



---

# MORE THAN A MUSEUM...

---

2018 ANNUAL REPORT

A green decorative shape at the bottom right of the page, mirroring the shape at the top right.



## 2018 ANNUAL REPORT

### MISSION:

To create opportunities for joyful learning and discovery through hands-on experiences in the sciences and arts.

You know Discovery Center Museum as a hands-on children's museum with over 300 exciting, interactive exhibits spread over a two-floor area. You know many of our exhibits relate to STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math). You also probably know that in the museum's backyard visitors can explore our Discovery Park - a multi-level science park with a hands-on twist. You even know we are a nationally recognized children's museum with an outdoor science park, traveling exhibits, and so much more.

But did you know Discovery Center is more than a museum?

While you know about all of the things happening inside the museum, we are excited to share some of the other ways we are creating opportunities for learning and discovery in our community.



---

2018 was another record setting year! More than a quarter of a million people experienced Discovery Center via exhibits, classes, camps, special events, after-school programs and outreach.

---



YOUTH  
ADVISORY  
BOARD

discovery  
center  
MUSEUM  
volunteer

MORE THAN A MUSEUM...

## Developing Youth for the Careers of Tomorrow

Many of the jobs of the future haven't even been imagined yet. The YES (Youth Experiencing Science) Volunteer program prepares high school students for a new era by helping them learn STEM skills that will allow them to innovate and adapt to new roles and changing technologies.

YES Volunteers gain valuable experiences in STEM disciplines and science education as they learn the concepts behind the hands-on projects they facilitate. Teens work one-on-one with Discovery Center educators to hone their public speaking, leadership, and organizational skills.

Over the course of a year, over 150 youth volunteers are impacted by the YES Volunteer Program at Discovery Center.



---

*My time as a YES volunteer at Discovery Center has truly been transformative. My volunteering has afforded me the opportunity to learn and teach at the same time, and it has reaffirmed my decision to pursue a STEM career!*

2018 YES Volunteer

---





**MORE THAN A MUSEUM...**

## Learning Through Play

Play allows children to use their creativity while developing their imagination, dexterity, and physical, cognitive, and emotional strength. It is through play that children at a very early age engage and interact in the world around them.

Discovery Center's Early Childhood Playgroups guide parents and their children in fun activities and exploration. Discovery Center partners with local organizations to deliver playgroups to underserved children aged 0-3 and their parents. Our partners include Rockford Public School District 205, Easter Seals, Children's Home & Aid Society, and Rockford Housing Authority at The Grove.

Participating in a supported playgroup with our skilled educator has a positive impact on children's learning and social and emotional development. Our programs help parents understand the importance of interacting with their child and learning to engage in more quality interactions.

Children who participate in playgroups have improved learning and wellbeing outcomes. Young parents develop their parenting skills and confidence to support their child's learning and development. The result is improved parent-child interactions at home which is the first step in school readiness.



---

Over the course of a year  
over 350 parents and  
children have taken steps  
toward school readiness in  
our playgroups.

---









**MORE THAN A MUSEUM...**

## Making Play Accessible for All Children

In Winnebago County there are over 3,000 children with cognitive or physical disabilities. In partnership with The Blazer Foundation, Discovery Center offers *Mornings of Fun*—providing regular play opportunities for children with special needs and their families.

We know visiting a museum can be overwhelming. Our goal is to provide a supportive environment for children and families to have the best experience possible—allowing parents to enjoy time with their child and to connect with other families. Our *Mornings of Fun* program occurs before the museum opens to the public. This time allows families to explore at their own pace, become familiar with the museum, and continue their visit during public hours.

---

*The most important part of this program is that by setting aside that special hour for our children they are able to FULLY enjoy the Discovery Center without distractions, discrimination or judgement. We, the parents, can thoroughly enjoy our children as they explore Discovery Center and the world. Thank you!*

Parent of child attending  
*Mornings of Fun*

---



**MORE THAN A MUSEUM...**

## Teaching STEM After-School

After the school bell rings, children are learning, exploring, making, and questioning. Discovery Center delivers hands-on interactive STEM activities to at-risk students at ten schools.

