



## News from the Connecticut Science Center

### The Future is Here: *Science Fiction Science Future* Now Open

What will daily life be like in the future? How will we travel? How will we communicate? *Science Fiction, Science Future* enables visitors to develop a deeper understanding of how science fiction ideas and concepts might become the science realities of tomorrow, revealing that the future is not as distant as it may seem! In this new traveling exhibition visitors explore advancements in robotics, invisibility, holograms, and augmented reality and ask "what if" as they consider all that is possible through innovation and creativity.



Visitors learn about the science of teleportation.

This exhibition brings to life many innovations and inventions that were once considered possible only in film and literature. Visitors are asked to consider what everyday life may look like for future generations while exploring what was once considered futuristic technology. The first airplanes took flight in the early 20th century and now jet engines are designed and built right here in Connecticut!

*Science Fiction, Science Future* is a one-of-a-kind adventure, delving into the wonders of tomorrow and showcasing the latest cutting-edge technologies. Interactive and engaging activities that challenge the mind and body convey information on medical technology, communication and transport, and so much more and make this exhibition a unique journey of science exploration, curiosity, and discovery!

*Science Fiction, Science Future* is now open through Labor Day in the Traveling Exhibition Gallery and supported by Liberty Bank. ■

Thank you to all of our supporters  
and to everyone who has joined us  
for science learning and discovery!

CELEBRATING 15 YEARS

Connecticut  
Science Center



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



## Welcome to New Board of Trustees Member Andrew Tanaka

The Connecticut Science Center is pleased to announce the appointment of Andrew Tanaka to the Board of Trustees. As the Senior Vice President, Chief Administrative Officer, and Treasurer of Wesleyan University, he provides leadership for managing the institution's financial resources and achieving its overall strategic goals. We welcome Mr. Tanaka to the Science Center Board and look forward to benefitting from his expertise and perspective as we engage our audiences in STEM education and careers.



## Growth for Access Membership Program

The Access Membership Program ensures that we are building relationships with community members and families in the communities that they live, work, and play and that we eliminate the barriers of access to a "traditional" museum experience and on-going STEM education for families who may not otherwise have the resources to engage with us. Since its introduction in 2016, the Access Membership program has provided discounted year-long memberships to four and six person households here in Connecticut; and has grown to over 900 hundred current active family memberships.

Our mission is to inspire the future generations of STEM professionals and help to fill the workforce pipeline in Connecticut and through our Access Membership Program, we are able to engage with a more diverse audience of children and young people and provide opportunities for all to see themselves changing the world through innovation and discovery.



Top: Access Member family completing a Science @ Home kit included in their membership benefits.



Bottom: Membership and Community Engagement Representative Gabe Gutierrez-Araya tabling at an Access Health community event.

## Coffee Talk: Fuel Your Brain and Caffeinate Your Curiosity

The Connecticut Science Center is dedicated to inspiring life-long learning through interactive and innovative experiences that explore our changing world through science. As a beacon and hub for science education, the Science Center provides learning opportunities for all ages. In 2022 our adult-audience lecture programming was reintroduced as a four-part series designed to provide multiple opportunities for scholars and enthusiasts alike to explore and discuss complex topics led by industry experts. Coffee Talk topics have covered the History of Western Science, the History of Flight, Artificial Intelligence and Emerging Technologies, and Environmental Sustainability and have given participants context of the evolution of science and technology throughout human history and encourages the consideration of what comes next.

We have had the pleasure to work with esteemed faculty from Capital Community College, University of Connecticut, Southern Connecticut State University, and University of Connecticut School of Medicine as well as professionals from Sikorsky Aircraft, Eversource Energy, and the Carnegie Council for Ethics in International Affairs to lead these discussions and provide insights into how we, as a society, can move forward together.





Senior Programs Associate Billan Abdi represented the Science Center on DNA Day at the State Capitol.



Staff members pose with cast members of Cirque BAZAAR.



Visitors engage with WFSB – Eyewitness News team during the Solar Eclipse Event.



Representative Michael D. Quinn, serving Meriden, stopped in to visit with students from Nathan Hale Elementary School and John Barry Elementary School.



## Spotlight: Teen Advisory Council

The Science Center's array of Teen Programs not only provide opportunities for middle school and high school students to explore STEM topics outside of the classroom; but also help students to develop leadership, team-building, and critical thinking skills.



