Annual Report 2016-17
Dear Friends,

For nearly three generations, The Discovery Museum and Planetarium has been showing children that not even the sky is a limit to what they can achieve. Are we succeeding? Ask the kids who have been here recently; ask the teachers who have seen our impact on their students; judge for yourself from the images on these pages.

Never has STEM education been more important to our children’s future success, and that’s why we need your help to reach even more children. Our staff is reaching out to build and grow partnerships with community, government, and educational groups to expand our offerings and our impact. Likewise, our Board is reaching out to those who share our commitment and are willing to lead and support our growth.

I am very pleased by the progress we have made in the past few years – both in growing the impact we have on the children of Connecticut, and in our efforts to find the leadership and support necessary to make our STEM learning mission a success. I sincerely thank everyone who has been a part of these efforts. To those of you who have not, I ask you to join us – as a volunteer, a member, a program sponsor, or a contributor.

The faces of the children you see on these pages tell our story. Join us and make it part of your story too.

Tom Vos
Chairman of the Board of Trustees

“Children are likely to live up to what you believe of them.”
–Lady Bird Johnson

Special thanks to Derek Sterling Photography for many of the images presented within.
A Reinvented Museum
We offer new programs, exhibits, and experiences that inspire wonder and ignite creativity.

Dedication to Our Community
In recent years we have delivered $282,000 of STEM programming to Bridgeport Public Schools.

Board of Trustees

Chairman  Tom Vos
Vice Chairman  Doc Hermalyn  Museum Consultant and President, History of New York City Project, Inc.
Treasurer  Joseph D’Avanzo  Wolters Kluwer (Ret.)
Secretary  Marissa Westbrook  United Illuminating

Fred Feuerhake  Sprague Operating Resources, LLC
Claire Gold  Superintendent, Westport Public Schools (Ret.)
Guy Hatfield  Hatfield Insurance Agency
Patricia Matteson  Consultant
Kelly O’Donnell  Pullman & Comley LLC
Year in Review

Dare to Discover Opens

We welcomed the community to our newly-opened Dare to Discover exhibit. Guests can visit ten different stations and explore circuits, sensors, engineering and more through interactive activities.

3-D Printing Martian Tools

The STEM Accelerators program is an after-school program for Bridgeport students who are especially interested in STEM. Students are nominated to the program by their teachers and go through a rigorous application process to be accepted.

In February 2016, we welcomed our third cohort of students to the program. This past year, Cohort 3 has been working on several Mars-related projects. Students were challenged to design and create medical tools that they envision would be necessary if humans were to colonize Mars. Our first cohort also programmed robots to navigate around obstacles in a simulated Martian landscape! In February 2017, we welcomed our fourth cohort of students; they will participate in many STEM learning activities, including a marine biology unit in which they will be able to dissect a shark.

Everbright Opens in Center Gallery

Encouraging open play and creativity, Everbright is a vibrant grid of 464 adjustable dials that produce any color in the spectrum. Designs can inspire conversation about light, geometry, color, and collaboration.

Space Day & Science on a Sphere

We hosted Space Day, a free day of space-related fun at Discovery. Soon after, we opened Science on a Sphere, a five-foot animated globe that projects video and data about the Earth and space.
Astronaut Training Day

Astronaut Training Day celebrated the completion of the first year of Discover NASA, a program for grades K through 8 that focuses on rocket science.

Also in May, Discovery partnered with the Greater Bridgeport Symphony Orchestra to host A Little Night Sky Music, a joint fundraiser in the Henry B. duPont III Planetarium featuring Symphony musicians playing beneath a dazzling custom star show.

Summer Programs

Each year, from late June through mid-August, Discovery Museum hosts nearly two months of STEM learning fun for children who will enter grades K through 9 in the fall. Week-long programs offer local youngsters the opportunity to explore STEM concepts through a wide variety of hands-on activities like designing roller coasters, exploring forest and ocean ecosystems, and building robots.

Discovery Museum's summer programs have something for everyone – from budding rocket scientists to kids who just love to get their hands dirty. Sponsorship from People’s United Bank, TVEyes, Specialty Cable Corporation, Bigelow Tea, and Energize Connecticut grew our impact by allowing Discovery Museum to provide scholarships and financial aid to 25% of the young learners who attended our summer programs.

Maker Math

Discovery Museum earned a grant from the Association of Science and Technology Centers (ASTC) to offer a series of hands-on lessons we called “Maker Math,” which focused on applied measurement.
GSK Science in the Summer

GSK Science in the Summer™ is a free science education program sponsored by Glaxo Smith Kline that helps elementary school children “grow into science.” GSK Science in the Summer partners with institutions like The Discovery Museum to bring hands-on science courses to students.

