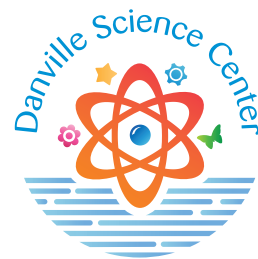
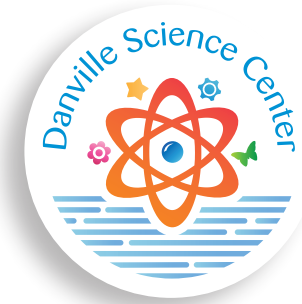


Annual Report

2023-2024





To our dear friends of the Danville Science Center,

Thank you for your continued support of STEM education in our region! The Danville Science Center achieved yet another record-breaking year. In the past 29 years, we have been fortunate to provide programming to learners of all ages and abilities in the Southern Virginia and Northern North Carolina region. We owe our success to our volunteers, grantors, donors, staff and every teacher, student and family who chose to come to the Science Center this year.

The Science Center had the opportunity to welcome almost 59,000 guests from July 2023 to June 2024. There was no shortage of discovery in our J.T. – Minnie Maude Charitable Trust Creativity Lab, Butterfly Station and exhibitions, both touring and permanent.

Seeing a giant screen film and astronomy show in our immersive theater had an even bigger impact during the 2023–2024 season! In August, the Science Center enhanced the cosmic journey for all guests in The Dome with the installation of more technologically advanced projectors, computers, lighting and speakers. Nearly 14,000 guests experienced The Dome this year, viewing films on a variety of topics, from dinosaurs to reefs to moons. That’s a lot of travel through time and space!

Our touring exhibitions have been well received, with *Thomas & Friends™: Explore the Rails* taking the prize for the most popular exhibition this year! Our guests also got the chance to learn about prehistoric creatures in *Dinosaur Revolution*, a fan favorite for all of our future paleontologists.

We were thrilled to welcome the former director of NASA’s James Webb Space Telescope to Danville! Dr. Greg Robinson, the recipient of the 2022 *TIME* 100 Impact Award, the 2022 Distinguished Presidential Rank Award and the 2022 Federal Employee of the Year, came to Danville on May 2, 2024, to share his experience running one of NASA’s most cutting-edge programs. The Science Center was honored to host the impactful event, and we thank Robinson for sharing details about his journey with our community.

On behalf of the Board of Directors and the staff of the Danville Science Center, thank you for being in our orbit this year. You help us bloom. We could not have provided our inclusive and innovative programming without the support of our community – without you.

As we enter the last year before we hit three decades in operations, here’s to even more STEM discovery at the Danville Science Center!

Adam Goebel
Executive Director, Danville Science Center

Steve Matney
President, Danville Science Center, Inc.



Touring Exhibitions

Science Unplugged

May 27–September 10, 2023

Science Unplugged got back to basics with hands-on elements demonstrating scientific concepts found in architecture and physics. The exhibition gave guests the chance to build bridges, reconstruct world-famous arches, stack blocks to make a gravity-defying cantilever and experiment with pulleys and gears.

Dinosaur Revolution

September 16, 2023–January 21, 2024

Dinosaur Revolution took learners back in time to find evidence of dinosaur doings, discover theories of how they became extinct and wear faux dinosaur feet to make a big impression. Guests worked together to master three Mesozoic Era missions, learning why dinosaurs were one of the most successful survivors in Earth's history.

Thomas & Friends™: Explore the Rails!

May 28–September 4, 2024

A phenomenal interactive exploration of STEM literacy through playful learning experiences, this exhibition highlighted problem-solving, creative thinking and cause-and-effect. With more than 300 guests on opening day alone, *Thomas & Friends™: Explore the Rails!* was one of the most popular touring exhibitions the Science Center has ever hosted.

Sponsored locally by the Kiwanis Club of Danville Foundation and the Helen S. and Charles G. Patterson, Jr. Charitable Foundation.

© 2024 Gullane (Thomas) Limited. Thomas & Friends™: Explore the Rails! was created by Minnesota Children's Museum, presented by Fisher-Price.

Dome Features

Dinosaurs: A Story of Survival

January 2024–Present

Celeste is preparing a class talk about how dinosaurs went extinct when she's confronted by a tantalizing question: what if there are still dinosaurs among us? Guests join Celeste on an epic time-traveling adventure unveiling the colossal creatures of yesteryears and the incredible transformations they experienced over millions of years.

Into America's Wild

January–May 2024

From the ancient canyons of the Southwest to the rolling hills of the Appalachian Trail, this cross-country adventure takes guests to some of North America's most beautiful landscapes. With its breathtaking cinematography and inspiring message, this film shows that America's wild places are as varied as they are stunning, leaving guests with a renewed commitment to their care.

Expedition Reef

May 2024–Present

Guests embark on an oceanic safari of the world's most vibrant—and endangered—marine ecosystems to learn the secrets of the “rainforests of the sea.” Along the way, they discover how corals grow, feed, reproduce and support more than 25 percent of all marine life on Earth while facing unprecedented threats from climate change, habit destruction and overfishing.

Edge of Darkness

January–May 2024

This film takes guests on a spectacular voyage across the universe, showcasing the enigmatic beauty of cosmic collisions. It offers a look at the great cliffs on Comet 67P, fascinating bright “lights” on Ceres and the first close-ups of the dwarf binary planet Pluto/Charon and its moons.



