STRASENBURGH PLANETARIUM REOPENS WITH A BIG BANG

On Thursday, January 11 the RMSC re-opened the Strasenburgh Planetarium after three months of renovations. Major donors and friends of the RMSC and Strasenburgh Planetarium celebrated as we unveiled state-of-the-art upgrades to our Star Theatre, including a donation from Navitar of two HemiStar HM4K-178 HL 4K fisheye projection lenses. Our guests were in awe as they experienced the breathtaking new fulldome Digistar 6 projection system. The evening started with signature cocktails and hors d’oeuvres in our new bar area before guests entered the updated Star Theater for the first viewing of our featured presentation Outer Space to Inner Space. After the show, “Carl,” the legendary star projector, provided a tour of the original Planetarium sky.

On Friday, January 12 the doors opened for a Member Only preview where RMSC members were able to see Outer Space to Inner Space and experience the new removable chairs. They also got a chance to meet our Apollo 11 astronaut re-enactor, who was available to take photos with guests.

The Strasenburgh Planetarium has been inspiring, exciting, and astonishing visitors since it opened in 1968, and the renovated four-story dome is your window to the universe. Here, you can travel to the farthest reaches of outer space, peer inside at the tiniest atoms that make up our own bodies, and experience the starry night sky closer than ever before. We hope you can visit soon to experience the magnificence of our universe like you’ve never seen it before!

WOMEN’S COUNCIL DONATES $98,000 TO ROCHESTER MUSEUM & SCIENCE CENTER IN 2018

The Women’s Council, a volunteer service organization that supports the RMSC, presented $98,000 to RMSC Past President Kate Bennett and President and CEO Hillary Olson during the group’s annual luncheon on December 11, 2018. The gift was the culmination of a year of fundraising events that included a new event; Dine and Discover (February 16), the geranium sale (May 11-12), the Fantastic Findings Sale (September 17–23) and the 48th annual Holiday Bazaar Arts & Crafts Sale (November 16–18).

This year, the RMSC Women’s Council transformed by opening its membership to both men and women. As such, the newly named RMSC Council will be bigger and better than ever as it supports the RMSC mission and offers members opportunities for social interaction and educational growth.

Clockwise from top left: Current Strasenburgh Planetarium Director Steve Fentress takes a picture with Navitar, Inc.’s President Julian Goldstein and Amy Block, Marketing & Communications Director, at the donor opening; Past Director Don Hall poses with the Strasenburgh Planetarium 1 millionth customer (1974) Sonia Socha at the donor opening; our new Apollo 11 mascot hi-fives kids at the member opening.

Left to right: Deb Gulla, Christine DeTurck, Kate Bennett, Hillary Olson, Mary Stid, Connie Szostek, Joan Gaylord and Susan Allen
HAPPY NEW YEAR, FRIENDS!

Dear Friends,

It’s hard to believe it’s already March and we’re moving full-speed-ahead toward spring. The first part of the year was a whirlwind with the re-opening of the Strasenburgh Planetarium, the SoundSense exhibit greeting over 37,600 guests, 100 campers discovering new science adventures during February break, and NordicFest—our annual celebration of winter—at the Cumming Nature Center.

That’s just the beginning. The next few weeks will bring Messtival, Spring break campers, an Almost Overnight, Science on the Edge lectures, live science shows, and so much more in the Science Museum; new shows and special events—including our ever-popular laser shows—at the Planetarium; and maple sugaring, guided hikes and Wild Walks, star parties, and countless ways to enjoy the outdoors as a family at the Nature Center. We’re also in the final months of our SoundSense exhibit— including the third-Thursday concert series featuring local musicians at 6:30 p.m. In fact, we’re now open until 8 p.m. every Thursday—what a great way to end the day!

I am proud to lead the passionate team behind these experiences and to work alongside them to find new ways to engage explorers, innovators, and lifelong learners. Of course, none of this would be possible without your support: please visit RMSC.org to discover all the ways you help us reward curiosity all day, every day through fun, SoundSense and so much more.

