Developing our New Strategic Framework

By Dean Briere

The Sciencenter has a new Strategic Framework to guide us into the future! This came at an opportune time. In 2017, the museum completed a successful capital campaign, the former strategic plan was concluding, and I started my role as the Sciencenter’s new executive director. In short, the Sciencenter was poised for a new plan that would lead the organization through its next period of growth and innovation.

To develop this Strategic Framework, we listened, first, to our community. More than 250 stakeholders – staff, Board Trustees, and community members, shared their ideas through in-person interviews, retreats, meetings, and surveys. This community feedback helped reveal our core values, reinforce our foundational strengths, and identify “directional indicators” or guideposts for our decision-making.

The three directional indicators we established are science, community, and accessibility. The resulting Strategic Framework is an adaptable, responsive roadmap for the Sciencenter and our work.

The Sciencenter plays a central and irreplaceable role in deepening and expanding science literacy in the region and throughout the country. Our Strategic Framework serves as the basis for a new vision for the Sciencenter – a world where people explore, connect, and create through science. We will build on the momentum we generated during the Capital Campaign to develop new experiences that support engagement and learning. We will reach new audiences that reflect our broad community, in the spaces where they live, work and play. We will build and strengthen partnerships and creative collaborations, both locally and nationally. And we will keep at the core of our operations the values and strengths that have brought us this far. Together, we will cultivate a broad community of curious, confident, critical thinkers.

“Our Strategic Framework serves as the basis for a new vision for the Sciencenter - a world where people explore, connect, and create through science.”
The Sciencenter: A Place for Adults

The Sciencenter is well known as a place of great fun, exploration, and learning for children. It may come as a surprise to some that adults can experience the same joy and learning at the Sciencenter.

The Sciencenter partners with Tompkins Community Action to offer science based professional development workshops to Head Start teachers. The workshops give teachers the opportunity to explore activities before they bring them back to their classrooms. The goal is for teachers to feel more prepared to engage students in science and science related activities.

In addition to these professional development workshops, the Sciencenter also hosts programs that facilitate parents’ engagement in their children’s learning. The Sciencenter’s Science Together program is designed specifically for adults to lead science activities with their children.

The newest program series at the Sciencenter, Sciencenter After Dark, is for adults ages 18+. These programs invite scientists and researchers to lead hands-on activities on topics like dangerous plants, wine, and chocolate. Sciencenter After Dark gives adults a chance to see the museum in a different light; a place where people of all ages can come and experience the joy of learning in a way that’s captivating and fun.

Join us for Sciencenter After Dark: Bread & Beer on Thurs., April 25 at 6:30pm.
Sensory Hours Spotlight
Featuring: Flor Ardon

Sensory Hours are dedicated times when the Sciencenter provides a modified experience for children with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). This includes sound and light modifications, as well as activities designed specifically for children with ASD.

Flor Ardon became involved with Sensory Hours through her role with the parent group, Play and Talk, as well as through her children’s love of the Sciencenter.

Sensory Hours provide an opportunity for children to play together in a safe space. “The great part about sensory hours is that kids can interact as much as they want through parallel play. There are no expectations and kids decide how much interaction they want to have,” said Flor Ardon. “The Sciencenter provides a judgement free space where you feel like staff are on your side and they talk with the kids in a language that they can understand.”

The Sciencenter’s responsiveness to neurodiversity is thanks in part to Flor and parents like her who provide input and feedback which play a vital role in the Sciencenter’s programming and events.

These programs are made possible in part by the NYS Education Department, the Gannett Foundation, and a grant from the Community Foundation’s Myrtle Dee Nash Memorial Fund.

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For Sciencenter Corporate Membership information, call Alli Sribarra at 607.272.0600 x133, or visit sciencenter.org.
Spring/Summer Hours

Tues–Sat: 10AM–5PM
Sunday: Noon–5PM

OPEN:
Holiday Mondays and Mondays in July and August.

Admission

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<tr>
<td>General: ages 2–64</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kids under 2</td>
<td>Free</td>
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<td>Seniors: ages 65+</td>
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<td>Members</td>
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<td>EBT: Cardholders</td>
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Mini-Golf

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<tr>
<td>Members:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Toddlers: ages 0–3</td>
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MINI-GOLF OPEN:
April 1 – November 30, weather permitting

Mark Your Calendar!

NEW! ADULT PROGRAMS
Sciencenter After Dark: Beer & Bread
Thursday, April 25; 6:30 - 9 PM

WEEK OF THE YOUNG CHILD
Sponsored by CFCU
April 8 - 12

SENSORY HOURS
Sunday, May 5; 10 AM - 12 PM

WEEKLY WONDERS
Weekdays in July and August

VISIT sciencenter.org for a complete listing of upcoming programs and events.

Sciencenter Mini-Golf!

Open April 1
Come out and enjoy Ithaca’s ONLY mini-golf course. It’s fun for all ages and is wheelchair accessible. Gather the whole family, or a group of friends, and play a round today.

For current hours and admission prices, please visit our website.

Featured Exhibition:
Mission Aerospace

Perfect your paper airplane and rocket skills and launch your creations down the runways. Learn about aeronautics and space while winding your way through our space maze.