Last year we worked with nearly 750 students. 83 percent of these children are living in poverty and have been identified as performing below their peers in science and math. Our goal is to engage and spark an interest in STEM and science related careers at the elementary school level. When we spark interest and develop confidence early, students are more likely to continue on to study STEM subjects throughout high school, college, and beyond.

In addition to the after school program for students, we host Family Nights at each of the schools. Parents learn what children have been doing in the after school program and explore STEM-based career options with their children. We also ensure all children in this program visit the museum on a free field trip. Children's natural curiosity is stimulated by visiting the museum and engaging with the materials and exhibits at the museum.



---

Children in the Discovery Center's after-school program end the year with improved grades and a newfound confidence in science and math.

---

MORE THAN A MUSEUM...

## Because of You

All that we accomplish is because of you—our generous supporters.

### Individual Donors

#### \$4,000+

Richard & Kelly Bennett  
James & Louise Voss

#### \$1,000 - 3,999

Harlan & Monica Barkley  
Dan & Sheri Cassens  
Tara & Jared Erdmier  
Tracy Fitzgerald  
Phil & Leslie Frankfort  
LoRayne Logan  
Thomas & Rosemary  
Muldorney  
Daniel & Kristin Pecora  
Joseph & Mary Jo Ross  
Jack & Yvonne Shaffer  
Joan Stonecipher  
Jim & Gayle Turmo  
Jonathan & Bonny Whitcher

#### \$500 - 999

David & Cherry Beto  
Richard & Cheryl Bischoff  
Dave & Karen Brown  
Andrew & Lauren Elwart  
Hugh & Gail Funderburg  
John & Robin Hovis  
Scott & Linda Kaiser  
Jeff & Barbara McCoy  
John & Karen Messley

Brad & Danna Munson  
Elizabeth & Don  
Zwiefelhofer

Bruce & Michelle Quast  
Jeffrey & Patty Smith  
Spitaman & Shiraz Tata  
Bill & Cathie Thiede  
Robert & Norma Trojan  
Christopher &  
Kristine Vittore  
William & Marijean  
Whitcher

Kevin & Lindsay Whitcher  
Amos & Carma Yoder  
Kathryn Zenoff &  
Arthur Rettig

#### \$250 - 499

Michael & Mary Ann Abate  
Max & Claudia Anderson  
Mike & Ha Byron  
Michelle & Jeffrey  
Comstock  
Tom & Inga Danko  
Joyce Fisher  
Audrey Forbes  
Richard Gaines  
Tracey & Kim Garst  
Joe & Emily Goken

Jon & Nancy Gramzow  
Elizabeth & Jeffrey  
Holmertz

John & Barbara  
Holmstrom, III  
John & Eileen Holtan  
Dana & Brenda Kiley  
Dan & Amy Loescher  
Karol & Michael Manley  
Sam & Joyce Mazzola  
Anthony & Lynn Moczynski  
Christy & Greg Moore  
Stephen & Janet Moore  
Ryan & Lindsay Moore  
Jim & Lucy Pirages  
Ken & Kim Ramsay  
Mike & Martha Rathbun

Brian & Sue Reck  
Steve & Peggy Showers  
Dayton Smith III &  
Alison Smith  
Constance M. St. Angel  
Stephen Symes  
Therese & Scott Trenhaile  
Hazen & Carol Tuck  
Jean Vitale  
Sandra Wallace  
Miriam Warrner

