



Celebrating 50 Years
at the Inner Harbor

Annual Report

2025–2026



Dear Friends,

In June, the Maryland Science Center celebrated three significant milestones: our 50th Anniversary at Baltimore's Inner Harbor, the completion of our record-breaking \$15.2 million fundraising campaign, and the ceremonial groundbreaking for the exciting transformation of our harborside plaza and entrance.

These commemorations did more than celebrate our past.

Naturally, they acknowledged that when we opened in 1976, the Maryland Science Center was the first attraction on the waterfront that came to be known as Baltimore's Inner Harbor—and a first-of-its-kind model that has been replicated at waterfronts across the country and around the world. We're proud to have hosted more than 15 million visitors in the past five decades, including over 90,000 Maryland school children and chaperones who visited us for free this past year as part of our *Science Beyond the Classroom*, powered by *Constellation* program. Beyond our walls, our *Traveling Science Program*, *Family Science Nights*, *Family Engineering Nights*, and *Ready, Set, Go Science* reached tens of thousands of children in schools and community centers throughout Maryland and the Mid-Atlantic region.

Our festivities certainly highlighted the results of our historic fundraising campaign, which allowed us to transform the Science Center both inside and out. As a result of the campaign, we created four new exhibits that debuted this year—*Space*, *Make*, *Design Build Test* and our expanded *Demo Stage*. We also celebrated a transformational gift with the naming of the *Harvey M. Meyerhoff Digital Planetarium*.

And we ceremonially began the process of renovating our harbor plaza. We will transform the brick plaza between our waterfront entrance and the harbor into an inviting and environmentally friendly green space.

But our June events were about much more than the past. They celebrated our future. They were a reconfirmation of the importance of our mission and our work to inspire and excite future generations.

As the Maryland institution that provides more informal, hands-on science education to the state than any other, we must continue to expand access for more Marylanders, whether at the Inner Harbor or in their community. When admission fees prohibit participation, we want to remove that barrier through our *Access Science* program. When children in rural counties have limited exposure to participatory science experiences, we want to give them those experiences in their community through *MSC Mainstreet Maryland*. When parents and grandparents don't know how to answer a child's questions about a science topic, we want to provide the information and resources for intergenerational learning, through experiences like our *Senior Day presented by Brightview Senior Living*.

On the following pages, we highlight just a few of our many programs, here at our Inner Harbor home, across Maryland, and beyond. We're grateful for the generous support of a wide variety of donors, including foundations, corporations, individuals, members, the State of Maryland, and local governments. 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. On behalf of our staff and volunteers, our Board of Trustees, and the citizens of Maryland and beyond that we connect with every day, we thank you for your generosity.

We have been a vital part of Baltimore, Maryland, and STEM education for the past 50 years. We pledge to spend the next 50 years ensuring that the Maryland Science Center continues to spark imagination and curiosity.

We invite you to join us on this exciting journey.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mark J. Potter'.

Mark J. Potter
President & CEO

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mark Zimmerly'.

Mark Zimmerly
Chair, Board of Trustees



“When Baltimore set out to imagine and reinvent the harbor, it did not start with offices. It did not start with hotels. It started with a science center—to make sure our children were the priority when we talk about what it means to build a future for everybody. A world-class mission deserves a world-class facility. No one leaves the Maryland Science Center with all the answers, but everybody leaves here with better questions and a better understanding of how we fit into the big, beautiful world.”

- Governor Wes Moore

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!



90,142 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. Support is also provided by the Maryland State Department of Education, The Kahlert Foundation, The Aegon Transamerica Foundation, Prince George's County Executive's Community Partnership Grants Program, Delaplaine Foundation, The John J. Leidy Foundation, Goldsmith Family Foundation, and our generous donors. We also thank 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 support which provides critical funding for all our programming. Almost 10,000 out-of-state students on field trips received reduced admission, as well.

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*, 2,944 Marylanders from 22 counties enjoyed reduced admission on weekends and during the summer.



4,336 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!

Visitors from 49 States and Around the World!

MSC welcomed visitors from 49 out of 50 states, as well as DC and Puerto Rico! From Belgium to Brazil, Japan to Sweden, visitors from around the world explored our exhibit halls.

Who Says Science is Just for Kids?

Over 6,000 adults rocked out in the planetarium for *Music Under the Dome*, let their inner child loose for a *Grown-Up Field Trip*, or celebrated science at Baltimore's favorite Halloween party. In June, our first-ever *Senior Day*, presented by *Brightview Senior Living*, featured special activities while the museum was reserved just for them.



