



Rochester Museum & Science Center
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RMSC.org

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RMSC PRESCHOOL VOTED NUMBER ONE IN ROCHESTER!

After the 3,800 nominations and 46,000 votes that went into *The Daily Record* and *Rochester Business Journal's 2018 Reader Rankings*, RMSC Preschool was announced "Best Pre-School" winner!

More than 4,000 Rochester-area children have attended our preschool over more than 40 years, enjoying a child-centered, developmentally appropriate program facilitated by a warm and caring team. As a museum-based program, RMSC Preschool combines a deep understanding of early childhood education and the



importance of play with exploration of the museum's exhibits and collections. On any given day, you may find preschoolers dissecting a sunflower to learn about colors and seeds, and others peering into the museum's *Rochester in 1838: Young Lion of the West* diorama to identify shapes they spot in the architecture of its miniature streets.

Thank you to all who are part of our Preschool family and for sharing your enthusiasm for our program.

RMSC Preschool Team

RMSC Connections

Rochester Museum & Science Center Volume 12 - Winter 2018/2019

HAPPY NEW YEAR, FRIENDS!

I am excited to join the Rochester Museum & Science Center (RMSC) team in engaging explorers, innovators, and lifelong learners as President & CEO. Thank you for the warm welcome many of you have extended since I arrived in November; I look forward to meeting more of you as you create wonderful memories during visits to RMSC.

A little about me: when I was 11, my elementary school class took a field trip to the Strasenburgh Planetarium. That trip changed my life. I couldn't stop thinking about the size and scale of the solar system, galaxy, and universe. I went on to earn a degree in space sciences and have spent my career working at science museums and informal learning institutions across the United States. Most recently, I was Vice President of Audience and Community Engagement at the Milwaukee Public Museum, a natural and cultural history museum that includes the largest planetarium in Wisconsin. I've also held leadership positions at the Franklin Institute Science Museum, the Long Island Children's Museum, the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County, and the Griffith Observatory.

Connecting museum, planetarium, and nature center visitors of all ages to the wonders of exploration in science, natural history, and our shared cultural background is my passion, and I'm excited to be back home to make a difference in the place that first inspired me.

As we ring in another new year, we have amazing opportunities to build on RMSC's 106-year tradition of science learning. I am especially looking forward to the re-opening of the digitally updated Strasenburgh Planetarium on January 12. I'm excited to welcome break week Curiosity Campers and launch our *SoundSense* concert series in February (with program support from the Rochester Music Hall of Fame). And my family can't wait to snowshoe the Cumming Nature Center's 15 miles of idyllic trails and enjoy the annual NordicFest, also in February.

There's so much more happening—please visit RMSC.org to discover how you can reward your curiosity with RMSC's winter of fun, hands-on exploration.

Hillary Olson, President & CEO



THANK YOU TO OUR 2018 INNOVATION CELEBRATION GALA SUPPORTERS!

Our annual Innovation Celebration gala on Friday, Sept. 14 was a great success thanks to more than 400 sponsors, supporters, and attendees. This year's themed event—50 Years of the Strasenburgh Planetarium—drew a huge crowd of supporters who were among the last to experience the Strasenburgh Planetarium before it closed for exciting renovations.

Support of Innovation Celebration allows the RMSC to inspire the innovators, dreamers, and critical thinkers of tomorrow with a unique brand of learning and fun. As a result, more school-aged children will learn about science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) through hands on exhibits and programs. Without support from donors like you we would not be able to spark our region's curiosity.

The RMSC extends a special thank you to our committee chairs Kate Bennett and Wayne Hermanson, and honorary chairs Barbara and John Bruning.

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Clockwise from top right: Bidding gets underway; honorary chairs Barbara and John Bruning; the dinner starts with a bang; gala chairs Kate Bennett and Wayne Hermanson

CURIOSITY CAMPS BIG IN 2018 – JUST WAIT TILL NEXT YEAR!

Since Summer Curiosity Camp concluded in August, we've been missing our campers! Fortunately, the next season of break and summer camps is just around the corner. This year, more than 2,800 campers ages 2–15 followed their curiosity through 132 different adventures during nine camp weeks. Of our camps, Mini Med School, Superhero Science, EV3 Robotics, and Survivor at CNC were most popular.

To make Curiosity Camps as fun, knowledge-filled, and safe as possible, it takes quite a team: **70 staff members** and **75 volunteers** working over **8,320 hours**, to be exact. And we can't forget the **180 pots of coffee!** This dedicated team made this summer one of our best yet. One of our favorite parts of Curiosity Camps is seeing what new experiences we can offer our campers. Many come year after year, but there is always something new for them to enjoy!