David & Rosalie  
Whitehouse  
Jamey & Sarah Wolf

#### \$100 - 249

Dorothy Baits  
Paul & Teri Baits  
William & Leah Baskin  
Rick & Rosalie Bienvenu  
Marcia Blassage  
Michael & Virginia Blessing  
Pamela & Luis Carbajal  
Samuel & Linda Castree  
Cordell & Dawn Charleston  
Roger Christin  
Matthew & Sydnee Doright  
Matthew Ebert  
Sally Errico  
Gene & Barb Ferry  
John & Marilyn Fulton  
Dave & Joanie Gonitzke  
Robert Gosdick & Bonnie  
Pierce Gosdick  
David & Krina Goss  
Cliff & Joan Gray  
Dennis & Jean Harezlak  
John & Maureen Hargrove  
Dan & Catherine Herdeman  
Rodger & Deena Hergert

John & Celeste Holevas  
Jack & Colleen Holmbeck  
Donald S Holt  
Thomas & Suzanne  
Humphris

David & Susan Hunting  
Bruce & Karen Jasper  
Darrell & Candy Johnson  
Dustin & Heather Kaap  
Jeffrey & Nancy Kaney  
James & Pamela Keeling  
Todd Kennedy  
Bill King  
Jim & Fran Knutson  
Bill & Carolyn Kobler  
Ryan & Melissa LaSalle  
Dick Leighton  
Marco Lenis  
Alan Leupold  
Todd & Linda Melville  
Terry & Betty Moore  
Lawrence & Carol Nelson  
Jim & Denise Noe  
Lisa & Tim Normoyle  
Christina Ostergard  
Jack Packard  
Elizabeth & Richard Papp  
Bill & Ann Pell  
Nancy & Alan Perry

Jay & Cathy Pick  
Raymond & Wilma Porter  
Forest & Marjorie Price  
Susan Reichensperger  
Richard & Trudy Reynolds

Gary & Terry Rifkin  
Robert Schluhs  
John & Paula Sentovich  
Shahid & Traci Shekhandi  
Barbara & Jack Simon  
Howard & Helen Sorenson  
Robert Swanson  
Dan & Susan Swift  
Steven & Marcia Terrill  
Brian & Kimberly Thiede  
David & Candace Thompson  
Paul & Sharon Werther  
Crystal & Kenneth Worley  
Carolyn Wright

#### Up to \$100

Regan & Dan Apgar  
Jack & Joyce Armstrong  
John & Linda Banks  
Mike Bear  
Mark & Janet Berryman  
Molly Brauer  
Rosie Cantu  
Mary B Conti

Joan Davis  
Nancy Detig  
Erick & Reannon Doty  
Terrance & Lois Fisher  
Sam & Kimbra Garnhart  
Terry & Carol Gordon  
Walt & Eunice Gray  
Sherry & Phil Guarino  
Dawn Hallsten &  
Don Mateer  
Sergey Jelnov  
J. Elizabeth Johnson  
Erwin Konrad  
Erwin Lindsay  
Joe Love & Arles  
Hendershott Love  
Brendan & Pamela Maher  
Virginia Meyer  
Earlynn & Dennis Mullins  
Wayne & Phyllis Orrison  
Elizabeth Owano  
William & Linda Rohlman  
Joshua & Anna Schulist  
Doug & Tammy Scott  
Mary Elizabeth Skerkoske  
Leslie & Karen Stegh  
Lynne & Dale Townsend  
Tom & Karen Walsh  
Donna & Duane Zweep

### Grants & Foundations

Blazer Foundation  
Casler Foundation  
Community Foundation  
of Northern Illinois

Gloyd Family Foundation  
Illinois Arts Council  
Illinois Space Grant  
Consortium

Kiwanis Club of Rockford  
Kjellstrom Family  
Foundation  
PNC Foundation

Ralph J. Baudhuin  
Foundation  
Rockford Area Arts Council

Rockford Cosmopolitan  
Charities  
Smith Charitable  
Foundation

Try Beta Foundation  
United Way of Rock  
River Valley  
Winnebago County

## Corporate Donors

**Educator** (5,000+)  
Bergstrom  
Manufacturing Co.  
Collins Aerospace  
ComEd, An Exelon Company  
Dr. Zak's Tooth Fairy Castle  
Illinicare Health  
Illinois Bank & Trust

Winnebago-Boone  
Farm Bureau  
Woodman's Markets  
**Benefactor**  
(\$2,500 - 4,999)  
Aqua-Aerobic Systems, Inc.  
BMO Harris Bank  
Ecolab, Inc.  
Field Fastener Supply Co.