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Gratefully,
Hillary Olson, President & CEO

BUILDING BRIDGES

Jamie Jacobs, Tonawanda Seneca, Turtle Clan, is one of the visionaries behind Bridging the Gap: Seneca Art Across Generations. Nearly 10 years ago, he and former RMSC collections manager, Adele DeRosa, discovered raw materials left over from the RMSC’s WPA Indian Arts Project (IAP) during the Great Depression. Their findings inspired the idea to offer some of these beads, feathers, and ribbons to contemporary artists at Tonawanda Reservation—many of them descendants of the IAP artists—in exchange for a small finished piece of artwork for the RMSC Collection. The concept finally came to life around 2016, and in December 2018, RMSC opened Bridging the Gap. The exhibit features the work of these contemporary artists side-by-side with the 1930s art of their ancestors and mid-19th-century examples of Haudenosaunee art from the RMSC Lewis Henry Morgan Collection. Bridging the Gap is part of the community wide Lewis Henry Morgan at 200 project.

 Jacobs calls the exhibit, “an opportunity not only to highlight the creativity and masterwork of contemporary beadwork artists, but also to display the Museum’s ability to provide a dynamic relationship between the past and the present. Reconnecting the artists with their ancestors through artwork is not only a display of material culture but an exhibit of Family.”

New York State Museum Curator of Ethnography, Gwendolyn Saul, visited RMSC in January to see the exhibit. She reflected, “What I appreciate most about Bridging the Gap is the comprehensive overview of Haudenosaunee and Seneca art that includes exquisite beadwork, woodwork, and leatherwork, all spanning a period of approximately 168 years. This exhibit is not to be missed because it offers visitors the opportunity to better understand the ongoing relationships between communities, historic material culture, and contemporary artwork, and the possibility for museums to be conduits for those relationships as well.”

Lewis Henry Morgan was a pioneering American anthropologist and social theorist who worked as a railroad lawyer. He is best known for his work on kinship and social structure, his theories of social evolution, and his ethnography of the Haudenosaunee (Iroquois). Lewis Henry Morgan at 200 is a University of Rochester Humanities Project that offers a critical appreciation of Morgan’s various legacies. Components of the project include partnerships with community organizations, a speaker and film series, a research colloquium, public exhibits, and an innovative website offering digital resources for students, scholars and the general public. Community partners include Tonawanda Reservation Historical Society, Ganondagan State Historic Site, City of Rochester/Office of the City Historian, and RMSC.

TAKE IT DOWN ON THE ROAD

After a very successful eight months at RMSC, the Take It Down! Organizing Against Racism exhibit and related programming went on tour around Rochester in December 2018. On January 17, the Take It Down! Organizing Against Racism program numerous attendees, including six teachers from the Rochester City School District (RCSD). Teachers can now gain professional development credit for attending the program, and the Take It Down Planning Committee and RMSC staff have been working with RCSD Executive Director of Social Studies and Community Service Learning, Stephen LaMorte, to make the program available as a fieldtrip opportunity for eighth graders.

The program began with a welcome from Minister Clifford Florence to the historic F.I.G.H.T. Village, and the group then watched a video that discussed racist caricatures in historical context. Next, Take It Down Planning Committee member Howard Eagle described the nine-month struggle to get the racist carousel panel taken down and the one-year process to transform it into an anti-racist teaching tool in partnership with the City of Rochester and RMSC. After the presentation, attendees engaged in a positive and enlightening anti-racist dialogue. Take It Down! Organizing Against Racism will be on exhibit at Central Church of Christ from February 1-April 2, 2019, before returning to RMSC. See RMSC.org/carousel for details.

Bridging the Gap features the artwork of: contemporary Tonawanda artists Barbara “Cookie” Jonathan, Marilyn Jonathan, Joyce Ruben Nanticoke, Ashley Sumardah, Allison Smith, Melissa Smith, Annette Sundown Tahamont, and Annette Sundown Tahamont; WPA Indian Arts Project artists James Jonathan, Melissa Skye, Ernest Smith, Kidd Smith, Robert Tahamont, and Ellen Webster; and Caroline G. Parker, one of Lewis Henry Morgan’s primary collaborators on Haudenosaunee material culture.
RMSC INSTITUTIONAL ADVANCEMENT’S RYAN ELIZABETH SHEAR HONORED WITH ROCHESTER BUSINESS JOURNAL 2018 FORTY UNDER 40 AWARD

Each year, the Forty Under 40 awards recognize 40 men and women under the age of 40 who have achieved professional success and made significant civic contributions to our community. Honorees are selected by a committee of business leaders based on nominations made by community members. Ryan’s extensive background working for and with non-profits made her a great choice for this award. In her role at RMSC, Ryan has been able to fundraise in various capacities to support the Museum’s mission of stimulating broad community interest in and understanding of science and technology, and their impact – past, present and future – on our lives. Her community volunteer work ensures that individuals with disabilities have access to active, inclusive recreation, and that incarcerated parents have opportunities to continue bonding with their children. Congratulations to Ryan for this prestigious recognition of her work!