270 Camp MSC Campers

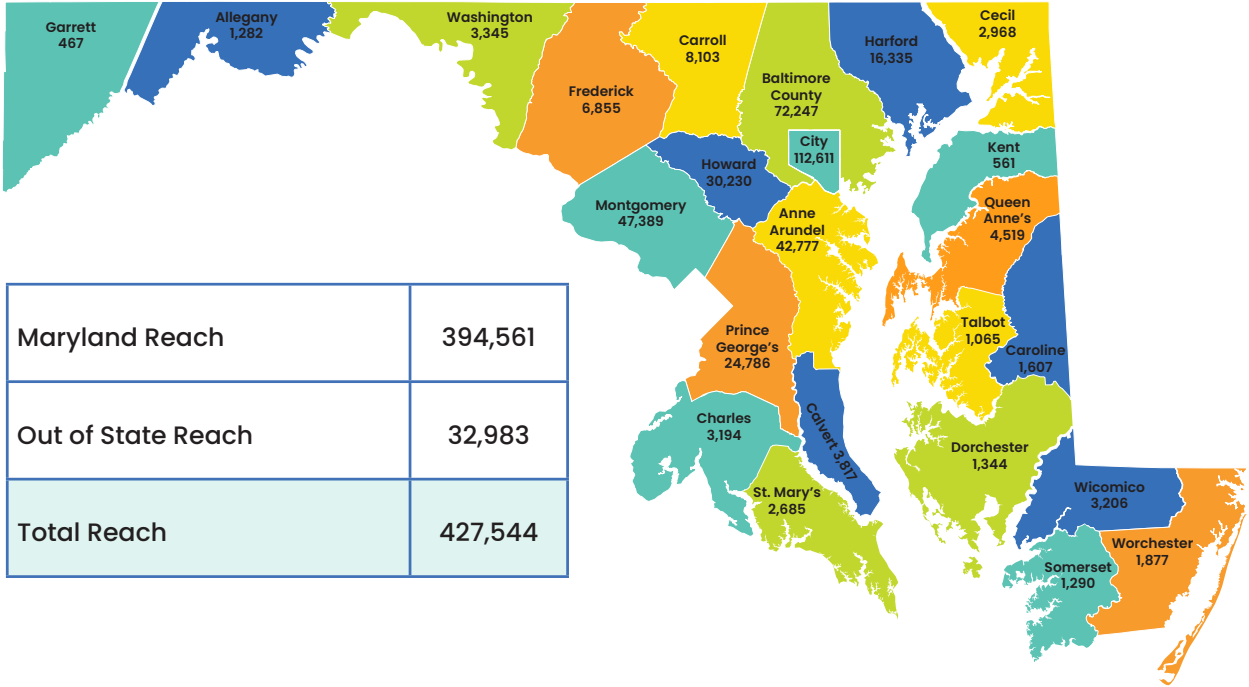
Young science enthusiasts spent a week in fun and educational sessions exploring everything from weather and wizardry to cooking and construction.

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 Baltimore 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 2025 – June 2026



100% of Teachers Surveyed Affirmed

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

Reached 35,334 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.



2026 STEM Award Winners

Each year MSC presents awards honoring scientific research, teaching excellence, and academic achievement. This year's honorees were Outstanding Young Scientist Dr. Gagandeep Anand (Space Telescope Science Institute), Outstanding STEM Educator Dr. Sylven Beck (George Washington University), and Glass Scholarship Awardee Keiser Powell (Coppin Academy High School).

12,631 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.

6,062 Children and Parents in 11 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.



337 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 Mainstreet Maryland

Last summer, MSC educators visited their partners in Baltimore City's Cherry Hill community at a summer reading program, to share hands-on science experiences. MSC's *Mainstreet Maryland* project aims to bring the Science Center's unique brand of informal, hands-on STEM education to community events across the state.



Transforming Our Future

The June 13 groundbreaking ceremony at the Maryland Science Center also celebrated the completion of the Science Center's historic 50th Anniversary fundraising campaign. The initial \$10 million campaign was announced in October 2024. Less than two years later, the campaign exceeded its goal by 50%; a total of \$15.2 million was raised to support new experiences and enhancements at our Inner Harbor location and new initiatives around the state.

Campaign elements include the creation of the new *Space*, presented by Northrop Grumman exhibit and *Make*, presented by The Kahlert Foundation DIY space which opened in December 2025, relocation and expansion of the *Demonstration Stage*, presented by Calvert Hall, and the *Design Build Test*, presented by IBEW Local 24 expansion of the Kids Room. We also celebrated a transformational gift with the naming of the *Harvey M. Meyerhoff Digital Planetarium*. The campaign also increased access to Maryland Science Center experiences through *Access Science*, which offers \$5 weekend and summer admission for Marylanders with a Maryland SNAP or Maryland WIC card, and the extension of free admission for Maryland school groups through *Science Beyond the Classroom*, powered by Constellation.