Savant Capital, LLC  
**Sustainer** (\$1,000 - 2,499)  
Advanced Machine &  
Engineering Co  
Edwards Apple Orchard  
HMC Products  
Midland States Bank  
OSF HealthCare Saint  
Anthony College of Nursing

OSF St. Anthony HealthCare  
Pepsi Cola Bottling  
Co. of Rockford  
Regal Beloit Corporation  
Rock Valley Credit Union  
Sjostrom & Sons, Inc.  
SwedishAmerican - A  
Division of UW Health  
Thermo Fisher Scientific

US Bank  
Viking Chemical Company  
Wheels by R.T.  
WIFR Television  
**Partners**  
A&P Grain Systems, Inc.  
Comcast  
Comet Fabricating  
& Welding

Coyle-Kiley Insurance  
Agency, Inc.  
CRASH 1 Off Perryville  
Daley Automation  
Illinois Society of  
Professional Engineers  
Kona Ice  
Nikor Gas  
Northwest Bank

Powmet, Inc.  
Rockford Bank & Trust  
Rockford Heating &  
Air Conditioning  
Schnucks  
WilliamsMcCarthy LLP  
workplace

## Memorial & Tribute Gifts

*In memory of*  
*James "Bish" Biesiadecki*  
Rae Biesiadecki

*In memory of*  
*Gerald Chamberlain*  
Roger & Lyn Becknell

*In memory of*  
*Nancy J. Coole*  
William Coole

*In memory of*  
*Gianna Foti*  
Tony & Vicki Foti

*In memory of*  
*Barbara LaSalle*  
Brett Erxleben  
Patrick LaSalle

*In memory of*  
*Allen Pang and Steven Pang*  
Catherine Pang

*In memory of*  
*Emma Stieglitz*  
Thomas, Barbara, Nora,  
Ezra, Hannah Stieglitz  
Marcia Aramovich  
Dr. & Mrs. Warren Babcock  
Mr. & Mrs. Gene Baldwin  
Mr. & Mrs. David Behling  
Mr. & Mrs. Tom Bonocera  
Mr. & Mrs. Bryson Braasch  
Dr. & Mrs. Steve Bradley  
Mr. & Mrs. Wayne Branson  
Jennifer Breckenridge  
Mr. & Mrs. Ron Brey  
Dr. & Mrs. Neil Brogren  
Laura Budzein  
Mr. & Mrs. Jim Burnette  
Mr. & Mrs. Jim Burns  
Mr. & Mrs. Roy Cantwell  
Mr. & Mrs. Joe Capriola  
Dr. & Mrs. Mark Carlson  
Mr. & Mrs. Ingvar Carlson  
Mr. & Mrs. Mark Carlson  
Mr. & Mrs. Ron Catalani

Dr. & Mrs. David Cheng  
Dr. & Mrs. Paul Christenson  
Mr. & Mrs. Ed Clay  
Tanya Clutter  
Dr. & Mrs. Tom Danaher  
Tam Derry  
Dr. & Mrs. Tony DeSouza  
Dr. & Mrs. David Deutsch  
Liz DiBenedetto  
Mr. & Mrs. Dale Dieterman  
Mr. & Mrs. Terry Doeler  
Marilyn Dougherty  
Dr. & Mrs. Garry Eberle  
Les & Kim Edgcomb  
Mr. & Mrs. Dan Eister  
Mr. & Mrs. Rick Engen  
Roberta Falherty  
Vickie & Contwell Garner  
Teresa & Joyce Geraci  
Mr. & Mrs. Tom Giovingo  
Karen & Jim Girardy  
Mr. & Mrs. Phil Godsey  
Patricia Gorkos  
Dr. and Mrs. Bill Gorski

