

News from the Connecticut Science Center

▶▶▶ New Exploring Space Gallery in Final Design Stages

Get ready for an exhilarating journey to the stars with the highly anticipated transformation of the *Exploring Space Gallery* at the Connecticut Science Center, set to open in the fall of 2024. As a cornerstone project of the [Strategic Vision: The Science Center of the Future](#), this major exhibition overhaul aims to refresh the space gallery, delivering a transformative and immersive experience. The project is now entering the final design phases in partnership with the Science Museum of Minnesota.

The new *Exploring Space Gallery* will invite visitors to embark on a cosmic adventure, offering a captivating exploration of our universe and a glimpse into humanity's future in space. From liftoff to a space-station-like environment, the new 4,500 square foot experience will immerse guests in the challenges and excitement of living in space, both now and in the future.

With a focus on advancing knowledge of space and our solar system, the project aspires to inspire children, families, and the public to continue their exploration of space and technology. By sparking interest and generating awareness of space-related STEM careers, the initiative also seeks to highlight Connecticut's deep aerospace roots and empower teachers to connect Science Center experiences with the latest classroom science standards.

Key messages in *Exploring Space* underscore the vastness of our universe, the impact of space exploration on our lives, and the importance of

understanding the conditions that limit human survival in space. As we delve deeper into our "solar neighborhood," each step forward will not only broaden our understanding of the universe but also prepare us for the exciting possibilities that lie ahead in space exploration and innovation. Get ready to be part of this cosmic journey, where the mysteries of space unfold before your eyes, and the future of exploration beckons.

To learn more about how to support this renovation or *The Science Center of the Future* projects, contact April Paterno at apaterno@ctsciencecenter.org or (860) 520-2129. ■



DIGITAL PLATFORM PROJECT KICKS OFF

The Connecticut Science Center's work on a massive website presence overhaul and creation of a new companion app has begun. This project will also work to develop cutting-edge onsite digital experience capabilities in the future. This work is made possible through the support of Travelers and in collaboration with Adams & Knight.



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

New Exhibits this Winter



Soar to New Heights at *Jump!* Exhibit

Put your skills to the test at our latest exhibit in the *Sports Lab* Gallery, *Jump!*, where the laws of physics meet the thrill of basketball! Challenge your vertical limits and experience the joy of defying gravity as you attempt to reach new heights and touch basketballs suspended at varying altitudes.

Jump! is a dynamic fusion of sports and science, inviting visitors to explore the principles of motion, force, and gravity in a hands-on, interactive setting. Engage in friendly competition as visitors jump as high as they can. The harder they push down against the floor, the bigger the opposite force propels them up. This exhibit caters to all ages, combining education with athleticism.

Join us at the *Jump!* exhibit and reach for the stars—basketball style!



Forest of Illusions Returns

Prepare to be mesmerized as

the Connecticut Science Center again presents the wildly popular exhibition, *Forest of Illusions*, enchanting visitors through March 2024. Venture through a winding path where optical illusions challenge your eyes and mind. Engage with a dynamic light wall, navigate a true black hallway altering your sense of space, and gaze into a human-sized kaleidoscope for a fresh perspective. Explore the UV Cave, where rocks glow in unexpected ways. Don't miss this chance to unravel mysteries and expand your perception – you won't believe your eyes! This exhibition was designed and built exclusively by the Connecticut Science Center team.





Thank You: Lizabeth Zlatkus

Trustee Lizabeth (Liz) Zlatkus concluded an inspiring two-year term as Chair of the Connecticut Science Center Board in December. Liz had an instrumental role in the Science Center's ongoing recovery from the pandemic, lending her considerable expertise to the financial strategy that enabled the Science Center

to serve its community through unprecedented circumstances. At the same time, she led the Board of Trustees and management's continued focus on a longer-term horizon, resulting in an ambitious Strategic Vision that is now being implemented. Bringing her personal style to the role, Liz led the challenging endeavor to normalize in person engagement post-pandemic – both the return to in person quarterly Board meetings and the Connecticut Science Center Gala. Reflected in her frequent visits with Board members, staff and visitors, Liz's approach to leadership centers on expressing encouragement and appreciation while her philanthropic interest focuses on bringing STEM experiences to underserved and deserving youth.



