The Reimagination of the Sciencenter

by Charlie Trautmann, Executive Director

Recently, you may have noticed a new exhibit here, a new patch of carpet there, a ramping up of our programming somewhere else. We’ve also done work behind-the-scenes including making our network faster, roofs tighter, and opening a new family restroom with child-sized fixtures.

These changes, plus many more, represent a multi-year capital campaign we call Curious. Confident. Inspired., the reimagination of the Sciencenter – all focused on empowering young people to use science in shaping a better future.

Whether it’s a new gallery focused on health and wellness, monthly workshops for Head Start teachers and families, or increasing the capability of our exhibits workshop, we want every young person to appreciate the power of science in learning about the world they will soon inherit.

What’s the budget, and how’s it being funded?

We are investing $3.8 million over five years for new exhibits and programs, the building improvements to support them, and an endowment to sustain them. To date, we have raised $2.6 million and seek to raise the remainder by late 2016.

To reach our goal, we are seeking support from foundations, companies, governments, and individuals. As we expand the campaign team, do you know someone with a passion for children, science, and education who could help us in creating a science center whose impact on youth is second to none - worldwide?

There has never been a more exciting time in our history than now. Virtually every exhibit in the museum will be reimagined during the Campaign. When we’re done, the Sciencenter will require significantly less energy and reduced maintenance for the next 25 years.

We couldn’t do any of this without your time, talent, and treasure. Thanks so much for being part of the Sciencenter and the important work we do for all of our children.

Help Us Make a Difference

Take part in the reimagination of the Sciencenter by making a donation today. Each and every gift to the Sciencenter brings us closer to our vision of a world where every young person is inspired to use science in shaping a better future for themselves, their communities, and the world they will soon inherit.

There are many ways to contribute!

One-Time Gift

Employer Matched Giving

PLANNED & ESTATE GIVING

GIFTS OF STOCK

For Sciencenter Capital Campaign information, call Monika Collins at 607.272.0600 x 22, or visit Sciencenter.org.
Change is in the Air

You may notice a considerable amount of construction taking place during your visits to the Sciencenter. We are in the process of updating and expanding many of our exhibits and galleries. Our popular Touch Tank is undergoing a complete remodel to mimic a tide pool on the coast of Maine. We’ve broken ground on our early education space has reached capacity and soon we will begin a multi-phase remodel to mimic a tide pool on the coast of Maine. We’ve broken ground on our new aquarium exhibit, the Finger Lakes Institute to compile and analyze data. They communicate the scientific process to Sciencenter campers and guests as they lead them in data collection and analysis. At the end of the summer the FSL participants present their findings during a special event at the Sciencenter.

FSL participants also contribute to the exhibit design process. This spring and summer, they are working with Sciencenter exhibit developers to design and test new ideas for the Sciencenter’s new science-themed mini-golf course.

Throughout the FSL program, participants develop 1) a greater understanding of scientific principles; 2) stronger critical thinking skills; 3) the ability to communicate scientific principles; and 4) improved leadership skills. The Future Science Leaders help lead the charge to fulfill the Sciencenter’s mission of inspiring excitement for science so that every young person is empowered to shape a better future.

For more information, contact Michelle Kortenaar, Director of Education, at 607.272.0600 x 24

Thank You, Corporate Members!

NEW Corporate Members:
- Coltivare
- T.G. Miller, P.C.
- Tompkins County Area Development
- Elmira Savings Bank
- Tompkins County Chamber of Commerce
- True Insurance

For Sciencenter Corporate Membership information, call Christine Bissen at 607.272.0600 x 19, or visit Sciencenter.org.
Summer Hours

Tuesday – Saturday: 10 am – 5 pm
Sunday: Noon – 5 pm

Open Mondays in July and August.
Open Independence Day and Labor Day.

Admission

Members: Free
Toddlers (0 – 2): Free
Children (3 – 17): $6
Adults (18+): $8
Seniors (65+): $7

Join us:

Summer Programming

The Sciencenter is open Mondays in July and August. With a fun lineup of summer programming for all ages, there’s something to do every day of the week!

Moto-Inventions
Visit our Reinvention Station every Sunday from 1 – 2 pm to tinker with recycled materials and electricity to invent your own moving contraptions!
Materials provided by Cornell Xraise.

Preschool Story Time & Activity
For toddlers, preschoolers, and their caregivers, hear a fun story and work on a hands-on activity to take home every Tuesday and Friday at 10:30 am.

Weekly Wonders
Cool, creative hands-on activities are in session every weekday afternoon at 2 pm in July and August. Kids can launch rockets, concoct slime, design kites, and more! New activities weekly.

Saturday Showtime!
See science in action with a family-friendly interactive presentation every Saturday at 2 pm.

For the complete listing of programs and events, visit Sciencenter.org.

Updated Mini-Golf Coming Soon

Prototyping is underway for the science-themed challenges that will finish the final phase of construction on the science mini-golf course! Our Exhibits team is currently working with our Future Science Leaders to design and test each challenge. Throughout the summer, museum guests will have the opportunity to test these challenges and provide feedback to help us produce fun and engaging science activities. So far, our most exciting and empowering prototypes explore simple machines, physics, and centrifugal force.

Our 18-hole mini-golf course is open during regular museum hours and does not require museum admission to play. Bring the whole family for some outdoor science fun this summer at the Sciencenter!

The mini-golf course, with finalized science-themed exhibits, is scheduled to open in September 2015. We look forward to your feedback as we add this exciting new feature to the Sciencenter experience. Fore!