



eugene

# SCIENCE CENTER

ANNUAL REPORT

2024

## MISSION:

Inspire scientific curiosity and foster critical thinking about the universe and our place in it.

## VISION:

Scientifically literate and creative communities building a sustainable future.



Dear Friends of Eugene Science Center, 2024 was a challenging year. The large construction project associated with University of Oregon's football expansion resulted in an 11% drop in paid public attendance - our first annual drop since 2013 (not including the COVID-19 shutdown). Ultimately, the science center may benefit long-term from this project by acquiring new, more accessible parking lots for our guests along with infrastructure to accommodate a future outdoor science park and a much needed storage facility.

Despite a dip in attendance, the associated loss of earned income, and a very expensive emergency replacement of our fire water line, we had a successful year programmatically. In early 2024, we launched our new portable planetarium outreach program using our new electric outreach vehicle thanks to NASA and EWEB grants. We visited every 5th and 7th grade class in the Eugene 4J school district delivering planetarium and in-class experiences to over 1,700 students. We also created a new interactive turntable exhibit and two new neuroscience exhibits, one of which was developed in collaboration with UO's Institute of Neuroscience. 2024 was an incredibly productive year despite some setbacks, and we intend to continue having a positive impact on our community in 2025 and beyond thanks to our community's generous support.

**Tim W. Scott**, Executive Director

# Visitors and Events

Thanks to improvements made during the University of Oregon's 2024 construction, guests enjoyed newly paved parking, ADA spots, and new landscaping upon entering the building.



In addition to public attendance, Eugene Science Center offered several special events including: Adults Only Nights, Meet a Scientist, Pi Day, Earth Day Open House, Science Spooktacular, and Midnight at Noon (New Year's Eve).

37,194

Visits

Interactive exhibits, planetarium shows, educational programs, and public events provided science for all ages.

4,854

Member Visits

We loved seeing our members return to the science center throughout the year and bring guests.

1,475

Event Guests

Special events welcomed new and returning guests to experience the science center's unique educational programming.

## Museum Access Programs

By removing financial barriers, we achieved a greater impact and broader access to science education. *Museums for All* admits guests with an EBT card into our exhibit hall for only \$1 and into our planetarium for 50% off.



161

Attendees

Earth Day Open House

3,364

Guests

Museums for All

13

Students

Summer Camp Scholarships

926

Students

Field Trip Scholarships

# Program Impacts

4,522

Field Trip  
Students

Children from all over western Oregon attended field trips to enjoy hands-on science education.

414

Toddlers

Our youngest members enjoyed STEAM-themed lessons every month during Tot Discovery Days.

4,986

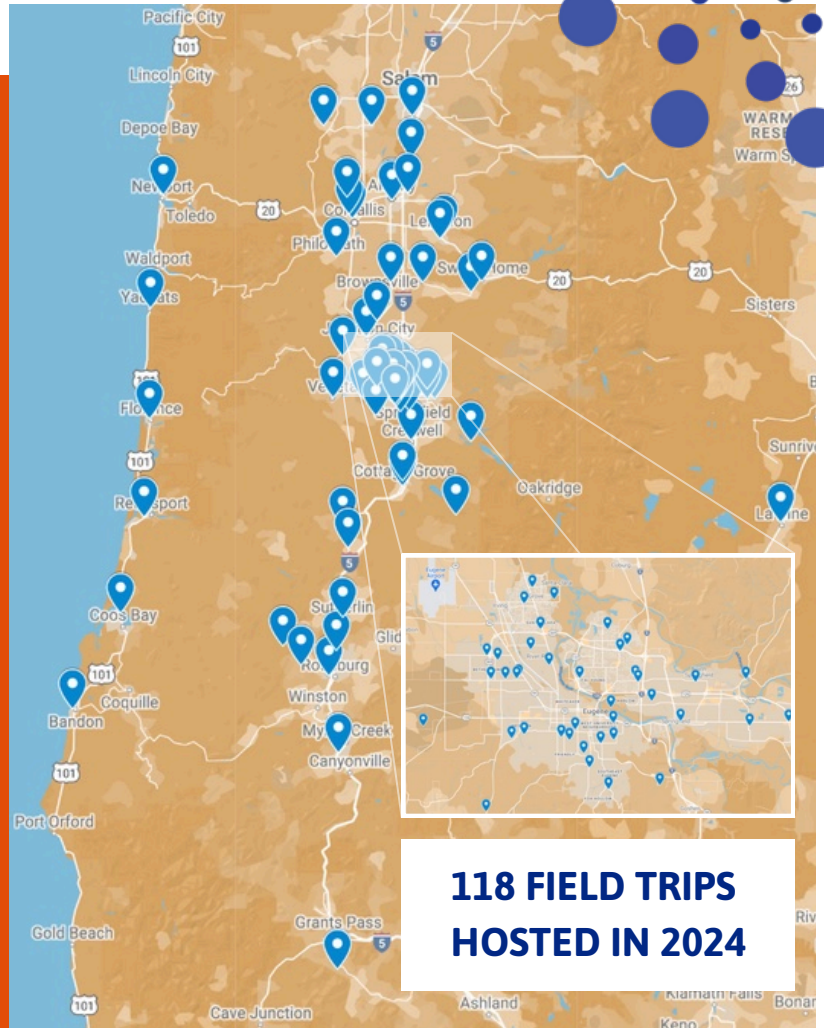
Outreach  
Students

In addition to public outreach, every 5th & 7th grade class in 4J received science outreach thanks to a 3-yr partnership with the district.

