



SCIENCE



News from the Connecticut Science Center

Liquid Lounge Returns!

Liquid Lounge: *Pride on the Plaza* marked the return of Liquid Lounge for the first time since 2019! For those who may not know (we had been on hiatus for this event since the pandemic), Liquid Lounge is an after-hours, adults only event that features happy hour cocktails, music, and entertainment in the museum exhibits and out on the Nassau Science Plaza. Attendees have the chance to network, connect with friends, and engage with the Science Center in a unique environment - the museum itself!

As a celebration of Pride Month, *Pride on the Plaza* honored Connecticut's queer history through a Connecticut Historical Society exhibition, LIVE! Science Experiences, and so much more. Attendees also enjoyed a rainbow signature cocktail, food-trucks, and glow face paint from TikTok star Facecandy Jenna. With support from Riverfront Recapture, Hartford Pride, Connecticut Pride, and the Connecticut Historical Society, in addition to media support from iHeartMedia and décor from Pink Flamingo Party, *Pride on the Plaza* was a fabulous return to form for this flagship event in the greater Hartford community. We were honored to have the opportunity to celebrate Pride in the heart of the capital city.

We're immensely thankful to bring back Liquid Lounge on such a grand scale. ■



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Take your visit to the next level by downloading the official Connecticut Science Center App, available for both Apple and Android phones. With interactive tours, visitor information, latest news, and events, it will help you maximize your overall experience.



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

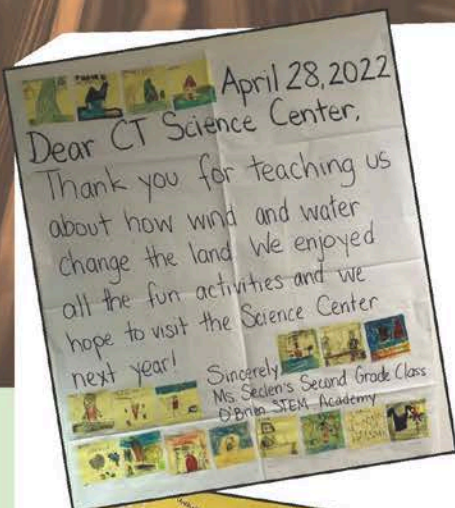
Expanding the Science Center Experience

In 2020 the Connecticut Science Center began offering Science @ Home activities to connect with audiences who could not visit in person due to the COVID-19 pandemic. For families with immunocompromised children, the virtual interactions with Science Center STEM Educators were some of the only safe interactions these young learners could have with others. Additionally, the Science Center aimed to make hands-on activities more accessible for children still attending school virtually. This community has followed the Science Center and Science @ Home from home over the last two years.

Each Science @ Home Kit is designed for children ages 7-12 and helps families bring home the fun of going to the Connecticut Science Center. Science Center STEM Educators provide all the materials for three weeks of engaging, hands-on STEM activities and each week, families log in to an interactive one-hour virtual session to complete the activity.

Over time, the goals of the Science @ Home program have evolved as this new community of learners emerged. What was once a means to provide learning during the pandemic, Science @ Home Kits have now become an anticipated component of the Science Center's program offerings. Additionally, through grant funding, underresourced families can receive Science @ Home kits free of charge, making dynamic STEM learning opportunities accessible for more people.

Fall program offerings include Spooky STEM Science, Glow-in-the-Dark Science, and Winter Wonders. ■



New Interactive Junior Fire Marshal Experience

For 75 years, The Hartford has been dedicated to teaching kids about fire safety and has deputized more than 112 million students nationwide. To celebrate the program's 75th anniversary, we have unveiled our own LIVE Science Junior Fire Marshal Training Center that will live at the Connecticut Science Center. This fun, facilitated activity integrates learning and practicing safety. Visitors will learn fire prevention and how to stay safe in the event of a fire. Using replicas to represent common household areas, realistic smoke effects, and the nostalgic red helmet, Science Center educators guide visitors through simulated hazardous scenarios as they learn fire safety and the science of fire.

The LIVE Science Junior Fire Marshal Training Center is presented by The Hartford ■



K-3 students from West Middle Community School in Hartford debuted the Junior Fire Marshal LIVE Science Experience at the Connecticut Science Center in March.



Drawings by students inspired by Science Center programs.



(L to R): David Griggs – MetroHartford Alliance, Eric Harrison – United Way of Central and Northeastern Connecticut, Dr. Shelley D. Best – Greater Hartford Arts Council, Shane Eddy – Pratt & Whitney and Matt Fleury – Connecticut Science Center



Science Center Trustees and Staff
Explore Science @ Home



Nassau Cares Volunteers
on Nassau Science Plaza



Ingrid Canady



Chad Thompson

Welcome New Trustees

The Science Center is delighted to welcome two new community leaders to the Board of Trustees.

Both Ingrid Canady and Chad Thompson were elected to the Board of Trustees in June. An educator for the past 18 years, Ingrid M. Canady is the Executive Director for SERC (State Education Resource Center of CT). Ms. Canady strives to unmask the hidden realities of institutionalized racism and its impact in today's classrooms and seeks to create school cultures and environments in which all children are provided with equitable opportunities for personal growth and success.

Chad J. Thompson is President of Ensign-Bickford Aerospace & Defense in Simsbury, Connecticut. Mr. Thompson is an electrical engineer and supports the Science Center's work to inspire future generations of STEM professionals.

We welcome Ms. Canady and Mr. Thompson to the Science Center Board and look forward to having their expertise as we engage audiences in STEM and STEM careers. ■

Collaborative Professional Learning in Norwich

The Mandell Academy provided educators in Norwich Public Schools access to professional development training that aligns with the Next Generation Science Standards. Eighteen educators from Kelly STEAM Magnet Middle School and Teacher's Memorial Global Magnet School, and one district STEM Coordinator were able to collaborate with Science Center Professional Development (PD) Specialists. These educators were able to observe our STEM Educators deliver some exciting student programming, such as *Tectonic Travels*, where students explored the characteristics of the earth's crust. Through this event, educators from both schools saw these standards in action, as well as the overall benefit of hands on application and inquiry-centric STEM skills learning. Educators saw students who were learning to understand, not simply learning to recite! Overall, the feedback for the program was very positive, with participants noting that Science Center staff were knowledgeable, capable, and flexible throughout the training. Educators left with concrete take-aways pertaining to the methodology behind engaging, inspiring, and motivating their students. Thank you to Norwich Public Schools for welcoming the Connecticut Science Center with open arms!





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NEW Exhibition

November 2022 - 2023

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88% learned new
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83% increased confidence
in teaching

1,015
TEACHERS
SERVED IN 2021



Gifts of Crypto

Donating your cryptocurrency is just one of the many tax-deductible ways that you can show your love of science and support the Science Center's mission. Donations of cryptocurrencies are sold, and the revenue is used to support our interactive experiences and programs for the students, educators, and families who we work with every day. You can make a difference and inspire the next generations of STEM professionals – possibly even the next cryptocurrency innovator!

Call the Science Center at
860-520-2134 to learn more.



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:

April Paterno, Vice President of Development - 860.520.2129 | apaterno@ctsciencecenter.org or

Whitney Gray, Director of Institutional Giving - 860.520.2124 | wgray@ctsciencecenter.org

Connecticut Science Center, 250 Columbus Blvd., Hartford, CT 06103