

eugene
**SCIENCE
CENTER**

**ANNUAL REPORT
2025**



eugene



SCIENCE CENTER

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,

We have much to be grateful for in 2025, which began with a successful *Concert Under the Stars* and the return of our *Sensory Sensitive Evenings*, followed by sold out summer camps and a record-setting spooky Halloween event. It ended with a wildly successful new *Midnight at Noon* balloon drop celebration and laser show dance party. Programmatically, the year was a huge success. Financially, however, we continued to take a hit due to the partial closing of Leo Harris Parkway associated with the UO football complex expansion project, and all the regional and national economic uncertainty. The planetarium was also unexpectedly closed for six weeks because of a costly projector repair. All of these factors contributed to a drop in attendance and loss of earned income. Despite all of this, our amazing team continued to develop and implement impactful science programming for our community.

Amidst the ups and downs, much of 2025 was also spent planning for our future. We intend to launch new initiatives in 2026, including the opening of our new *Outdoor Science Park*. It's a critical time to invest in Eugene Science Center. Expanding and enhancing our unique experiences will foster creativity and curiosity through hands-on interaction and open-ended investigation. These experiences develop valuable critical thinking skills that are crucial to navigating a world flooded with misinformation. We thank our community for its support in 2025. Because of you, your community science center continues to thrive in having a meaningful and lasting impact on schools, families, and community members of all ages and abilities.

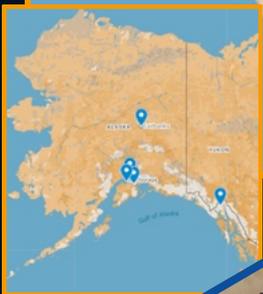
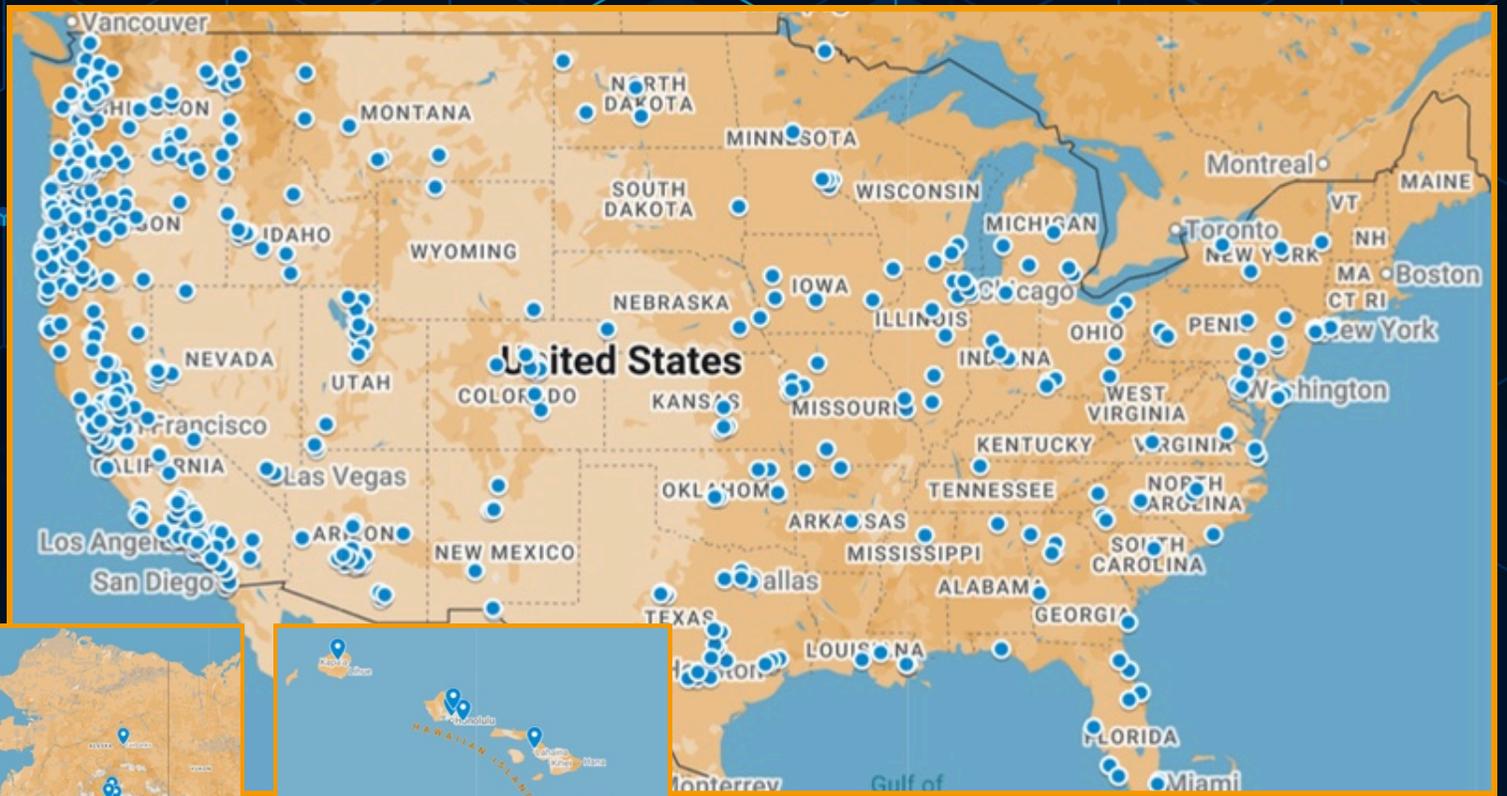
Tim W. Scott, Executive Director

