

# Sciencenter's multi-year campaign raised \$4.1 million

Matt Steecker , ithacajournal.com | @MSteecker 2:49 p.m. ET March 13, 2017



(Photo: Provided photo)

The Sciencenter finished a multi-year capital campaign titled "Curious. Confident. Inspired." (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z8VBNKt5idU&feature=youtu.be>) exceeding its own expectations on the amount of funding raised.

The museum will use \$4.1 million to revitalize museum exhibits, support expanded educational programs, increase access for underserved audiences, and to sustain the organization through endowment growth, a Sciencenter press release stated.

Sciencenter exceeded the expectations it had for its campaign by 7 percent over its initial goal of \$3.8 million, the release stated.

Since the public launch of the campaign in the summer of 2015, the Sciencenter has enhanced numerous exhibit areas, expanded and developed new educational programs, supported increased efforts to provide access to every part of the community, and undergone facility upgrades, the release stated. Some of the recently completed campaign projects include a new animal room dedicated to native New York wildlife, an 18-hole science-themed mini-golf course, a revitalized Tidepool Touch Tank in the expanded Ocean Science Gallery, an outdoor playground exclusively for children under 5 and a teen science, technology, engineering and math lab, complete with a professional media room.

The Sciencenter has also extended educational programming for Head Start teachers and families, and created a Family Learning Area, where Cornell researchers conduct research on early childhood learning, the release stated. Furthermore, the museum has redoubled accessibility efforts through the Museums for All \$1 admission program for electronic benefit transfer cardholders, and implemented semi-annual sensory hours for children with sensory processing disorder.

"All of us at the Sciencenter are energized every day by the children who can't get enough of the new exhibits and programs that this campaign has helped us provide our community," Charlie Trautmann, Director Emeritus of the Sciencenter.

In the months and years to come, Sciencenter guests will see even more additions and enhancements throughout the museum, the release stated. The museum is expanding its Get Fit! exhibit gallery and creating several interactive exhibits focused on climate and the science of sound.

"I am in awe of this incredible community and its commitment to empowering our children through science education," said Dean Briere, executive director of Sciencenter.

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