Special Programming

J.T. – Minnie Maude Charitable Trust Creativity Lab

The Science Center's Creativity Lab provides a space for guests to get hands-on with a variety of fun and exciting activities. Around 1,000 guests took part in over 40 different challenges, including engineering, design and fabrication of robots, coding and circuitry. Some of the more popular labs were the family/team efforts of creating a Rube Goldberg device, design and fabrication of personalized rulers and the Egg Drop Challenge from an aerial drone.

Science Summer Camps

This year, the Science Center offered four science summer camps packed with hands-on STEM activities: Gameplay and Sound Science for campers ages 8–12, and Wildlife Wonders and Super Sounds for campers ages 4–7. Summer camp is a popular offering for our community. Camps were full of excited young learners as all sessions sold out completely! Many campers returned from last year and we had a waitlist.

Stream Into the V.O.I.D.

Stream Into the V.O.I.D (Virtual Online Interstellar Discussion) highlights for this year include:

Breaking news: China sends zebrafish into space! In August's VOID, Science Ben took viewers through a brief history of animals in space, what they've taught us about microgravity and how they might be key in the search for life on other planets.

In December's VOID, viewers were reminded that astronauts are heroes, but heroes are not perfect. The program highlighted items astronauts have accidentally left on the Moon and around the Earth, including a tool bag dropped in November 2023 by two NASA astronauts.

June's VOID flooded viewers with knowledge about Water Water Everywhere! Science Ben took audiences on a journey to discover otherworldly sources of water in our solar system. From distant comets to icy moons, they explored how scientists are currently studying water and its capacity to support life outside of Earth.

Event Highlights

Butterfly Hello!

More than 300 guests celebrated the opening of the Butterfly Station on Saturday, April 20, 2024. This exciting event was free to our community thanks to generous local foundations and donors, especially the Helen S. and Charles G. Patterson Foundation and the Womack Foundation! Learners of all ages explored the garden, learned about a butterfly's life cycle, made butterfly crafts and participated in nature activities with our staff and volunteers.



Rail Days

Model trains rolled back into town in September, and for the first time, they were displayed in the 120-year-old train station. The Science Center celebrated the 20th anniversary of Rail Days with hundreds of guests who watched miniature trains chug through lifelike landscapes featuring mountains, rivers and more. The new event location offered the chance to feature enhanced layouts crisscrossed by N-scale and T-gauge trains.

Speaker Spotlight: Greg Robinson

More than 350 community members signed up to join the Danville Science Center on an inspiring journey through the cosmos with Danville native and former director of NASA's groundbreaking James Webb Space Telescope (JWST), Dr. Greg Robinson. Robinson presented details about the JWST and its creation, delving into how he headed one of NASA's most ambitious projects. In total, he orchestrated 114 missions for the Science Mission Directorate, lent his expertise to 21 shuttle launches and led a team of more than 20,000 scientists, engineers and support staff.

Audiences were excited to see and hear from Robinson on how the JWST was made, and the Science Center was honored to be a part of Robinson's legacy in his hometown by providing the Greg Robinson Scholarship for students of color in an Averett University STEM degree program.

Thank you to our Celebration of Greg Robinson donors!

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Sponsor a Brick at the Science Center

Since 1995, the Science Center has welcomed hundreds of thousands of people, inspiring each guest to enrich their lives through science!

When guests visit the Science Center, they learn how STEM makes up nearly every facet of life. They discover how to tap into their curiosity in the world. Sponsoring a brick on the Pathway to Science supports educational opportunities at the Science Center.

Sponsor a brick (or several), personalized with your message, as a permanent expression of your dedication to the Dan River Region. Contact 434.791.5160 x 204 to learn more.



Danville Science Center Foundation

The Danville Science Center Foundation is a nonprofit organization established to support the Danville Science Center. Operating costs for the year ending June 30, 2024:

Operational Financial Information for FY24

Revenues

| | |
|--------------------------------|--------------|
| Annual Giving and Partnerships | \$ 54,759.82 |
| Retail Sales | \$ 40,988.64 |
| Fundraising | \$ 24,664.71 |
| Unrestricted Grants | \$ 3,000.00 |
| Other Contributions | \$ 40,055.77 |

Total Revenue \$ 163,468.94

Expenses

| | |
|-------------------------------|--------------|
| Science Center Support | \$ 45,000.00 |
| Personnel and Benefits | \$ 55,505.97 |
| Office Supplies | \$ 1,430.54 |
| Printing and Postage | \$ 4,379.66 |
| Fundraising | \$ 4,760.41 |
| Professional Fees | \$ 5,300.00 |
| Insurance | \$ 2,096.42 |
| Marketing/Advertising | \$ 5,881.68 |
| Development/Donor Recognition | \$ 1,023.36 |
| Scholarships Fund | \$ 5,000.00 |
| Retail Shop | \$ 17,470.74 |
| Shop Sales Tax and CC Fees | \$ 3,384.51 |
| Director's Discretionary Fund | \$ 627.06 |
| Administrative Expense | \$ 2,416.81 |

Total Expenses \$ 164,274.16

Starting Unrestricted Assets at

Beginning of Year \$ 24,371.50

Net Unrestricted Assets at End of Year \$ 23,566.28

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