Mighty STEM Girls

This fall, Discovery Museum launched Mighty STEM Girls, a new program focused on engaging 4th grade girls in STEM. Sessions discuss women STEM pioneers, innovators, and visionaries, and participants complete fun interactive activities related to the STEM pioneers discussed. The program has started as a partnership between the Museum and two Bridgeport Public Schools; Mighty STEM Girls currently serves 20 students with after-school programming and invitations for their families to join them for special learning days at the Museum throughout the year.

In early November, many of the participating girls and their families came to the Museum to take part in the Great Rocket Challenge. Students and family worked together in teams to build and launch paper rockets inside the Museum. Learning and completing this challenge as a family required collaboration and communication, and gave the girls in our program an opportunity to show their families what they are doing after school.

Discovery Museum thanks Fairfield County’s Community Foundation’s Fund for Women and Girls and the Wells Fargo Foundation for their support of this program. We look forward to continuing to grow our impact in 2017 and beyond with the generous support of foundations, corporations, and individuals.
Special Events Galore

The month of October featured three Saturday special events at Discovery Museum, starting October 1st when Pitney Bowes supported and volunteered at a free admission day at the Museum. Over 2,700 guests participated!

On Aeronautics Day, the Museum offered a number of flight-related activities, including kite flying, drone demonstrations, and paper airplane competitions. Volunteers from Sikorsky’s HeliVentures team brought a wind tunnel to build and test air foils with guests.

Discovery’s Halloween Spooktacular was a fun day of spooky science. Curious Creatures brought live animals for guests to see. Our live science demonstrations featured: escaping monsters, pumpkin catapults, crafts, and exploding jack-o'-lanterns, keeping children and adults busy all day. Sorority and fraternity members from nearby Sacred Heart University and Fairfield University assisted with various activities, and we appreciate the help of our incredible volunteer corps.

Harvest Brew Fest

Discovery Museum hosted an evening featuring CT breweries, distributors, and home brewing experts. Guests enjoyed beer and cider tasting, information about the craft and science of brewing beer, and bid on experiences and rare beers in a silent auction.

Energy Network Opens

Developed in partnership with Energize CT, Energy Network is a new interactive exhibit that features hands-on activities focused on what energy is and ways to harness, use, and conserve energy. We were grateful to open our latest exhibit with leaders from United Illuminating and Eversource, Bridgeport Mayor Joe Ganim, a number of State Representatives, Museum Board members, and students and staff from the Interdistrict Discovery Magnet School.
In 2015, The Discovery Museum launched a groundbreaking new program that brings rocketry, space science, and physics to life for children who attend the Interdistrict Discovery Magnet School next-door to the Museum. Funding from NASA has allowed our staff to develop the curriculum and formalize a partnership with the school, which regularly utilizes Discovery’s assets, expertise, and close location to enhance STEM learning for its students.

Students participating in Discover NASA have learned and experimented with Newton’s Laws of Motion, launched rockets, and even been astronauts in training! We chatted with the school’s Science Specialist, Mary Servino, about her observations of the Discover NASA program at work, and she shared:

“When I visit a Discover NASA classroom, I always find it to be stimulating and lively. The staff projects a caring attitude that students respond well to, and they are always willing to help students. They do this, and they maintain strong standards for the students.”

Discover NASA staff is organized, uses a variety of teaching techniques and media very effectively, and has excellent verbal and written communication skills, all of which effectively aid in classroom management. They are well-liked and respected by the students, and they get to know the students on a personal level. A Discover NASA classroom has flow and constant mobility and they are effective in keeping students on task.”

In the coming academic year, we will begin to incorporate high school students into the program through a club that will explore high-powered rocketry, high altitude ballooning, and satellite communication in partnership with the University of Bridgeport.

Discover NASA is a standout example of the power and efficacy of strong partnerships with schools that share our vision. From six-year-old Newton experts to high school telemetry teams, we are excited to continue to take Discover NASA to new heights with our school partners.
Positive Impact

+73% in summer program and after school participation
+35% in admissions
+34% in contributed revenues
+26% in earned revenues

“I went with the 4th graders from the school where I teach. I can honestly say I was amazed at the presentation of electricity and circuits. All of the children were engaged for the whole hour and a half. I would recommend to all.”