Championing the teen programs, the youth-led Teen Advisory Council is a teen-driven community that meets and collaborates with other students and groups to plan events at the Science Center to engage interested students in STEM programming. To get involved, members apply in the fall and work together throughout the school year. For many this is a great opportunity to build new skills and contribute to the community.



Justin Riley, STEM Educator & Teen Program Manager, and Celina Velez, Teen Programs Associate, work directly with the group and say "When working with and mentoring the Council, we give them opportunities to learn how to plan and take initiative to lead projects. We give them a deadline, a budget, and creative opportunities for them to promote and plan the event how they best see fit - they build a vision, and we work with them to make it a reality. When they encounter any difficulties, we pick them right back up."



**DOUBLE YOUR IMPACT!** The third and final phase of the Endow Hartford 21 matching gift endowment program has begun and through December 31, 2024, matching funds are available for your gift of \$250 or more to the Connecticut Science Center Endow Hartford 21 Fund at Hartford Foundation for Public Giving.

Thanks to the vision and leadership of the Zachs Family Foundation and the other matching donors, gifts will be matched 1:1 – that means your \$250 gift will be doubled to \$500!

**WHY IS ENDOWMENT IMPORTANT?** An endowment is an investment of donated funds, of which the principal is not spent, and the earnings are used to support the institution. An endowment creates a long-term resource that helps to sustain our mission during periods of unforeseen revenue fluctuations.

To remain strong, organizations like the Connecticut Science Center need endowments to secure their future. While annual support remains crucial, as it is every year, we simultaneously recognize the need to build for our future. With your help, the Connecticut Science Center will continue to provide engaging, interactive, and innovative experiences that explore our changing world through science and open the minds of future thinkers and inventors who will compete in the ever-expanding global marketplace for technology and innovation.

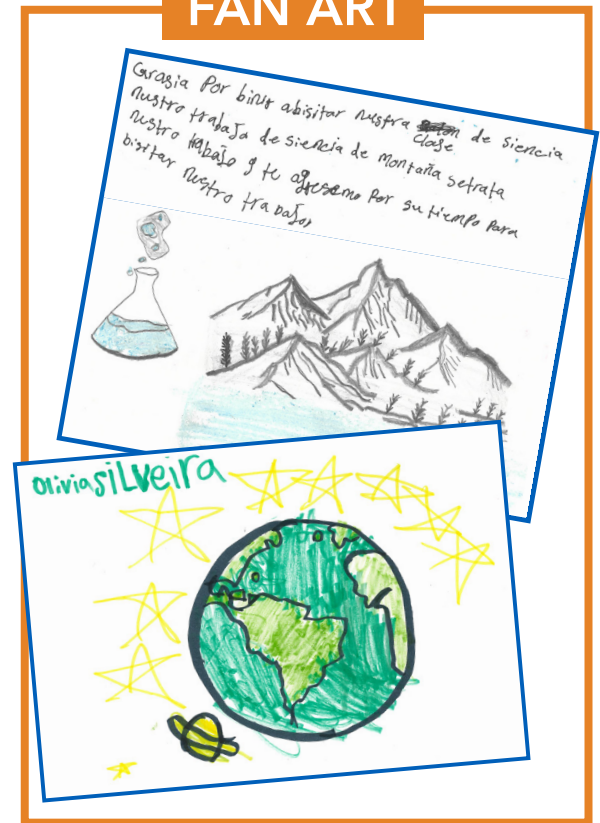
Visit [endowhartford21.com](http://endowhartford21.com) for information on how to make your gift!

UPCOMING EVENTS & PROGRAMS:

## JOIN US AT THESE UPCOMING EVENTS

- **June 2: Sensory Friendly Day**
- **June 4: STEM Career Showcase**
- **June 12-14: Science Center 15 Year Birthday Bash**
- **June 15: Heroes Unleashed: K-9 Demo Day**
- **June 19: Juneteenth at the Connecticut Science Center**
- **June 22: Summer Kick-Off Party on the Plaza and Women in Science Saturday**
- **June 27: Pups and Pints on the Plaza**
- **October 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:

**April Paterno, Vice President of Governance and Development** - 860.520.2129 | [apaterno@ctsciencecenter.org](mailto:apaterno@ctsciencecenter.org)  
or **Whitney Gray, Director of Institutional Giving** - 860.520.2124 | [wgray@ctsciencecenter.org](mailto:wgray@ctsciencecenter.org)

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