engineering skills, to design and build (and sometimes even deconstruct) their own projects.



*Space* and *Make* were developed as part of the Maryland Science Center's *Inspire, Empower, and Engage: Transforming Our Future 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Campaign*.



Participating in the *Space* ribbon cutting were: Agartha Larbi, Vice President, Global Corporate Responsibility, Northrop Grumman; Robert Fleming, Corporate Vice President and President, Northrop Grumman Space Systems; Mark J. Potter, President, Maryland Science Center; Mark Zimmerly, Chair, Board of Trustees, Maryland Science Center and Vice President, Transamerica; Brandon White, Sector Vice President & General Manager, Multi-Domain Operations Division, Northrop Grumman Space Systems and Trustee, Maryland Science Center; and exhibit donor Jeramy Utara.



Ellen Myers, Vice President and Executive Director, The Kahlert Foundation, and Trustee, Maryland Science Center; Mark J. Potter; Greg Kahlert, President, The Kahlert Foundation; and Mark Zimmerly officially opened *Make*, presented by The Kahlert Foundation.

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



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# Hands-On Fun and Nonstop Learning All Spring Long

## Throwback Grown Up Field Trip Friday, April 10

Remember that awesome field trip to the Science Center from your school days? It's back—but with an adult twist! Revisit your favorite hands-on experiences: make your hair stand on end with the Van de Graaff generator, design your own pogs in the *Make* makerspace, and recreate a "picture day" photo with a neon laser beam backdrop. Don't worry—we're replacing the milk or juice in your lunchbox with an adult beverage. For guests 21+.

Learn more at [www.mdsci.org/field-trip-throwback](http://www.mdsci.org/field-trip-throwback).

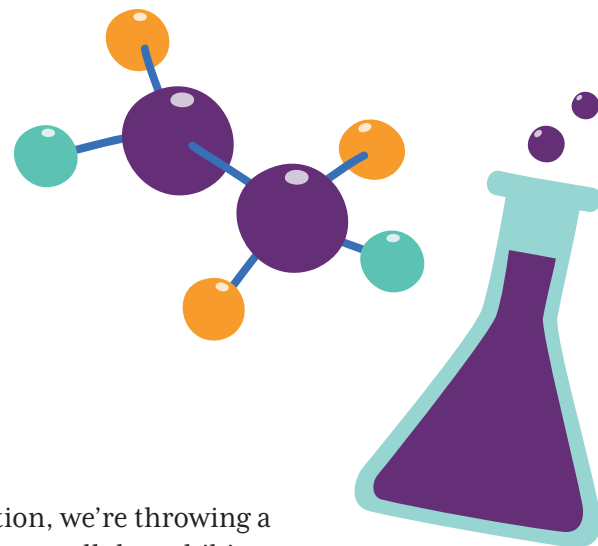
## Senior Day, presented by BRIGHTVIEW Tuesday, June 2



There's no age limit on discovery! Adults 65 and over (plus their caregivers) can enjoy all that the Science Center offers, including our three floors of hands-on exhibits, special demonstrations, a larger-than-life IMAX film, and a journey through the night sky in the planetarium. Discounted admission is available with online registration before Memorial Day. Information and reservation at [www.mdsci.org/senior-day](http://www.mdsci.org/senior-day).

## 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration Saturday, June 13

After 50 years of discovery and spectacle, experiments and education, we're throwing a party! The entire Maryland Science Center—from the outdoor plazas to all the exhibits, theaters, and creative spaces—will be filled with the inspiring and innovative experiences that students and families have celebrated for 50 years. And we're ready to celebrate with you! Join us for a day of adventure and merriment. Free with admission – at 1976 pricing!



## Solstice Saturday, June 20

Enjoy a festive evening of dining, dancing, and discovery at the Maryland Science Center's annual fundraising gala, all while supporting the programs that make informal science education available to Maryland students. This dress-to-impress soiree features open bars and fabulous food, live music in the atrium and a DJ on the rooftop patio, and experiments throughout the exhibits. Best of all, all proceeds support free admission for all Maryland schoolchildren and their teachers who visit on a field trip as well as the Science Center's outreach programs. Information and reservations at [www.mdsci.org/solstice](http://www.mdsci.org/solstice). Sponsorship opportunities are still available; contact Jada Hill at [jhill@mdsci.org](mailto:jhill@mdsci.org) or 410-545-5943.