Sometimes new adventures take us beyond RMSC. This year, campers visited seven off-site locations: Corning Museum of Glass' Glass Barge, VeRacity VRcade, Rochester Institute of Technology, University of Rochester's environmental labs, St. John Fisher College's biochemistry labs, and murals by Wall/Therapy,

Camper parents, thank *you* for encouraging your kids to explore with us! There's nothing we value more than seeing that spark of curiosity and discovery on a camper's face. We'd also like to thank those who support the Eva Howe Stevens Scholarship to make RMSC Curiosity Camps accessible to more curious minds. If you'd like to support RMSC Curiosity Camps and other experiences that spark curiosity, visit **RMSC.org/give** to learn more.

Clockwise: VEX Robotics offers a challenging Engineering curriculum for older campers; campers jump for joy in our 5 to 7 year old Superhero Science program.



EXPERIENCE A WINTER WONDERLAND AT CUMMING NATURE CENTER

Fall is far behind us and winter is here in force! Cumming Nature Center offers winter adventure for all ages. New and experienced skiers alike will have a blast exploring 15 miles of groomed trails on mostly easy to moderate terrain. Weekend Wild Walks take visitors off trail to reveal the hidden life of the winter woods. Evening star parties and moonlight skiing provide the chance to consider the cosmos and enjoy the magic of skiing by the light of the full moon on fresh snow. Even those who opt to stay cozy by our crackling fireplace will experience the magic of winter at the distance they prefer.

Did you know that Cumming Nature Center is home to one of the longest groomed trail systems in the Finger Lakes? Better yet, a generous donation of skis and boots has upgraded our fleet for public rental. Volunteers from the Genesee Valley Nordic Ski Patrol have been diligently waxing skis this fall. This dedicated group has been patrolling the trails of Cumming Nature Center, Harriet Hollister State Park, and Mendon Ponds for years. If you are a skier looking to give back to the community, consider volunteering with them to help keep skiers safe.

There is no need to hunker down and hibernate this winter. There is so much beauty to experience in the Finger Lakes region. Dig out that old set of cross-country skis or rent some for the day at Cumming Nature Center. We always have a fire going and all the complimentary popcorn you can eat. Admission is included in your RMSC Membership or \$3 per person or \$10 per family. Ski rental is \$15 per person for skis, boots, and poles. We even have skis for the littlest ski bums. Snowshoe rental is \$5 per pair. Winter is a time to be busy and to bustle, but it's also for slowing down. Enjoy a little of both this season at Cumming Nature Center!



SEVENTH ANNUAL HAUDENOSAUNEE DAYS CELEBRATION

The RMSC once again opened its doors to school groups and the public in early November for the seventh annual Haudenosaunee Days, a celebration of Haudenosaunee (Iroquois) art and culture—past and present, sponsored by a Humanities New York Vision/Action Grant. Haudenosaunee Days is also made possible by the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Andrew M. Cuomo and the New York State Legislature.

These unique celebrations provided public and school audiences with the opportunity to meet Native artists, musicians, and storytellers to learn about traditional and contemporary Haudenosaunee culture. Guests interacted with trained docent educators in exhibit halls featuring Haudenosaunee art, culture, and history; engaged with collections staff and volunteers to explore artifacts from the Works Progress Administration (WPA) Indian Arts Project; and learned from performers and artists about the traditions of woodworking, quill-working, basket-making, language, music, corn-husk doll making, storytelling, wampum, and silversmithing.

This year's public programming day culminated with a screening of *The Good Mind*, a film which explores complex issues of ancestral land rights and ongoing environmental stewardship, cultural continuity, and Haudenosaunee resilience in the face of adversity through the lens of life in today's Onondaga nation. A Q&A session followed between the audience, filmmaker Gwendolyn Cates, and Onondaga Clan Mother Freida Jacques.

Haudenosaunee Days grows each year and continues to focus on the goal of showcasing the vibrant and active Haudenosaunee culture. Be on the lookout for this wonderful celebration once again in November 2019!



(L-R) Storyteller Perry Ground engages City School students. Wood Carver Dan Hill demonstrates one of his hand-made flutes. Quillworker Michael Galban shares his craft with RMSC visitors.



Thank you to New York State Council on the Arts (NYSCA) for support of this program.

Thank you to Humanities New York for support of this program. Any views, findings, conclusions or recommendations expressed in this program do not necessarily represent those of the National Endowment for the Humanities.



SOUNDSense MAKES AN AUDIBLE IMPRESSION ON VISITORS

On Oct. 4, 2018, special guests including exhibit sponsors, partners, and RMSC donors took part in a VIP experience as the first to enjoy RMSC's internally created *SoundSense* exhibition. Then on Oct. 5, RMSC Members were invited to enjoy the exhibition at a private reception. Guests at both events played with sound waves, sat in the butt-kicker chair, danced under sound domes and across the giant keyboard, discovered how and why sound affects our everyday life, and discovered hundreds of rarely seen items from RMSC's collections. Based on their experiences, we are confident that *SoundSense* provides a great learning experience for the Rochester community.