Visitors and Events

In addition to public attendance, Eugene Science Center offered several special events including: *Concert Under the Stars*, adult only nights, *Pi Day Celebration*, *Science Spooktacular*, *For the Trees* shows and forums, and *Midnight at Noon* - our unique New Year's Eve celebration.



Captured zip codes from 2025 include guests from 44 states!



”

We have been to a lot of museums across the country. We love the diversity of what you have to offer. It's really great! (out-of-state visitor comment)



38,164
Total Visits

5,131
Member Visits

1,369
Event Guests

Science Center Access Programs

By removing financial barriers, we achieved a greater impact and broader access to science education. Eugene Science Center participates in the IMLS program *Museums for All*, which admits guests with an EBT card into our exhibit hall for only \$1 and into our planetarium for 50% off. When SNAP benefits were reduced and delayed in November, we expanded the program for the entire month so that all individuals with an EBT card were admitted into the science center for free. We also further supported our community by offering scholarships, and free programs and events such as our *Sensory Sensitive Evenings*.



3,509
Guests

Museums for All
Program

1,243
Students

Field Trip
Scholarships



20
Students

Girls' Science
Adventures

31
Guests

Sensory Sensitive
Evenings



5
Students

Summer Camp
Scholarships

\$37,596

Total Fees Waived



I had no idea that I could get in for \$1/each with my Oregon Trail Card. What a nice surprise! (Written Guest Comment)

Program Impacts

215

Toddlers for
Tot Days

Our youngest members enjoyed STEAM-themed lessons every month (except summer) during *Tot Discovery Days*.