# More New Spaces for More Exploration

There's always more to explore—and more new places to do it—at the Maryland Science Center. Since the start of this year, we've unveiled two new areas and made even more enhancements at our Inner Harbor location.

*Design, Build, Test (A Kids Room Experience)* is an engineering exhibit aimed at 2-8 year olds and their families. Guests can act like engineers from design stage, to building and re-building structures, and systems. Using manipulative components, children can build gear systems and giant marble runs, weave a pattern on the jumbo weaving wall, use connector pieces to make articulated structures, and build structures large enough to sit inside.

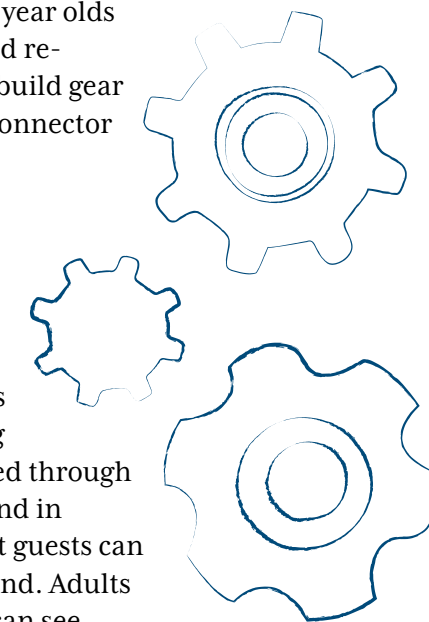
This new space located outside *The Kids Room* will highlight many different types of engineering, including mechanical, material, structural, and aerospace, and

will highlight how these different types of engineering can be observed through local history and in structures that guests can visit in Maryland. Adults and children can see the strong connections between the play that children already delight in, and the purposeful application of the skills and knowledge that they are developing as they learn through play.



*The Demonstration Stage* has been relocated to the large space where *The Shed* was previously located. The new area features an expanded presentation stage and lots of seating, all with unobstructed views of the exciting scientific action. The new space creates opportunities for new and more gasp-inspiring demonstrations, including bigger scientific reactions and up-close observations projected on screens. For example, on a recent weekday morning, a Science Center educator worked with chicken feet and explained how the tendons could be manipulated to activate the toes individually and as a group.

As a prominent destination at Baltimore's Inner Harbor for 50 years, the Maryland Science Center has always had a commanding presence. Now more than ever! Our **exterior lighting** has been enhanced, transforming our campus into a vibrant, display of wonder every evening. Custom settings now allow us to turn the facade purple or orange as we root for the Ravens and Orioles, or to add holiday-themed special occasion lighting. On most nights, the Science Center will be lit in the signature colors of our new logo and brand.





## A Winter Full of Wonder

The cold winter weather didn't keep Maryland families from enjoying activities and programs at the Maryland Science Center. Our exhibits, theaters, and classrooms were filled with the oohs and aahs of science exploration.

Hundreds of children participated in workshops and demonstrations, and marveled shows in the planetarium during *Homeschool Days* over three weeks in February. The diverse array of experiences included dissecting owl pellets to learn about food webs and exploring chemical reactions by baking cookies. Two new classes for parents of young children—Toddler Math and Cooking Helpers—supported parents as they learned alongside their children and took a

deeper look into toddler development. The winter session also included the first homeschool class in the new DIY space, *Make*. Students were introduced to the basics of electrical soldering; they then made their own miniature “neon” *Make* signs as they learned about circuitry.

It was definitely a happy new year during the annual *Midnight Noon* celebration on December 31. Families loved the holiday-inspired activities and dancing along with the Rainbow Rock Band. At the stroke of noon, they reveled in the ball drop in the atrium.

Winter vacation made for wondrous experimentation during *Snow Days* in late December. When kids were off from school, families continued the learning during 10 days of special programs, from engineering challenges to build snow forts and making snow-related crafts to no-ice ice skating and the chemistry of holiday baking.