SoundSense has something for everyone! Are you a fan of acoustic guitar? Feast your eyes on South American charangos made of armadillo shell and an early 20th century Martin. Prefer electric? We're featuring them: 3D-printed, thermochromic, and signed by Rochester Music Hall of Famers! Does your family live for hands-on experiences? Strum an electric guitar to see metal strings interact with a magnet up close.

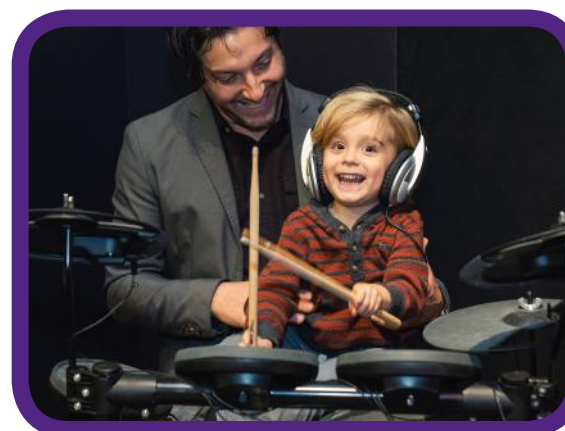
More than 20 new interactive experiences take you on a mind-bending journey to understand sound, sense and feel sound, make sound, and manipulate sound. These exhibits are all unique to *SoundSense* as RMSC's volunteer Technical Advisory Group worked with our in-house Exhibits team to design and prototype the physical exhibits and then build the final, one-of-a-kind pieces fine-tuned for our audiences. For example, Deaf members of our volunteer Inclusion Advisory Board gave us the idea of making speakers touchable so that guests could hear and feel the tone. This innovation can be found in our wave visualizer interactive.

The diversity of content contributors makes *SoundSense* a rich environment for everyone. Rachel Rosner of AutismUp suggested that we create a social story to let visitors with developmental disabilities and sensory sensitivities know what to expect in different exhibit areas (available at RMSC.org/soundsense). The Quiet Space provides a break from noise and the right environment for an autonomous sensory meridian response experience, which is characterized by a static-like or tingling sensation on the skin that typically begins on the scalp and moves down the back of the neck and upper spine.

Nearly 200 authentic, rarely seen objects from the RMSC Collection combine with these hands-on experiences to create hybrid spaces featuring musical traditions both local and global. Where else can you see Tibetan horns, Chuck Mangione's flugelhorn, and an 18th century serpent horn in the same space? A Haitian Vodou drum and a Civil War era military drum? A jukebox that plays the oldest type of sound recording (wax cylinders) alongside the first kind of electric instrument (theremin)? Only at the RMSC. Visit *SoundSense* and experience your brain on music. Now open, through April 2019.

We wish to thank our Supporting Sponsors: Dr. Dawn Lipson and M&T Bank; Media Sponsors: Fox Rochester, WHAM 13, The CW Rochester, and Warm 101.3; and our Segment Sponsor; Southside Hearing Center. Program support thanks to Rochester Music Hall of Fame and Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra. Special thanks to House of Guitars.

The RMSC gratefully acknowledges all of the generous contributions and volunteer time that aided in the creation of *SoundSense*. Special thanks to the Technical Advisory Group and the Inclusion Advisory Group for their dedication of time and talent in making this experience engaging for everyone.



Guests make music and play with sound at the SoundSense VIP event.

Your membership supports the transformation and growth of the RMSC and enables us to offer new hands-on, interactive experiences at the Science Museum, present amazing star shows and spectacular giant-screen films at Strassenburgh Planetarium, and provide hours of outdoor recreation at Cumming Nature Center. We thank you!

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**Deceased*

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Did you know that you can make a significant donation to the RMSC without spending a dollar today? By making a planned gift, your generosity will ensure that the RMSC is able to inspire, educate and entertain visitors for generations to come. A planned gift is as easy as listing the RMSC in your will, as your life insurance beneficiary, or making a contribution from your qualifying IRA.

For more information on how you can help us reward curiosity by making a planned gift, please contact the Institutional Advancement Department at 585.697.1962.

WELCOME TRAVIS HUGHES – FLOOR SUPERVISOR

Travis will be working closely with Sue Layton, Head of School and Teacher Programs; Olivia Shamon, Floor Supervisor; and Allison Shultes, Associate Director STEM Education, as they continue to develop the quality of the visitor experience through engagement with museum guests, the Floor Staff/Career Ladder team, and the Ask-It volunteers in the museum galleries. Travis joins us with experience as an educator working with a variety of audiences and learners, most recently as a Naturalist Educator at the Helmer Nature Center, part of the West Irondequoit School District. We are excited about Travis' skills as an educator,



his customer service experience, proven leadership abilities, and passion for teaching and learning.