–Rebecca Sopko-Paquette
Wallingford, CT

Revenue

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Government Grants</td>
<td>$376,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contributions &amp; Fundraising Events</td>
<td>$371,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Endowment</td>
<td>$100,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fees for Program Services</td>
<td>$336,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Admission &amp; Membership</td>
<td>$229,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adventure Park</td>
<td>$210,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>$37,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Revenue</strong></td>
<td><strong>$1,659,000</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Expense

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>STEM Learning Programs &amp; Exhibits</td>
<td>$453,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Facilities</td>
<td>$280,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Guest Services</td>
<td>$206,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marketing &amp; Communications</td>
<td>$118,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Development &amp; Fundraising</td>
<td>$159,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Administrative &amp; General</td>
<td>$182,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Expense</strong></td>
<td><strong>$1,398,000</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Dear Commander Sara and Commander Mike,

Thank you so much for inviting us to your museum. It was the best field trip I’ve ever been on. My favorite part was Mission Control because I felt like someone in outer space. It was so much fun I can’t wait to go back. That night I was dreaming of being in Mission Control in real life and we landed on the moon. Everyone went crazy, it was AWESOME!

Sincerely,
Carson
Jenning’s 5th grader
THANK YOU!

October 17, 2016
In 2016, Pitney Bowes provided the Museum with support for two key programs that advance our mission of bringing fun, dynamic STEM learning experiences to a broad cross-section of our community.

In October, Pitney Bowes sponsored Explore! Innovate! Play!, a special event day at Discovery Museum. This kicked off Pitney Bowes’ Dedication to Education volunteer initiative here in Connecticut, and we offered free admission to the general public. Employee volunteers ran special hands-on STEM activities and make-and-takes for over 2,700 guests who took part in STEM learning fun, special Planetarium shows, live science demonstrations, Science on a Sphere lectures, and a parachute drop from our Art Mezzanine! Thanks to a partnership with Reading is Fundamental, every child who attended received a free book.

Pitney Bowes Foundation also provided a grant that allowed over a thousand 4th grade students from Bridgeport Public Schools to visit the Museum on subsidized field trips. Our educators worked with teachers to recommend and deliver fun, interactive STEM experiences that complement classroom learning goals.

“The Discovery Museum is a great destination for STEM activities that engage and inspire young students’ imaginations. Our volunteers are delighted to support these programs and help grow interest in this important field of learning.”

—Kathleen Ryan Mufson, Director, Global Corporate Citizenship & Philanthropy, Pitney Bowes President, Pitney Bowes Foundation

Impact Through Partnership: Explore! Innovate! Play! with Pitney Bowes

In 2016, Pitney Bowes provided the Museum with support for two key programs that advance our mission of bringing fun, dynamic STEM learning experiences to a broad cross-section of our community.

In October, Pitney Bowes sponsored Explore! Innovate! Play!, a special event day at Discovery Museum. This kicked off Pitney Bowes’ Dedication to Education volunteer initiative here in Connecticut, and we offered free admission to the general public. Employee volunteers ran special hands-on STEM activities and make-and-takes for over 2,700 guests who took part in STEM learning fun, special Planetarium shows, live science demonstrations, Science on a Sphere lectures, and a parachute drop from our Art Mezzanine! Thanks to a partnership with Reading is Fundamental, every child who attended received a free book.

“We LOVED today’s trip to the museum to explore electric currents. We couldn’t have asked for a better way to supplement our unit on Electricity. The students enjoyed building circuits and working together to figure out how to solve the different challenges that were given to them.”

—4th Grade Teacher, Park City Magnet School

Through this partnership with Pitney Bowes, Discovery Museum has grown our impact and reach. Contact us today to learn more about the benefits of corporate partnership.

