Imagine a world where every young person is empowered to use science in shaping a better future.
Starting with the vision of two women and built by the community, the Sciencenter has inspired generations of young people.

THE SCIENCENTER: INSPIRING YOUNG PEOPLE WITH SCIENCE FOR 30 YEARS

When community volunteers Debbie Levin and Ilma Levine opened the Sciencenter as a small storefront discovery center in 1983, they sought to inspire curiosity and passion for science in children. They never imagined it would grow into an award-winning museum with international impact. Now, fueled by the growing need for science education for all members of our community, we’re poised to empower a new generation with tools to thrive in the future.

“The Sciencenter brings generations together. When I was on the founding board in the 1980s, I brought my children all the time. Now I share it with my grandchildren. The Sciencenter feels like a second home—it’s a true gem.”

JOHANNA GETTINGER
Realtor, Advisory Board Member

Founders Debbie Levin and Ilma Levine in 1992 when the community built the Sciencenter a permanent home.
100,000 guests in ITHACA EACH YEAR ensuring access through FREE ADMISSION for 16,000 guests

ALL SECOND GRADERS in Tompkins County experience HANDS-ON FIELD TRIPS at no cost

Our traveling exhibitions reach 1,500,000 guests annually in 110 museums in 42 states and 5 countries

38 AWARDS FOR EXCELLENCE
Local, National, and International

“Through free admission for families with limited incomes, the Sciencenter makes it possible for thousands of children to explore science-based learning. We enthusiastically support the Sciencenter’s efforts to open the door to science for ALL children and families.”

LEE DILLON
Executive Director, Tompkins Community Action, providers of Head Start Program
A BRIGHT FUTURE DEPENDS ON THE CREATIVE LEADERS OF TOMORROW

by 5
Children’s brains are 90% developed. They’ve begun to gain cognitive, emotional and language skills.

EARLY EXPLORERS PLAY
AGES 0-5
Experimenting with what floats and sinks in water or what happens when they mix colors, like good scientists, our Early Explorers make predictions, test them and get a bit messy in the process.

by 8
Children’s brains are rapidly gaining the ability to understand abstract concepts

YOUNG SCIENTISTS ASK QUESTIONS
AGES 5-11
By observing and experimenting, Young Scientists become confident and collaborative problem solvers. Why do stars blink? What does a snake eat? How do you make an electrical circuit? With 250+ interactive exhibits throughout the museum, Young Scientists ask and answer questions about astronomy, climate, math, sound, engineering, animals, and more.

by 14
Teen brains have developed the capacity for higher-order critical thinking

FUTURE SCIENCE LEADERS COMMUNICATE
AGES 11-14
FSL teens are STEM and digital media leaders. They guide their younger peers in analyzing stream chemistry and designing exhibits. They produce video animations and build apps. Our Future Science Leaders create, communicate, and innovate.
Science helps children realize their dreams, participate confidently in civic life, and improve their world.

“From new science on early learning and brain development, we now know that children’s brains are uniquely wired for learning, especially in the earliest years of life before formal schooling begins. The earlier we inspire children to discover their world and become connected with science, the better chance they have for success.”

TAMAR KUSHNIR
Associate Professor, Human Development, Cornell University
Our three age-based initiatives form a continuous pathway for children to engage with science, from birth to high school. Through these targeted exhibits and programs, we foster science learning at each major developmental stage:

- Early Explorers *birth to preschool*
- Young Scientists *elementary school*
- Future Science Leaders *middle school*
WHAT WE'RE STRIVING FOR

EXHIBITS
New exhibits will empower children at each developmental stage through age-appropriate experimentation, exploration, and observation, helping them become active problem solvers in an increasingly complex and diverse world.

PROGRAMS AND WORKSHOPS
New programs will reinforce learning at school by nurturing curiosity, confidence, and critical thinking. New workshops for parents, caregivers, and teachers will help them keep children engaged in science outside the museum.

NEW FACILITIES
From a new learning space for guests under 5 to renovated galleries and new IT systems, the campaign will support new facilities that position the Sciencenter for the next 25 years.

ENDOWMENT
Additions to the Sciencenter’s endowment will ensure that key exhibits and programs will always be available to our community.

CONNECTING KIDS TO SCIENCE
Curious. Confident. Inspired. Through new exhibits and activities, the Sciencenter’s campaign will encourage children’s natural eagerness to explore their world through science—from birth to high school...and beyond.

