

Strategic Vision

The Science Center of the Future



News from the Connecticut Science Center

▶▶▶ Science Center Vision: New Exhibits, Digital Experience, and Sustainability

The Connecticut Science Center celebrated its 15-year anniversary this summer. With big ambitions for the 25-year anniversary, the Science Center is fulfilling a 10-year Strategic Vision and \$20 million capital campaign to invest in new exhibitions, programs and facilities, and a new digital platform.

“To achieve our mission, the Science Center must continually reimagine its offerings to inspire interest, questions, and free exploration amid the din of competition for time and attention from screens and other options,” said Matt Fleury, President & CEO.

The Science Center’s 10-year vision has six key points:

1. **Exemplary Science Center Visitor Experience**
2. **STEM Engagement, Learning, and Career Awareness**
3. **Digital Engagement to Connect and Serve**
4. **Inspire Generations to Sustain the Planet**
5. **Social Responsibility and Governance**
6. **Build Financial Strength**

The objectives listed are being advanced with an ongoing capital campaign. The State of Connecticut has approved \$10.7 million in funding, and to date, the Science Center has raised an additional \$5.06 million towards a combined \$20 million goal.

New exhibitions and a completely re-imagined app, mobile platform, and website mark the beginning of a multi-year rollout of exciting attractions and features. The Science Center’s on-site offerings will increasingly be supported by the new digital platform to make it easier to visit and connect, and to extend STEM engagement into homes for families every day.



Connecticut Science Center President & CEO Matt Fleury

“The hands-on, in-person moments that we offer are treasured by families, who value time together in our museum,” said Fleury. “At the same time, a thoughtfully integrated digital platform can remove some of the logistical issues with planning a trip, and also extend STEM information, learning, and activities right into the home.”



**WANT TO
LEARN
MORE?**

Interested in learning more about Strategic Vision: *The Science Center of the Future* or discussing philanthropic involvement? Please contact:

April Paterno, Vice President of Governance & Development at apaterno@ctsciencecenter.org or Whitney Gray, Director of Institutional Giving at wgray@ctsciencecenter.org



SCIENCE



The Connecticut Science Center inspires lifelong learning through interactive and innovative experiences that explore our changing world through science.

Welcome to New Board of Trustee Members Rajat Kalia and Keith Miller

Rajat Kalia



Keith Miller

The Connecticut Science Center is pleased to announce the election of Rajat Kalia and Keith Miller to the Board of Trustees. We welcome them and look forward to their partnership in providing inspirational STEM experiences.

Rajat Kalia is senior vice president and chief technology officer of Workplace Solutions Technology for Voya Financial, a leading health, wealth and investment company. Mr. Kalia has more than 20 years of experience navigating the intersection of technology and financial services, including expertise in driving transformational programs and delivering innovative solutions

Keith Miller is a thoughtful design leader with 20 years of experience building and leading teams in design. Mr. Miller is a Design Leader for the YouTube Ads Foundation at Google where his team creates meaningful horizontal experiences that keep YouTube free for everyone.

Announcing the 2024 STEM Achievement and Petit Family Foundation Women in Science Leadership Award Honorees

Each year, the Connecticut Science Center celebrates the achievements of professionals, groups, advocates, businesses, students, and leaders who share our mission. We are pleased to announce the honorees of the 2024 STEM Achievement and Petit Family Foundation Women in Science Leadership Awards. **Awards will be presented at the Connecticut Science Center Gala: Close Encounters of the STEM Kind on Saturday, October 5, 2024, at the Connecticut Convention Center.**

STEM Achievement Award Honorees

STEM Achievement Award honorees are selected based on their overall contributions to STEM in the region, opening STEM careers to diverse audiences, and impacts on STEM education in the community.



Innovator:
Organization
**USA Waste &
Recycling**



Non-Profit
Organization
PETALS AND S.T.E.M.



Innovator: Lifetime
Achievement Award
MARK R. GURVICH, PH.D.
*Senior Fellow,
Structural Analysis
Collins Aerospace -
An RTX Business*



Higher Education
Honoree
DR. FLORIAN CARLE
*Managing Director,
Yale Quantum Institute*



Innovator to Watch
MOLLI BENNETT
*Welder
Habco Industries, LLC*



Student Honoree
JONATHAN PLONA
*Senior,
Wolcott High School*



Theodore S. Sergi K-12 Educator of the Year
DR. MICHELLE A. BELLINGER
*Faculty of Physics and Engineering
Academy of Aerospace Engineering*

Spotlight: Our Piece of the Pie Partnership



As part of Capital Workforce Partners’ Summer Youth Employment and Learning Program the Connecticut Science Center has partnered with Our Piece of the Pie, a Hartford non-profit organization that empowers youth with the key competencies needed to follow successful educational and career pathways through personal development, academic achievement, and workforce readiness. The 6-week long program connects Connecticut youth, ages 14-24, with career exploration opportunities through paid work experiences.

This summer the Gift Shop, Concessions, and Visitor Experience teams welcomed Our Piece of the Pie participants and enabled them to explore their professional interests and consider new career pathways while gaining valuable workforce skills and experience to support their goals.



Governor Ned Lamont, Hartford Mayor Arunan Arulampalam, and officials from the CT State Department of Education visit with the Science Center’s Teen Innovation Program Ambassadors.



Toral Maher of Liberty Bank Foundation, Hope Utterbeck, CIO of Liberty Bank, and Science Center Trustee Chris Zell of Bank of America Private Bank attend annual Teen Innovation Showcase.