4,804

Field Trip
Students

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

2,796

Outreach
Students

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

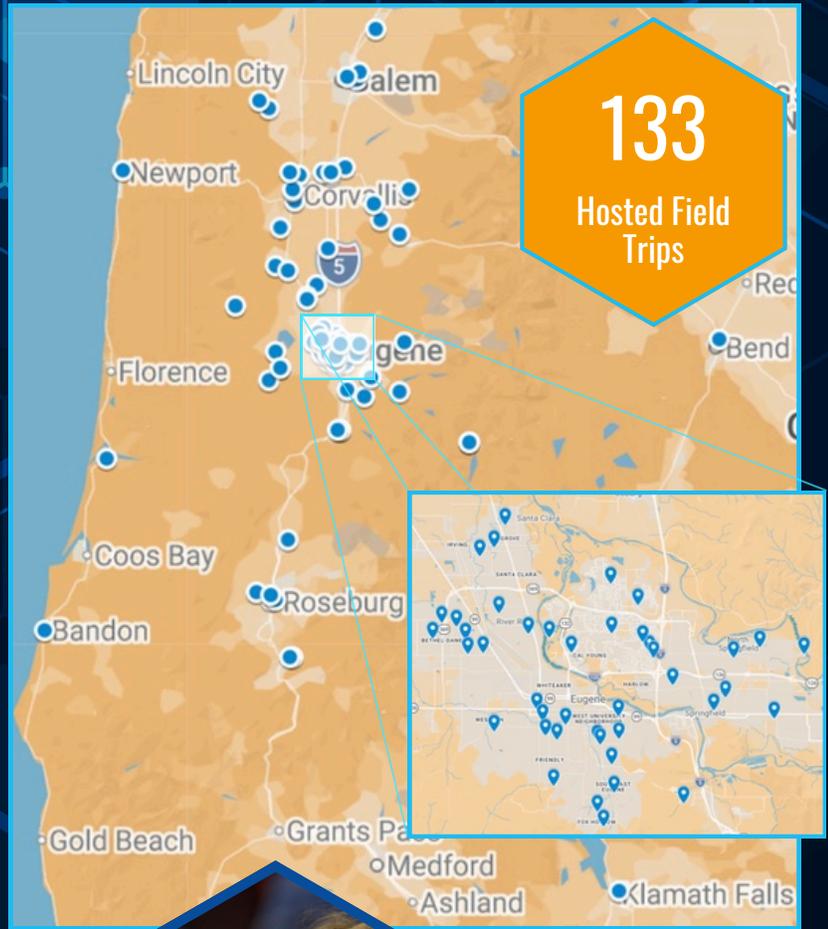
92,274

Hours of Depth
Programming

Our educators provided in-depth STEM programming to 789 students outside of school through camps and workshops.



2025 Field Trips



133

Hosted Field
Trips



We loved our field trip! Thank you for making this possible for us!
(Central Elementary 5th Grade Field Trip Students)

New On-Site Experiences & Upgrades



A cool little interactive museum. It's not huge, but the exhibits they have are fun and engaging. (Google Review)



LIGHT ISLAND

Guests interact with light by bending and reflecting light beams on one side, and adding, subtracting, and mixing colored lights on the other.

Sponsored by Oregon Eye Consultants LLC

BERNOULLI CHALLENGE

Guests interact with Bernoulli's principle by moving a ball trapped in an adjustable airflow through a maze of obstacles they can create and modify.