INTERNSHIPS

Hi, my name is Dan Carter and I am a freshman at St. John Fisher College studying History and Criminology. As an active service scholar, I have the opportunity to intern at RMSC’s library, where I am responsible for processing, arranging, and describing the William C. Manning Papers. The papers were donated to the Museum by Mr. and Mrs. W. D. Manning on June 8, 1950, and document Manning’s military career from the Civil War to the turn of the century.

Through this experience, I have had the chance to preserve many amazing documents, such as military orders, newspaper stories, and Confederate currency. I have assessed two scrapbooks, transcribed diaries, and noted important materials that Manning collected. One item that I found particularly fascinating was glued together with scrapbook pages and called Articles of War, Army of the Confederate States. This book outlines how Manning thought the Confederate Army should be properly run and includes diary entries of his military experiences. I’m looking forward to continuing work on this project and making it accessible so that others can learn from this period of American history.

My name is Kelly Menna and I am a junior Organizational Communication major at Keuka College. I was very lucky to spend my latest internship at the RMSC. The month of January was a whirlwind of activity during which I was able to observe quick thinking in the face of problems, how events do not just happen on their own, and how one astronaut can make a big difference for kids.

I enjoyed my time at the RMSC, seeing and doing so many different things, and meeting many great people. I have always loved the RMSC, and my time here has made me love it even more.

ALMOST OVERNIGHTS

The RMSC’s family-focused Almost Overnights have kicked into high gear with back-to-back sellout events. Kids chilled out and created winter storms at RMSC Snowed In! in December, made a mess at Slime-a-Palooza in January, and had the opportunity to explore the Museum as it came alive after hours. Be sure to check RMSC.org for information regarding our next explosive event on Friday, March 29: Grab Your Goggles.

Almost Overnights bring all of the fun and excitement of regularly offered school and scout group overnights, but end right before bedtime (and before the museum comes to life) so families can enjoy the comfort of sleeping in their own beds. Kids of all ages and their families are welcome to join us for our newest family-friendly adventure and spend almost the whole night exploring your curiosity with us.

Pajamas are welcome!

WELCOME TO THE RMSC TEAM!

Angela Cannon-Crothers – Environmental Education Coordinator

Angela Cannon-Crothers has been working at Cumming Nature Center as a Forest School instructor for four years while also teaching at Finger Lakes Community College. She has an M.S. in Environmental Education and Interpretation. Please join Angela for some skiing (she can give you a lesson if you don’t know how). If you prefer warmer weather, join her on a fungi foray this summer. She can’t wait to meet everyone!

Lisa E. Ireland – Vice President for Institutional Advancement

Lisa most recently served as Director of Agency Advancement at the Mary Cariola Children's Center and brings a wealth of experience in fundraising and relationship building to RMSC. Lisa has held a deep love for the museum since first visiting in her childhood, and is excited to advance the mission of the RMSC through strategic planning, leadership, and the formation and execution of a comprehensive fundraising strategy. In addition to her professional experiences with non-profits, Lisa has served on several educational boards. Lisa sees her role as VP for Institutional Advancement as a continuation of her work advocating for youth and education in the Greater Rochester area.

Carolyn Stiles - Digital Engagement and Communication Specialist

Carolyn’s background includes digital marketing and brand campaign management, social media, and communications. She most recently worked at Causewave Community Partners where she developed the communication strategy for the Rochester-Monroe Anti-Poverty Initiative. Carolyn joins the RMSC Marketing Communications team to develop and implement a robust and forward-thinking digital presence for the organization, as well as an internal communications strategy and plan.
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 special events at Strasburgh Planetarium, and provide hours of outdoor recreation at Cumming Nature Center. We thank you!