THANK YOU TO OUR 2017 INNOVATION CELEBRATION GALA SUPPORTERS

Our annual Innovation Celebration Gala fundraiser on Saturday, September 23 was a great success thanks to our many sponsors and attendees. This year's themed event, Advanced Manufacturing, drew a huge crowd of supporters who were wined and dined as they learned about 3D printers, photosynthesis, Why Rochester Made Means Quality and met exotic animals from the Wildlife Rockstars. The support 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. A special thank you to our committee co-chairs, Rita and Jim Barger.

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Rita & Jim Barger

Monty the Tortoise from The Wildlife Rockstars goes for a walk around AdventureZone.

Guests at the gala enjoy the celebration.
Dear Friends,

We are approaching the time of year when many of you are thinking about your charitable giving. Whether you renew your membership, contribute to our annual appeal, volunteer your time or attend a fundraiser, we appreciate your support. Your Rochester Museum & Science Center (RMSC) is a place to wonder and wander, a place where your interests drive what you see and do. Climb a wall, build a robot, explore an underwater world, view earth from space—visitors of all ages explore our world through 200 hands-on, minds-on exhibits that spark interest in STEM.

Speaking of visitors of all ages, no matter what your age, we’re sure you will love The Science of Ripley’s Believe It or Not!® Go places you’ve never imagined and explore the real science behind the unbelievable at this exciting exhibition. It’s only open through January 2, 2018, so don’t miss it!

Kate
Kate Bennett, RMSC CEO

THE POWER OF THE GIFT

What’s in a gift? A way to say thanks, a gesture to show you care, a strategy to gain favor. Gift giving forges relationships between individuals, institutions and even nations. In 1927, a ground-breaking, international Friendship Doll Exchange created a bond between Japanese and American schoolchildren with impacts that reverberate 90 years later. Featuring Rochester’s Japanese Ambassador Doll— Miss Nagasaki—and other objects that inspire hope for the future, The Gift of Dolls explored the ways in which the exchange of ideas and things promotes more peaceful relationships across cultures.

The Gift of Dolls is a partnership between Cornell University, the Rochester Public Library, and the Rochester Museum & Science Center.
WHAT A STRANGE WORLD WE LIVE IN

The RMSC is now hosting *The Science of Ripley’s Believe It or Not!*® in the Riedman Gallery. We are excited to bring such a unique sampling of the world’s diversity to our friends and neighbors in Rochester!

The collections department is equally excited to assemble a supplemental display, entitled *Rochester’s Eccentric Past*, which features curious and interesting objects from the RMSC’s collection. These objects are our community’s own “Believe it or Not” history.

*Rochester’s Eccentric Past* features material from Peter Gruber, also known as Rattlesnake Pete, an early 20th-century snake-oil salesman, healer and curiosity shop proprietor who had a sizeable reputation in the Rochester region; several “hair-raising” objects from local entrepreneur Martha Matilda Harper; and examples of strange arts and crafts made from human hair! In addition, extreme animals from our zoology collection—including a platypus and the endangered pangolin—are on display in *Expedition Earth*. *The Science of Ripley’s Believe It or Not!*®—including *Rochester’s Eccentric Past*—is only open for a short time. It closes January 2, 2018, so visit soon, and be sure to tell your friends to visit too.
Manure is neither an effective insect repellent, nor a desirable scent to have wafting about at a wedding. As additional farm-related inconveniences began to pile up like, well, a manure heap, it began to dawn on Rachel and me that the quaint working farm we were establishing may not quite match up with the picture-perfect farm wedding we had envisioned when moving to upstate New York in 2016. What other regional wedding venues might we consider? Were there any that could simultaneously incorporate that now-familiar “FLX” natural beauty without posing too extreme a risk of causing dear Aunt Ellie to need a second hip-replacement?

One dreary afternoon, several months after I began working at the RMSC Cumming Nature Center, as we chased pigs and bottle-fed our Jersey calf, Juniper, we had an epiphany. Voila! In an instant we realized the Cumming Nature Center would be the ideal setting to do the insane task of catering our own wedding and hosting somewhere upwards of 200 of our closest friends and family. Not only do the red pines instill a universal sense of wonder in visitors of all ages, but the bathrooms were clean, the staff friendly and the picnic tables would provide the perfect garden party vibe we were seeking. Bam. Decision made.

A few months later, after a fairly sleepless night, I sipped cold coffee as a pink and yellow sunrise broke over South Hill, morning light cascading down the slopes like molten gold. I worked on my speech and slapped away mosquitoes as I fought the urge to yawn, and caught my last sunrise as an unmarried person.

Fast forward a few hours, through a morning rehearsal, a few rounds of tears, a couple of photo shoots and an endless list of tasks performed by friends and family. I stand with my sister, our officiant, as we wait behind a screen of young spruce and ash trees. The music begins as we emerge from the trees and walk to our places. The circle of red pines sways amicably in the gentle breeze of what must be summer’s loveliest day. The last chords of Leonard Cohen’s “Hallelujah” are carried away by the wind, and a hauntingly beautiful Italian song begins. A song whose words are intelligible to only a handful of the more than 200 attendees, but whose raw beauty and candor leave few eyes dry and nary a heartstring untugged. Rachel and her mother walk slowly and purposefully down an aisle carpeted in needles and lined with nearly century-old trees. Birds sing, the wind blows and the silent pines keep their vigil.

DID YOU KNOW? The iconic red pines at the Cumming Nature Center were planted to be used as telephone poles as part of post-depression work projects. No one ever got around to cutting them.
THOUSANDS GATHER AT RMSC FOR SOLAR ECLIPSE 2017

On Monday, August 21, the moon came between the Sun and Earth in a monumental solar eclipse that ignited curiosity in communities across the country.