Petit Family Foundation Women in Science Leadership Award Honorees

The Petit Family Foundation Women in Science Leadership Awards recognize a professional woman and a student who are leaders in their chosen STEM field based on their demonstrated commitment to advancing STEM through thoughtful engagement with diverse audiences and by making a significant effort to support other women and girls in their pursuit of STEM as learners, teachers, and professionals.



Dr. Nicole Wagner
*Chief Executive Officer
LambdaVision, Inc.,
University of Connecticut*



Natalia V. Torres
*Senior
Bloomfield High School
Connecticut Science Center
Teen Advisory Center*

Entangled & Ingested on Display Now

With an increased focus on environmental sustainability education and awareness of sustainable actions, the Science Center is creating more opportunities for visitors to engage in these topics while exploring exhibitions. That is where we find Kat Owens - Professor at University of Hartford specializing in environmental policy, plastic pollution researcher, and artist – at the intersection of science, art, and activism. In 2021, Kat Owens began creating a series of life size portraits of animals who are harmed by plastic pollution - using the single-use plastics that cause them harm, based on David Laist’s documentation of animals harmed by entanglement and ingestion of marine debris.

Ms. Owens is quick to point out that “some of the species most affected are the ones that we like the best, animals who are curious” such as whales, manatees, sea turtles, and many types of shore birds. When discussing the medium for this series Ms. Owens refers to the statistics on global plastic production - “95% of plastic packaging globally is not recycled... it’s not designed to be recycled... and I do think that if we tell people in charge that this isn’t okay that they will change things.” You can see four

pieces from the Entangled & Ingested series on display at the Connecticut Science Center now. To learn more about Kat Owens please visit katowens.com.



UPCOMING EVENTS

- **SEP 24:** TODDLER TUESDAY
- **SEP 28-29:**
 - » WOMEN IN SCIENCE SATURDAY: ROBOTICS AND STEAM
 - » LEVEL UP WITH YOUR FAVORITE VIDEO GAME BROTHERS!
- **OCT 8:** TODDLER TUESDAY
- **OCT 12-14:** LIGHTYEAR MOVIE WEEKEND
- **OCT 19-20:**
 - » WOMEN IN SCIENCE SATURDAY: STOMP ROCKETS
 - » SPOOKTACULAR
- **OCT 27:** SENSORY FRIENDLY DAY PRESENTED BY ADELBROOK BEHAVIORAL & DEVELOPMENT SERVICES
- **NOV 2:** DIA DE LOS MUERTOS CELEBRATION
- **NOV 5:** SUPERHERO DEFENDERS OF SCIENCE DAY!
- **NOV 9-10:** DETECTIVE PIKACHU MOVIE WEEKEND
- **NOV 12:** TODDLER TUESDAY
- **NOV 16:**
 - » WOMEN IN SCIENCE SATURDAY: PHARMACEUTICAL SCIENCE
 - » JOIN YOUR FAVORITE SEARCH & RESCUE PUPS FOR A MISSION!
- **NOV 17:** INTERNATIONAL LGBTQ+ IN STEM DAY
- **NOV 23-24:** JOIN YOUR FAVORITE ICE QUEEN AND SNOWMAN FOR WARM HUGS!
- **NOV 29:** HOLIDAY EXTRAVAGANZA BEGINS!

Visit ctsciencecenter.org for a full list of events & programs!

SAT. OCT. 5
2024

6:30PM - MIDNIGHT

CONNECTICUT
CONVENTION
CENTER

CLOSE ENCOUNTERS OF THE STEM KIND

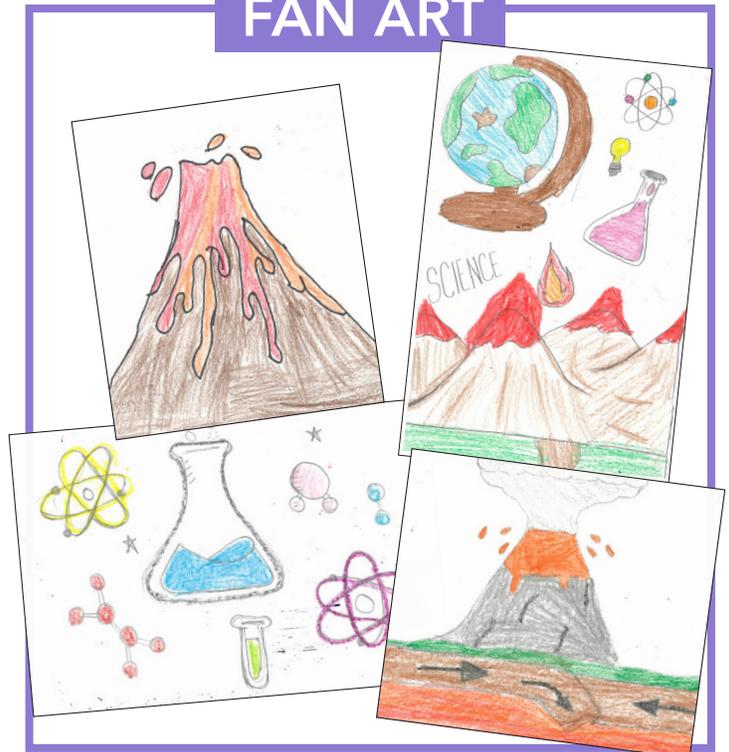
CONNECTICUT SCIENCE CENTER GALA

Visit CTScienceCenter.org/gala

SEPT 25: Gala Auction opens online

OCT 5: Annual Gala: Close Encounters of the STEM Kind

FAN ART



Thank you for your support of the Connecticut Science Center.

The Connecticut Science Center is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.

For additional information, contact:

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