Mr. & Mrs. Chris Graceffa  
Lois Griparis  
Mr. & Mrs. Donn Gustafson  
Paula Haffner  
Mr. & Mrs. Steven Haffner  
Terri Hallberg  
Mr. & Mrs. Dan Hannaford  
Georgena Hartlieb  
Kristine Hasris & Bob Tucker  
Dr. & Mrs. Richard Hayes  
Mr. & Mrs. Tom Heckman  
Mr. & Mrs. Joel Hefel  
Dr. & Mrs. Dan Herdeman  
Dr. & Mrs. John Holton  
Mr. & Mrs. Ed Hornbeck  
Mr. & Mrs. Frank Hovar  
Dr. & Mrs. Bill Hutt  
Karen Johnson  
Cheryl Johnson  
Mike Jurowski &  
Lisa Church  
Jane Kiley  
Mr. & Mrs. Dick Klopenstein  
Tamara Klopenstein

Lorrie Kusnierz  
Dave Lake & Julie Callison  
Mr. & Mrs. Jason Lamont  
Mr. & Mrs. Roger Larrick  
Mr. & Mrs. Roger Long  
Ginny Lyddon  
Cathy Magnuson  
Mr. & Mrs. Ray Matus  
Mr. & Mrs. Mike McCormick  
Mr. & Mrs. Bill McGee  
Dr. & Mrs. Steve Minore  
Mr. & Mrs. John Morrissey  
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Mowris  
Dr. & Mrs. Bruce Nelson  
Mr. & Mrs. Dean Olmstead  
Dr. & Mrs. Tom Olson  
Adam Olszewski  
Mr. & Mrs. Vic Olszewski  
Cassie Paulsen  
Gina Phelps  
Norma Polcek  
Mr. & Mrs. Ron Pozzi  
Dr. & Mrs. Larry  
Probhakar

Brenda Quast  
Susan Ralph  
Dr. & Mrs. Rettig  
Dr. & Mrs. Dan Retzer  
Penny Richardson  
Bonita Ritter  
Mr. & Mrs. Scott Robinson  
Carol Roche  
Mr. & Mrs. David Rydberg  
Betty Sadewater  
Dr. & Mrs. Larry Schick  
Dr. & Mrs. Robert  
Schoenwald  
Virginia Sharp  
Mr. & Mrs. Kevin Shedly  
Dr. & Mrs. John Shiro  
Mr. & Mrs. Tim Smiley  
Sally & Sons Spencer  
Mr. & Mrs. Nathan  
Steigmeyer  
Dr. & Mrs. Doug Strand  
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Stroup

Mr. & Mrs. Scott Sullivan  
Duane & Melissa Teske  
Cheryl Tillery & Ken Kail  
Mary Tuite  
Dr. & Mrs. Underwood  
Mr. & Mrs. Eric Varland  
Mr. & Mrs. Mark Walden  
Sandy Wallace  
Mr. & Mrs. Kyle Weber  
Mr. & Mrs. Thom West  
Mr. & Mrs. Mike Wilcop  
Mr. & Mrs. Joe Wojewodzki  
*In memory of*  
*Janice Voss*  
Clair & Sally Trefz  
*In memory of*  
*Don Zimmerman*  
Betty Zimmerman  
*In honor of*  
*Colleen Anderson*  
Steve & Andrea Jensen

## In-Kind Donations

Capital House  
Dean Foods  
Julia Kindler Design

Lino's  
Mary's Market  
Meridian

Nothing Bundt Cakes  
Papa John's Pizza  
Prairie Street Brewhouse

Steve Larson  
WTVO

While we strive to maintain accurate records, if your name does not appear as it should, please contact us.



## LOCAL & NATIONAL Recognition

### READER'S DIGEST,

October, 2018 - mention in article "These are the 15 Best Places to Move to in the U.S."

Rockford was named a top city and Discovery Center is credited "...it's home to nearly a dozen museums, including the top-ranked family Discovery Center."