Solar eclipses aren’t rare. In fact, there are at least two solar eclipses every year, and there can be as many as five. However, many are over the oceans or polar regions where few people are watching. This eclipse was special because it crossed the United States from coast to coast.

As eclipse day approached, the interest throughout the Rochester community increased exponentially, so much so that we couldn’t keep eclipse glasses in stock. After distributing all the glasses that RMSC had on hand, we were fortunate to receive a donation of approximately 6,000 glasses from Cisco and Mirror Show Management. When we announced one evening that we had glasses available for a $2 donation per pair, we had no idea the response that would result: The following morning, we had hundreds of people standing in line an hour before we opened just to get their hands on eclipse glasses. After only 2½ hours, we ran out of glasses again.

Fortunately, Cisco and Mirror Show Management saved the day again. They tracked down one last box from their warehouse, so we had 1,500 glasses to distribute when Eclipse Day 2017 arrived. The glasses were in high demand. People began lining up at the RMSC’s doors starting at 6:30am for our 9am opening. All the glasses were gone by 11am when Ward’s Science offered their supply of eclipse glasses and generously donated the proceeds to the RMSC. In total, we received $14,000 in contributions for the eclipse glasses. Thank you to Cisco, Mirror Show Management, Ward’s Science and our community for your support.

Glasses or no glasses, every one of the thousands who joined us on our campus was able to view the eclipse. Some used eclipse glasses of their own or glasses that someone else shared with them. Others used alternative methods such as the pinhole method that our team taught. Still others viewed the wonderful phenomenon through telescopes fitted with a special solar filter, assisted by a group of dedicated volunteers. This year, the sun was only 70% eclipsed in Rochester and based on our community’s response the next one will be another major community-wide event. In seven short years, it will be Rochester’s turn to be in the path of totality when we will see the moon completely obstruct the sun.

The curiosity in science and the community spirit present in everyone who joined us to watch the eclipse was our favorite part of the experience. We hope that the Rochester community will continue to reward their curiosity and explore the world around them through the hands-on experiences at RMSC.

Now, let’s begin planning for Solar Eclipse 2024!
Your membership supports the transformation and growth of the RMSC, and enables us to offer new hands-on, interactive experiences, present amazing star shows and spectacular giant-screen films at Strasenburgh Planetarium, and provide hours of outdoor recreation at Cumming Nature Center. We thank you!

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*Deceased
AT&T INVESTS IN PILOT STEM PROGRAM

The RMSC, Finger Lakes STEM-Hub, the Rochester City School District (RCSD) and the Seneca Waterways Council of the Boy Scouts of America (BSA) have created an innovative pilot STEM project, made possible by the generosity of the AT&T Foundation.

Students enrolled in the RCSD’s City Living Course Summer 2017, Careers & Technology explored our city through stories of the engineers, architects and industries that have defined Rochester's technological legacy and history of innovation.

Between July and August, RMSC Floor Supervisor Amy McConville, taught four different challenges that aligned with construction, manufacturing, transportation, and energy and power utilizing the RMSC’s Inventor Center curriculum. The Inventor Center is a fascinating “maker space” where visitors participate in engineering and design challenges as they tinker with raw materials to create working inventions that can be tested and shared.

Both Rochester Mayor Lovely Warren and New York State Assembly Majority Leader Joe Morelle spoke at the related media event at RMSC on August 8. In addition, Kevin Hanna from the AT&T Foundation, Marcus Ragland of the BSA, Dan Menelly of the RMSC, Rhonda Neal of the RCSD and Joe Marinelli of the Finger Lakes STEM Hub addressed the students in attendance and spoke in support of the project. Media coverage included local ABC, CBS, NBC, FOX, PBS and Spectrum affiliates, as well as the Rochester Business Journal. Several students and partners were interviewed, and students were observed working on the exhibits with the local officials.

Overall, the students enrolled in the course showed greater interest in scientific inquiry, and many even applied to be members of our Career Ladder Floor Staff team. Career Ladder is a program that employs high school students who are part of our daily operations team. They create an environment for excellent visitor experience that includes a welcoming atmosphere, knowledgeable engagement and functioning exhibits, as well as safety and security.

DID YOU KNOW? The RMSC Tennis Ball Cannon in the museum lobby is handled by the majority of visitors; it was even voted a favorite exhibit by recent bloggers. Most people get the tennis ball flying, but not to maximum height. Can you figure out what’s going on?
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UPCOMING RMSC EVENTS:

RMSC's Women’s Council Holiday Bazaar
Friday–Sunday, November 17–19
Featuring more than 200 fine artists and craftspeople who create ceramics, jewelry, glass, woodwork, photography, painting, prints, sculpture, fiber arts and floral crafts.

Strasenburgh Planetarium
New! Cassini at Saturn—Open Now
Celebrate the 13-year mission of the American-European Cassini space probe, from its arrival in the Saturn system in 2004 to its daring final orbit inside the rings in 2017. Explore Saturn’s strange structures and the discovery of ice geysers on Saturn’s moon Enceladus.

Find Holiday Fun at the RMSC!
Holiday Laser Show—Opens in November
A Rochester tradition continues, with an eclectic mix of holiday music accompanied by colorful, dancing laser lights and unique visual effects.

RMSC Uncorked & On Tap
Saturday, February 10, 2018 | 6–10pm
Save the date to pair fermentation, food and fun as we host RMSC Uncorked & On Tap, an annual event bringing dozens of local food, craft beer, wine and spirit vendors to the Museum for an evening of sampling, entertainment and unique insights into the science of wine, beer and spirits. Stay tuned for information on tickets. For sponsorship opportunities, please contact Katie Mackey at 585.697.1973 or kmackey@rmsc.org