Our Supporters

The Adventure Park at the Discovery Museum
Samantha Ahearn
Shirley Appy
Aquarion Water Company
Joyce Aquino
Sahajahan Ashraf
Aspetuck Brew Lab
Association of Science-Technology Centers
Asylum Distillery
Drew Auth
Back East Brewing Company
Mr. Benjamin M. Baker
Lisa Balzano
Henry Banach
Michael Bartalsky
Stephen and Karen Baumann
Ashleigh Betso
Misty Beyer
Bigelow Tea
Black Hog Brewing Company
Helga and Kim Bowen
Hector Bravo
Brewport Brewing Company
Ronald Brown
Iain and Linda Bruce
Alayne and Martin Burger
Don and Tish Burton
Fred Cantor and Debbie Silberstein
Justin Carbonella
Rose and Joseph P. Cardone
Mary Carroll-Mirylees and Ewan Mirylees
Katrina Casey
John and Kimberly Chamberlain
Kevin and Meredith Chamberlain
Andrew Chic
Mark E. Christoffersen
Connecticut Distributors, Inc.
Connecticut Space Grant Consortium
Creativity Garden – a nationwide project of the Association of Science-Technology Centers, generously supported by Disney
Cub Scouts Pack 17
Cub Scouts Pack 923
Sylvia Dahl
Mary Dana
Helen and Joseph D’Avanzo
Explore Science: Earth & Space toolkits from Science Museum of Minnesota, funded by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration
Fairfield County’s Community Foundation's Fund for Women and Girls
Fairfield Craft Ales
Fairfield Rotary Foundation
Roma Fanton
Dean E. Fenton
Lee Anne Fernandez
James D. Fischer
Ann and Walter Flanagan
Susan and Robert Flemming
Gabriella Forrest
Gloria Francesconi
Mary Ann C. Freeman
Sabra Gallo
Mildred Garrell
George J. & Jessica Harris Foundation
June Getraer
Larry Ginsberg
Girl Scouts Of Connecticut
Jeff Glans
Claire Gold
Paulo Gomes
Robert Graziano
Orin Grossman
GSK Science in the Summer, offered in Bridgeport thanks to GSK and the American Association for the Advancement of Science
James Harmon
Doris Harrington
Guy Hatfield
The Hatfield Fund
Ethan and Kerry Heftman
Henry B. duPont III Advise and Consult Fund (FCCF)
Doc Hermaly and Elizabeth Beirne
Sandra S. Howard
Bruce A. Hubler
Cindy Istvan
Itsphun LLC
David and Elizabeth Ives
Jack and Jill of Eastern Fairfield County
Gail Janensch
Mark Johnson
Noel Kanlong
Brian Kinsley
Joseph Kirk
Rebecca Klein
Gerald E. Kuroghlian
Marta Jo Lawrence
Lone Pine Foundation
Marcia Lorentzen
Grant MacCracken
Andrew Malkin
Linda and Mark Malkin
Frank Malone
Robert and Frances Manere
Thomas Marsh
J. E. Martin and Denise Howard
Mark and Jane Mastrianni
Patricia E. Matteson
Robert Maxwell
Jennifer and Darin McCollum
Jaime McCormack
Cathleen McCormick
Patrick McDonnell
Liz McGovern and Judy Eckert
Ursula Meier
David and Suzanne Mercado
Alice V. Meyer
Adam Mociocio, Esq.
Jean Moffitt
Kimberley Monahan
Hector and Myra Motroni
Near & Far Aid Association
Melissa Newman and Raphael Elkind
Newman’s Own Foundation
Ninety 9 Bottles
Walter Nolte
Nor’ Easter Foundation
Leydineia Botelho Oliveira
Donna and James Orazio
Richard Pacelli
Jani Pallis
Adriana Pavie
People’s United Bank
People’s United Community Foundation
Peter and Carmen Lucia Buck Foundation, Inc.
Elizabeth M. Pfriem
Kimberly B. Phillips
Pitney Bowes Foundation
PSEG Foundation
Laura Quevedo
Sheila Ramirez
Lorraine Rangel-Brown
Sarah and Mark Ribbens
Lisa Richards
Jessica Rio
Jennie Ritchie
Jessica Roffe
Ashley Roy
Dr. Philip Rubin and Hon. Joette Katz
Kevin and Pamela Rugg
John Russell
Peter Salts
Stephanie Schechter
Fred Schneider
Samuel Schneider
Barbara and Sebastian Scripps
Richard Serrato
Norm Siegel
Emily Silpe
Social Venture Partners
Specialty Cable Corporation
Ken Staffey
Mark Stanley
Lee Starr
State of Connecticut
Mrs. John Stokes
Evan Sullivan
Sun Products Charitable Fund Inc.
Stephanie L. Thompson
Town Of Fairfield
Burt Tropp
Chrysanthe Tsilibes
TVEyes
Two Roads Brewing Company
United Illuminating Company Foundation
United Illuminating Holdings Corporation
J. Jeffrey Urstadt
Brian Vahey
Veracious Brewing Company
Tom Vos and Nancy Leigh
Malini and Dave Vyas
Steven Ward
Tami and Michael Weeks
Kenneth and Rita Weinstein
Andrea Wells
Wells Fargo Foundation
Wells Fargo Bank
Wendell M. Smith Foundation
Marissa and John Westbrook
Alison Wiehl
Jeff Wieloch
Joyce and James Williams-Turner
Joshua and Nicole Witkin
Laurie Witkin
Hinda and Martin Wolf
Joseph Zannino
Leonard B. Zaslow
Anonymous
Discovery Museum Staff

Stephen H. Baumann, 
*Executive Director*

Helga Bowen
Alexandra Cannon
Sonny Cardinali

John Chamberlain
Tom Davis
Erika Eng
Mike Florio
Madelyn Gerrity
Robin Gulas

Robin Keller
Erika Kiley
Michelle Lewis
Bailey Maxwell
Jerry McKoy
David Mestre

Lorraine Morales
Haley Olson
Lisa Richards
Lynsey Richardson
Elliot Severn
Sam Simon

Linda Smith
Laura Stern
Sharon Stevenson
Sarah Tropp
Jillian Wyckoff

@DiscoveryBPT