### FAMILY VACATION CRITIC,

September 2018 - named Discovery Center one of the "15 Best Museums for Toddlers in the U.S."



TRIP ADVISOR, 2018 - earned the "Trip Advisor Hall of Fame" distinction based on visitor reviews. 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018 - awarded the "Certificate of Excellence."



### ROCKFORD REGISTER STAR,

2009, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018 - "What Rocks" reader's choice contest, "Best Child Friendly Place".

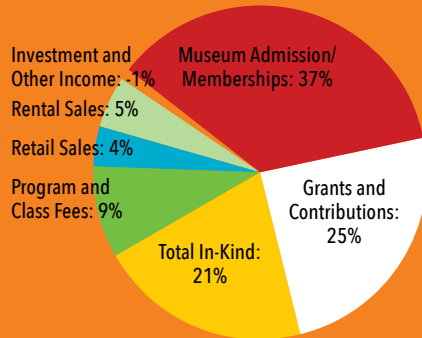


# By the Numbers

## INCOME

Museum Admission/ Memberships .....	\$840,379
Grants and Contributions .....	\$575,378
Total In-Kind .....	\$466,517
Program and Class Fees .....	\$209,907
Retail Sales .....	\$92,891
Rental Sales .....	\$121,450
Investment and Other Income .....	(\$50,453)

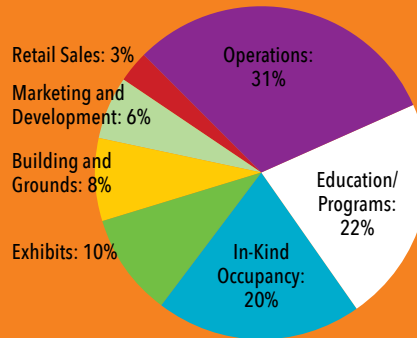
**TOTAL INCOME..... \$2,256,069**



## EXPENSES

Operations .....	\$674,865
Education/Programs .....	\$475,270
In-Kind Occupancy .....	\$442,997
Exhibits .....	\$213,865
Building and Grounds.....	\$172,001
Marketing and Development.....	\$128,436
Retail Sales .....	\$58,967

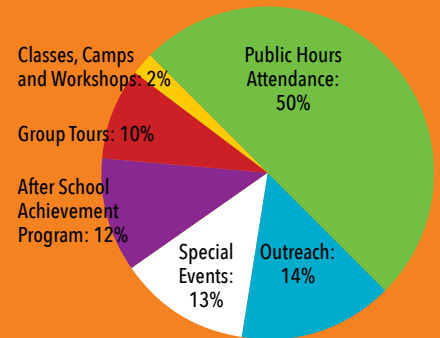
**TOTAL EXPENSE..... \$2,166,401**



## PEOPLE SERVED

Public Hours Attendance .....	139,620
Outreach .....	41,596
Special Events.....	35,968
After School Achievement Program	29,957
Group Tours .....	24,566
Classes, Camps and Workshops .....	5,133

**TOTAL SERVED..... 276,834**



518 VOLUNTEERS gave 4,519 HOURS of service

## 2018 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### *Officers*

*President*  
Scott Kaiser

*Past President*  
Colleen Anderson

*1st Vice President*  
James Turmo

*2nd Vice President*  
Cordell Charleston

*Treasurer*  
Dayton B. Smith III

*Secretary*  
Karen Brown

*Executive Director*  
Sarah Wolf

### *Directors*

Sarah Apple  
Stacy Bernardi  
Gina Caruana  
Michelle Comstock  
Lesly Couper  
Tony Foti  
Anisha Grimmert  
James Horton  
Ehren Jarrett  
Kelly Lattimer  
Tony Moczynski  
Lindsay Moore  
Denise Noe  
Lisa A. Normoyle  
Jim Pirages  
Brian Reck  
Spitaman Tata



711 N Main St, Rockford, IL 61103  
815.963.6769

[discoverycentermuseum.org](http://discoverycentermuseum.org)

---