



Dear Friend of the Sciencenter,

This year, we are redirecting the effort that is usually required for our formal Annual Report into a renewed focus on our mission: cultivating a broad community of curious, confident, critical thinkers. In a particularly challenging year, we offer our deepest appreciation to the donors who supported the Sciencenter.

What follows is a brief recap of how staff and volunteers engaged our community with interactive, hands-on science in 2020, with the support of our Board of Trustees and our donors.

- During the four months when the museum's doors were closed, we offered live hands-on activities online using everyday materials. In this way, we reached over 1,000 families.
 - In the summer, our Sciencenter camp moved online. We shipped camp materials to 114 campers from as far away as Vermont and Israel.
 - In mid-July, we opened interactive, but touchless, exhibits including mini-golf, our animal room, and the tide pool touch tank. And we launched free community science in Conley Park. Our community joined us to create bubbles, examine algae, explore snakes, and release trout.
 - During 2020, we welcomed almost 25,000 guests through our door. Although this is much lower than our 2019 attendance of over 107,000 guests the Sciencenter team ensured that everyone's visit was safe, fun, and interactive.
 - Thanks to our diligent animal keepers we had a number of healthy babies born at the Sciencenter including a green tree python, a seahorse, and a gecko.
 - With the start of school, our educators brought weekly hands-on science to a 2nd grade virtual classroom at BJM Elementary School.
 - We built partnerships with rural libraries, including Newfield Public Library where visitors engineered waterwheels.
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- Our partnership with Head Start continued to thrive. In the fall, 117 families joined us for science events and 164 teachers participated in professional development.
- Our exhibit development and fabrication team worked on a NASA funded 1500 sq. ft. traveling exhibit, Life on the Edge that explores life in extreme environments on earth and asks guests to imagine life in our solar system and beyond.

As we look toward the future – we do so with optimism and resolve. We remain committed to working with our community to develop opportunities for families to explore, connect, and create through science.



Michelle Kortenaar,
Executive Director