Interactive Infinity Mirror



Expanded Storage with Staff & Volunteer Support Space

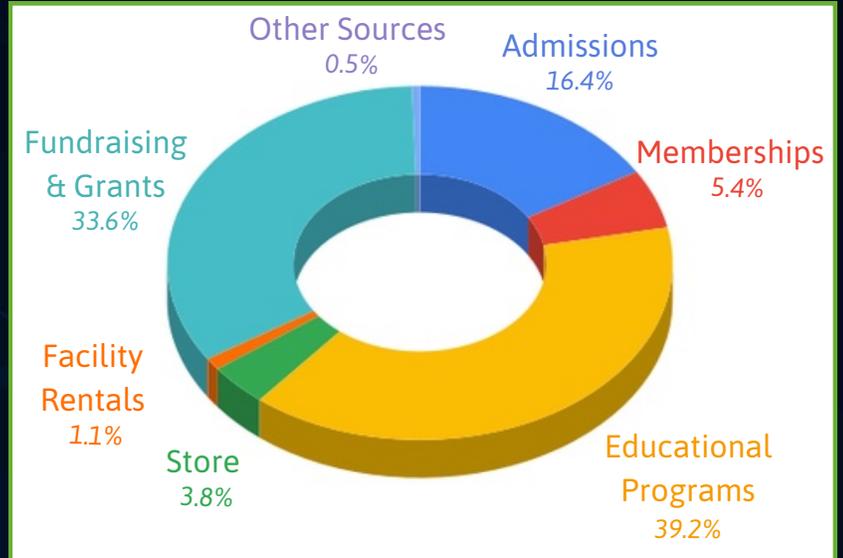


Such a wonderful hands on little Science Center packed with lots of cool things!!! And the Planetarium was awesome!!! And budget friendly also!!!! (Google Review)

Finances

OPERATIONAL INCOME

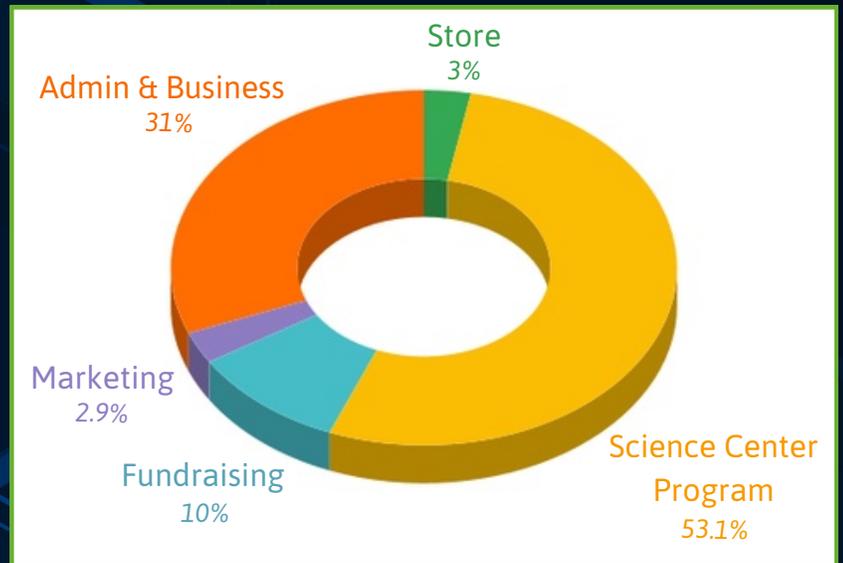
Admissions	\$144,203
Memberships	\$47,405
Educational Programs	\$344,675
Science Center Store	\$33,823
Facility Rentals	\$9,666
Fundraising & Grants*	\$296,011
Other Sources	\$4,445
Total Operational Income	\$880,229
<i>Additional Restricted Income</i>	<i>\$143,708</i>



*\$14,000 payment for 2025 services was received 5 months late in 2026

OPERATIONAL EXPENSES

Science Center Store	\$26,826
Science Center Program*	\$477,387
Fundraising	\$90,176
Marketing	\$25,969
Administration & Business	\$278,915
Total Operational Expenses	\$899,273
Adjusted for Capitalizations*	\$886,386
<i>Additional Restricted Expenses</i>	<i>\$285,791</i>



*Unexpected planetarium projector repair of \$10,434

ENDOWMENT

Total as of 12/31/25
\$413,355

GENERAL OPERATING SUPPORT

General Fund	\$43,909
Eugene Mineral Club Fund	\$26,627

DESIGNATED PROGRAM SUPPORT

Eugene School District 4J 3rd Grade Field Trips	\$342,819
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Supporters

Thank you to all of our supporters. Without you, none of what we do is possible. Thank you so much for your continued generosity, and for prioritizing science education and critical thinking development in our community.