February 7 was the opening day of the Winter Olympics—and a day of *Winter Games* at the Science Center. Visitors learned science concepts by trying curling (friction); building their own bobsled (gravity), and exploring figure skating (physics). They even made their own medals to take home.

## Time to Register for Summer Camp

Registration is open for *Camp MSC*, the week-long fun and educational experiences for children ages 4 to 13. Kids can come for one week or for all five; *Camp MSC* begins July 6 and the final week's sessions begin August 3, with four programs each week and something to excite any interest.

For example: In *Exhibit Design Team* in Session 5, older campers will design and build elements of their own museum exhibit. Campers in *Science Chef* (Session 1 & Session 4) will conduct culinary experiments and learn how the ingredients they choose impact the results that they taste. Four and five year olds will explore all things dinosaur in *Dinosaurs Rock*, and investigate color and light in *Science the Rainbow*. For 10-11 year olds, last year's popular *Medieval Masters* (Session 3) is back with new projects and activities to highlight science from Medieval times.

Full descriptions of Camp MSC programs and registration can be found at [www.mdsci.org/camp-msc](http://www.mdsci.org/camp-msc).



## Do Try This at Home

### Elephant Toothpaste

#### Collect

- 3% hydrogen peroxide
- 2 tablespoons yeast
- ¾ cups warm water
- A bottle of dish soap
- Empty 12 oz soda bottle or similar bottle with a narrow neck
- Tablespoon (2)
- Funnel
- Cookie sheet or tray



#### Get Ready For a Fizzy Eruption

1. Warm the water and yeast together until there are no clumps.
2. Place the empty soda bottle on top of the tray—this will catch the soapy mess.
3. Squeeze about one teaspoon of dish soap into the bottom of your soda bottle.
4. Place the funnel in the mouth of the soda bottle and pour in two tablespoons of hydrogen peroxide. Swirl the soap and hydrogen peroxide together.
5. Using a clean tablespoon, pour one tablespoon of the yeast mixture into the bottle. Remove the funnel from the opening of the bottle.
6. Observe the decomposition reaction as hydrogen peroxide becomes water and oxygen.

**Heads up!** The ingredients of this elephant toothpaste mixture are safe to wash down the drain with plenty of water.

#### What's happening?

When hydrogen peroxide decomposes, it breaks down into water and oxygen. At room temperature oxygen is gas. We added soap so we could capture that gas in the form of bubbles. The yeast acted as catalyst, a material that speeds up a chemical reaction. The yeast did not combine with the hydrogen peroxide to make the water and oxygen; you can investigate the bottom of your soda bottle and find the yeast still sitting around.



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## Free Field Trips for All MD Schools!

Enrich your students' science education with a Science Center field trip! Thanks to *Science Beyond the Classroom*, powered by *Constellation*, as well as the MD Dept of Education, public & private funders, and our generous donors, field trips to MSC are free for all Maryland school groups.

Book today!

[www.mdsci.org/field-trips](http://www.mdsci.org/field-trips)

## STAY CONNECTED



Visit our Facebook page for glimpses into what visitors, students and families are doing.

[Facebook.com/MarylandScienceCenter](https://www.facebook.com/MarylandScienceCenter)



Check out our Science Shorts, learn about our STEM Awards winners, and more.

[Youtube.com/MDScienceCenter](https://www.youtube.com/MDScienceCenter)



See it for yourself – photos of everything we're doing.

[Instagram.com/MDScienceCenter](https://www.instagram.com/MDScienceCenter)

## Let's science

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Dino Day Saturday, April 18

The dinosaurs may be extinct, but our ever-popular Dino Day is back with more exciting hands-on activities. Learn about our prehistoric planet by using paleontological tools to excavate fossils, exploring the teeth and claws of some of your favorite dinosaurs, and participating in lots of other dino-tastic activities. Free with admission.

Visit [www.mdsci.org/dino-day](http://www.mdsci.org/dino-day) to learn more.

### Sci-Fi Day Saturday, May 16

Explore this—and other worlds—on a day of strange activities. Travel to other worlds in the planetarium, make your own sci-fi creature, and work with a robot in *Make*. We've got plenty of special effects and fun activities all day and all throughout the museum. Free with admission.