“My thinking about science changed more in two weeks leading Sciencenter Summer Camp than in a whole year of biology at school. Now I really understand that I could be an environmental scientist and what that means.”
- Morgen Fulmer, Age 16
$3.8 Million
THE SCIENCENTER CAMPAIGN GOAL

New outdoor science playground
Expanded early education area with double the space for exhibits and activities
New hands-on exhibits that focus on sensory learning, motor skills, and discovery
Family Learning Lab and activity area
Workshops for parents and teachers on nurturing scientific exploration

Far more than a number, the Sciencenter’s Campaign empowers youth to use science for the benefit of their own lives, their communities, and their world.
The expansion of our Future Science Leaders program (including dedicated FSL space) lets kids build their own skills while learning to help others through:

- **Mentoring**: guiding younger children in science exploration
- **Citizen Science**: leading visitors in scientific experiments and exploration
- **New Media**: using technology to connect others with science
- **Exhibits**: learning the tools and trade of exhibit building

- 4 new galleries: Ocean Science, Sustainability, Health, and NY Native Animals
- 24 new and expanded exhibits on light, sound, technology, climate, and more
- Science-themed 18 hole mini golf course
- Expanded access and programs for low income families
- Expansion of the Sagan Planet Walk, including the first permanent exhibit on the Moon
- Infrastructure: IT upgrades and facilities improvements

**CONFIDENT YOUNG SCIENTISTS**

**AGES 5-11**

**Inspired FUTURE SCIENCE LEADERS**

**AGES 11-14**
“I come to the Sciencenter regularly with my 1 and 3 year-old girls and enjoy connecting with other parents and kids. I would love to see more space for the little ones so they can explore science at their level. I would also like more age-appropriate science activities that my daughters and I could work on together.”

JOSEPHINE CHU MCALLISTER
Mother and Physician

Note: Teens in Future Science Leaders will lead public activities, teach, and work throughout the Sciencenter.
THE SCIENCENTER: VOICES OF THE COMMUNITY

“As our global community confronts shared challenges—from climate change, to environmental sustainability, to societal inequalities—there is no doubt that science will play an increasing role in finding a better way forward. By helping young people get involved with—and excited about—science today, the Sciencenter is preparing them to take leadership roles in shaping solutions tomorrow.”

DAVID SKORTON
PRESIDENT, CORNELL UNIVERSITY

“What impresses me about the Sciencenter is that they encourage children of all ages to engage in the same observation and inquiry-based process of discovery that I do each day as a science professional. They are creating a foundational experience where kids can practice asking questions, assessing their answers, and asking again.”

ARTHUR WOLL
STAFF SCIENTIST, G-LINE, CORNELL HIGH ENERGY SYNCHROTRON SOURCE

“The Sciencenter is an amazing partner for Ithaca City School District teachers. My students really benefited from going to the Sciencenter to extend their understanding of magnets and other aspects of physical science outside the classroom setting.”

PEGGY DOLAN
TEACHER, BELLE SHERMAN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
“The Sciencenter is an invaluable resource for our community’s young people and gets better all the time. It’s a real community treasure.”

LUVELLE BROWN
SUPERINTENDENT,
ITHACA CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

“The Sciencenter supports the unique sharing that happens when families explore learning experiences together. What a great venue for family members to connect with science and each other!”

CAROL TRAVIS
ADVISORY BOARD MEMBER

“My parents always took me to the Sciencenter. In high school, I led chemistry shows there. Now I’m in college and working at a software engineering company. The Sciencenter taught me that there is learning in every activity, every day, in every cool thing you see.”

ARYEH ALEXANDER
JUNIOR AT CARNEGIE MELLON UNIVERSITY
ROBIN DAVISSON
The Andrew Dickson White Professor of Molecular Physiology, Cornell University

As a researcher and educator, I certainly perceive the gender gap in science today. The Sciencenter provides remarkable possibilities by connecting both girls and boys with science early and making science a habit for families as children grow up. Through a “birth to high school” approach, the Sciencenter will provide linked, age-appropriate science opportunities not available elsewhere. I hope you will join the Sciencenter Board of Trustees and me in supporting this important campaign.

GREG GALVIN
Chairman and CEO, Rheonix, Inc. and Mezmeriz, Inc.

I have spent my career in emerging technologies, and I have seen how creativity, confidence with science, communication skills and collaboration are critical to success. My children’s experiences at the Sciencenter have broadened them in positive, long-lasting ways. It is vital that we integrate science in the lives of our youth—from early childhood through high school. My family and I support the Sciencenter’s new educational initiatives, because we believe these new approaches will enhance the lives of all children in our community and better prepare them for the future. Please join us in supporting this effort.
JOIN US AND GIVE CHILDREN SCIENCE FOR LIFE

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