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Annual Business Partners

Brodon Creative Media
Carly Peterschmidt Dentistry
Chambers Construction
Dari Mart Store, Inc
Eugene School District 4J
Hunter Communications

Insights Research Lab
Jerry's Home Improvement Center
Outfront Media
Partnered Solutions IT
Springfield Thunderegg Rock Club
Thompson Landscape Company

12

Grants

Albert B and Jean Hallstrom Family Fund
Autzen Foundation
Chambers Family Foundation
Children's Legacy Foundation
Jane Higdon Memorial Fund
JTMF Foundation
Lane Education Service District
M.J. Murdock Charitable Trust
Oregon Community Credit Union Foundation
UO Women in Graduate Science
Weyerhaeuser Giving Fund
Woodard Family Foundation

5

Sponsors

Bigfoot Beverages
Cascade Estate Coffee
Columbia Bank
McKenzie SewOn
Summit Bank

848

Memberships

150

Individual Donors

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All the classics! A great place to explore with any age. They have a good selection of interesting and educational exhibits, most are hands on and fun to figure out....just wish it was bigger and had all the funding for more and new all the time. (Google Review)

People

2025 Staff

Kevin Davis	Planetarium Manager
Mollie Dean	Guest Relations & Operations Dir.
Nathaniel Delgadillo	Planetarium Assistant
Frank Gornto	Planetarium Assistant
Claire Griffin	Outreach Coordinator
Dave Jordan	Exhibit & Facilities Manager
Lauren Kwasny	Guest Relations Assistant
Kristina Lahtinen	Administrative Director
Sara Lamog	Guest Relations & Operations Dir.
Alex Lombardi	Education Manager
Four McCarley	Outreach Coordinator
Kim Miller	Administrative Director
Fiona Mokler	Guest Relations Assistant
Aislyn Morrill	Guest Relations Assistant
Katie Poinsett	Guest Relations Assistant
Stefani Roybal	Community Engagement Director
Layne Santos	Guest Relations Assistant
Tim Scott	Executive Director
Georgia Smiles	Programs Coordinator
Jim Wheeler	Exhibit & Facilities Technician
Lux Yamamori	Guest Relations Assistant

2025 Temporary Staff

Elena Aguero	Int. Guest Relations & Operations Dir.
Karys Corsale	Camp Educator
Layla Gordon	Camp Educator
Olivia Huffman	Camp Educator
Jenna John	Camp Educator
Zoe Kramer	Camp Educator
Clara Morrison	Camp Educator
Ashton Roane	Camp Educator
Abbie Wells	Camp Educator

In Memoriam of Frank Gornto

Eugene Science Center lost a long-time team member in 2025 with the passing of Planetarium Assistant Frank Gornto. Frank began working with us when he was 17 years old. His work in the planetarium, then run by Lane ESD, began a few years later, and, aside from a brief stint at OMSI's planetarium, continued for more than 35 years. He helped us transition from our old mechanical projector to a digital system in 2010, quickly becoming our expert. Frank particularly enjoyed hosting evening laser shows and developing laser programming. Recently he had been working on creating a laser Bach show that we hope to complete and show in the future. A person's legacy isn't always manifested in a single exceptional act or achievement; more often, it can be found in the way in which a person conducts themselves every day, year after year. Frank's legacy is his commitment and dedication to the success of the planetarium and his unflinching work to provide the unique experience it offers to our community. We were lucky to have him on our team for so many years.

2025 Board of Directors

Andrew Moreland	<i>Chair</i>
Eric Wilken	<i>Vice Chair</i>
Samantha Reardon	<i>Secretary</i>
Aaron Defferding	<i>Treasurer</i>
Chandler Asnes	Rubi Harney
Chanda Diekotto	John Lundquist
Scott Fagan	Adam Zahner
Tyler Folkman	

1,420

Total volunteer hours
from our Board of
Directors and other
volunteers





2025 ANNUAL REPORT

2300 Leo Harris Parkway, Eugene, OR 97401 | eugencesciencecenter.org

Thanks for supporting science education!

To continue supporting us, please visit <https://eugencesciencecenter.org/support/>