The transformation will continue, as we strive to create a more sustainable MSC, reducing our impact on the environment through the greening of our campus. This fall, our Constellation Learning Entrance on Key Highway will be renovated with more natural surfaces and grass. Renovation of our Harbor Plaza will follow, ripping up the bricks and creating an inviting and environmentally friendly green space to welcome our visitors.

We're grateful to all our 50th Anniversary Campaign donors for making all this possible. Thank you!



Transforming Our Future: Thanks to You!

50th Anniversary Campaign

Honor Roll of Donors

As we celebrate our first 50 years, we're looking towards our future — continuing our work to inspire, empower, and engage Maryland's next generations of scientists and engineers, and sharing our love of science with people of all ages. Thanks to our 50th Anniversary Campaign donors, we are expanding access to our programs, continuing to renew and revitalize our exhibits and experiences, and greening our campus. Thank you for your support!

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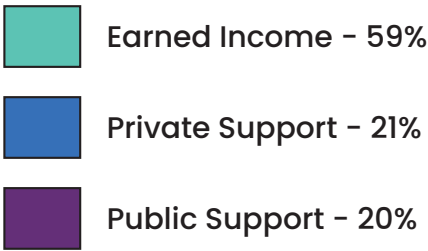
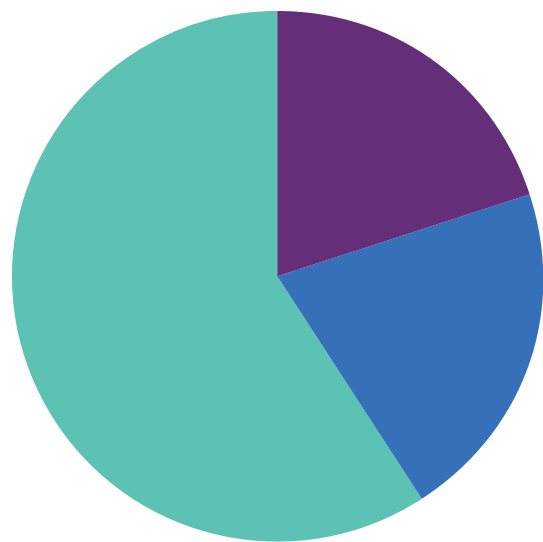
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Ex Officio

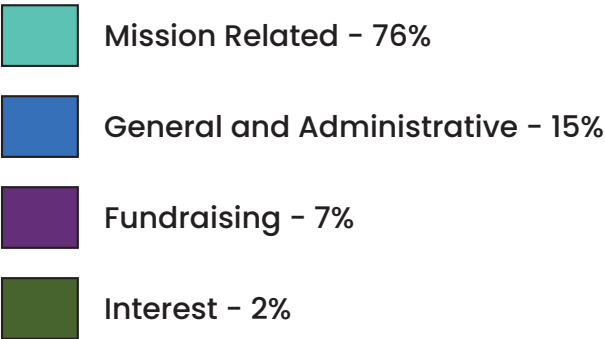
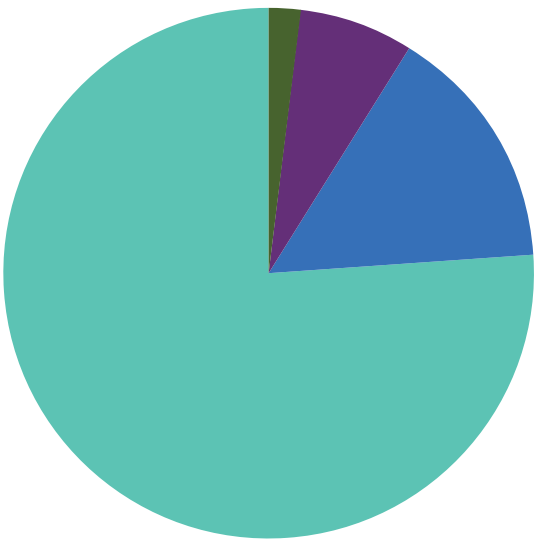
Mark J. Potter, President and Chief Executive Officer

FY 2026 Financial Summary

Income



Expenses



A History As Rich As the Science It Shares

As Maryland’s oldest scientific institution and one of the oldest such institutions in the entire nation, the Maryland Academy of Sciences 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*, *Meyerhoff Digital 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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