77,454

Hours of Depth  
Programming

Our educators provided in-depth STEM programming to 563 students outside of school through camps and workshops.



*It's so great that you get to visit all the schools and share your love of science with students. I'm excited about science because there is so much to learn!*

*(5th Grade Edison Elementary Student)*

# New On-Site Experiences

“ I LOVE that it’s “homier” than high-tech museums! Everything looks like home-made inventions. The BEST!!  
(written guest feedback)



## Turntable

This new open-ended, inquiry-based exhibit demonstrates the Coriolis Effect and Centripetal Force.



## Reaction Station

Thanks to support from the University of Oregon Institute of Neuroscience, the Reaction Station measures neural connection speed when sensing sight, sound, and touch. Guests race each other to see who has the fastest neural network!

## Mindball

Thanks to an anonymous donation, this new exhibit measures brainwaves and stress levels. Participants move the ball into a goal using the power of their minds!



## Dinosaurs: A Story of Survival

“What if I told you there are still dinosaurs among us?” The newest addition to our lineup of planetarium shows explores this question. This film demonstrates the fascinating transformations that dinosaurs underwent over millions of years, creating giant creatures, armored beasts, and super predators, until the day that a cataclysmic impact event caused a mass extinction on Earth.

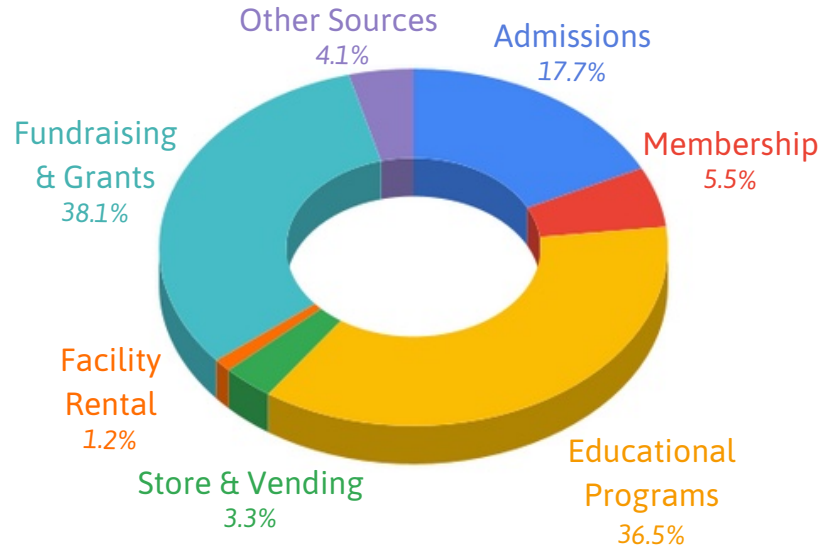


# Financials

” Great exhibits, clean facility, we love it. Thank you!  
(written guest feedback)

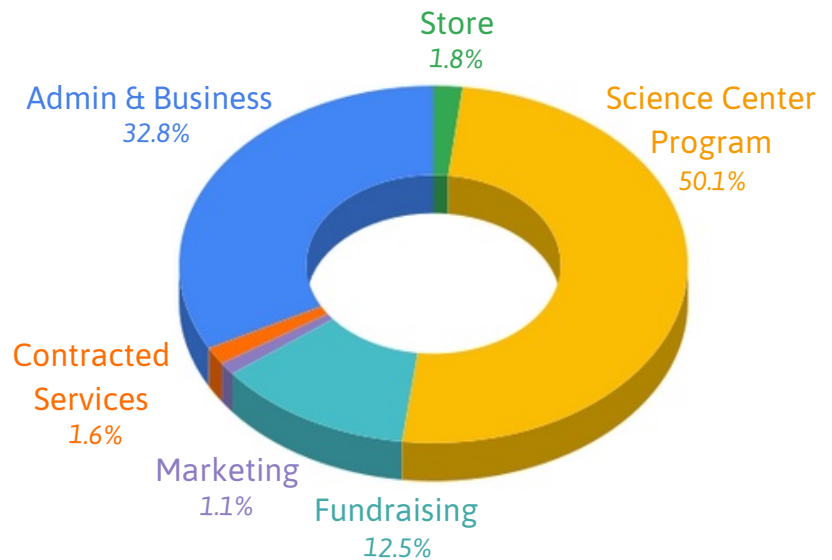
## Operational Income

Admissions	\$155,684
Membership	\$48,017
Educational Programs	\$321,226
Store & Vending	\$28,741
Facility Rental	\$10,203
Fundraising & Grants	\$279,855
Other Sources	\$36,098
<b>Total Operational Income</b>	<b>\$879,825</b>
<i>Additional Restricted Income</i>	<i>\$125,170</i>