Fostering the STEM Pipeline for Pre-K Students and Dual Language Learners

In collaboration with the Education Development Center, the Connecticut Science Center is finishing our final year in a 4-year effort to build knowledge and capacity within school communities, and homes to increase access to the STEM pipeline for

prekindergarten Dual Language Learners. Together we have worked with educational centers in Hartford and New Britain to build a comprehensive model of family, teacher, and community supports to increase preschool students' participation in high-quality, language-rich, playful science inquiry experiences. Through professional learning, family engagement, digital tools and communications, and group events we have helped teachers and families strengthen their partnership to support students and increase their confidence in facilitating science inquiry at home and in school. Additionally, we have provided access to local STEM professionals in the community to increase awareness of STEM Careers in the region. For our final year, we are partnering with community-based early childhood centers including the Women's League Educational Development Center, Capital Child Development Center, Pride & Joy, King's Chapel Early Care & Education Center, Hartford Neighborhood Centers, the Salvation Army, and Trinity College Community Child Center.



Paul Lavoie, CT Chief Manufacturing Officer serves as keynote speaker for STEM Career Showcase



Petit Family Foundation Women in Science Leadership Honorees Ashley Malkin and Tracey Prophet-Hinkley with Science Center Board Chair Liz Zlatkus



Heroes and Villains pose together at the Connecticut Science Center Gala: Gotham City



Artist Carlos Hernandez Chavez and DEIA Director Amy Sailor unveil Ofrenda for Día de los Muertos

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **New Movie – The Arctic: Our Last Great Wilderness**
- **Science Fiction-Science Future Traveling Exhibit Opens March 2024**
- **Connecticut Science Center: Annual Gala – Saturday, October 5, 2024**



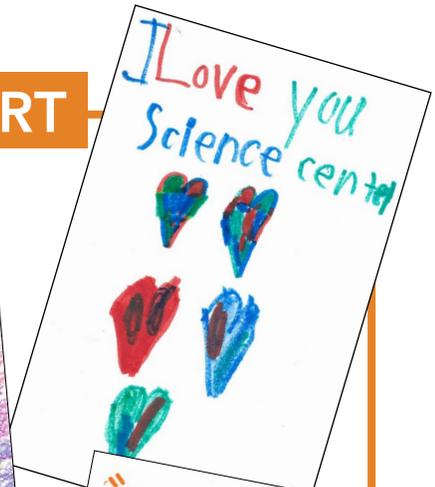
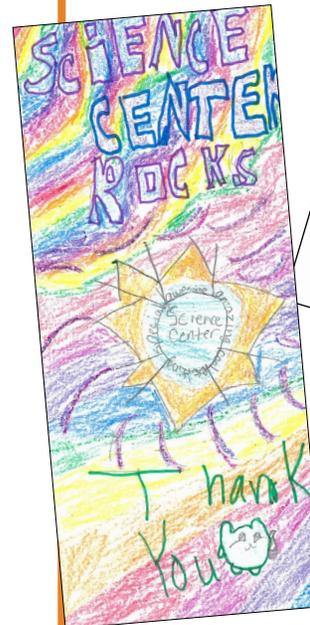
Farewell to our Departed Friend, Michael Rawlins

The Connecticut Science Center is saddened by the passing of Michael Rawlins, a valued friend and Trustee who joined the Board in 2020. Michael was a dynamic leader who immediately engaged and shared his creative ideas and vision. He took the initiative to lead a discovery session resulting in the successful rebranding of our enrichment kits to the current *Science@Home* Activity Kits. Michael helped to develop audience personas that informed the Science Center’s strategic planning process. More recently, Michael was advising us on our digital engagement aspirations. He and his daughter, Melissa, also attended the Science Center Gala in October. Michael’s legacy will endure as the organization continues to be inspired by his vision, ideas, and dedication to mentoring and coaching. Though his absence is deeply felt, Michael’s spirit will live on in the Science Center community.



Michael Rawlins and daughter Melissa at the Connecticut Science Center Gala: Gotham City

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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