## Operational Expenses (without capitalizations)

Science Center Store	\$15,955
Science Center Program	\$435,930
Fundraising	\$108,998
Marketing	\$9,823
Contracted Services	\$13,624
Administration & Business	\$285,110
<b>Total Operational Expenses</b>	<b>\$869,440</b>
<i>Additional Restricted Expenses</i>	<i>\$166,662</i>



### ENDOWMENT

**Total as of  
12/31/24  
\$ 382,493**

### OPERATING SUPPORT

General Fund \$40,630  
Eugene Mineral Club Fund \$24,640

### PROGRAM SUPPORT

Eugene School District 4J 3rd Grade Field Trips \$317,223

# Supporters



*Your planetarium was literally the coolest!! I am excited to do science now. Thank you so much!  
(5th Grade Edison Elementary Student)*



## Annual Business Partners

Banner Bank  
Chambers Construction  
Dari Mart  
Eugene School District 4J  
Hunter Communications  
Jerry's Home Improvement Center

Rainbow Valley Design and Construction  
Roseburg Forest Products  
Ruby Porter/Partnered Solutions IT  
Springfield Thunderegg Rock Club  
Summit Bank



## Grants

Autzen Foundation  
Cow Creek Umpqua Indian Foundation  
DLX Family Foundation  
Eugene Active 20/30 Club  
Eugene Downtown Lions  
Norman & Olga Evelyn Wildish Fund  
Palo Alto Charitable Fund  
UO Women in Graduate Science  
Woodard Family Foundation



## Sponsors

2 Towns Ciderhouse  
BiCoastal Media  
Eugene Science Center Board of Directors  
Eugene Emeralds  
Oregon CPR  
Oregon Eye Consultants  
Springfield Thunderegg Rock Club  
Summit Bank  
Travel Lane County  
Uncommon Scents



## Memberships



## Individual Donors



# People

## 2024 Staff

Elena Aguero	Int. Guest Relations & Operations Dir.
Kimberly Canaday	Spring Break Camp Instructor
Calista Cruikshank	Summer Camp Staff
Kevin Davis	Planetarium Manager
Layla Gordon	Summer/Winter Camp Staff
Frank Gornto	Planetarium Assistant
Elizabeth Grace	Education Director
Claire Griffin	Winter Camp Staff/ Outreach Educator
Martina Hemstreet	Guest Relations Assistant
Lauren Kwasny	Summer Camp Staff/Guest Rel. Asst.
Dave Jordan	Exhibit Developer
Wenmi Collins	Outreach Educator
Peter Kukla	Community Engagement Director
Sara Lamog	Guest Relations & Operations Director
Lena Lamoureux	Programs Coordinator
Alex Lombardi	Education Manager
Annabeth McClaskey	Guest Relations Assistant
Kim Miller	Administrative Director
Fiona Mokler	Guest Relations Assistant
Adrian Monty	Programs Coordinator
Clara Morrison	Summer Camp Staff
Ron Pembleton	Summer Camp Staff
Mallory Pennington	Guest Relations Assistant
Avery Poulsen	Summer Camp Staff
Hannah Rosenfeld	Guest Relations Assistant
Stefani Roybal	Community Engagement Director
Layne Santos	Guest Relations Assistant
Haley Shields	Guest Relations Assistant
Georgia Smiles	Winter Camp Inst./Programs Coord.
Tim W. Scott	Executive Director
Jim Wheeler	Exhibit & Facilities Technician
Lux Yamamori	Guest Relations Assistant



” *Staff were so helpful and kind.  
(written guest feedback)*

## 2024 Board of Directors

Andrew Moreland	Chair
Eric Wilken	Vice Chair
Samantha Reardon	Secretary
Aaron Defferding	Treasurer
Chandler Asnes	Chanda Diekotto
Scott Fagan	Rubi Harney
Allison Kreider	Abbie Stillie
Charis Rieder	Sona Hodaie
Thea Chroman	

## Volunteer Support

**Volunteers logged 1,840 hours serving in the planetarium, delivering education programs, and providing general support.**

” *Thank you so much for coming to our school to teach us about the stars. It was so much fun! P.S. I hope you come back next year. (5th Grade Edison Elementary Student)*

