FLINT children's museum

Celebrating 38 Years of Exploring, Playing, and Learning!

2015-2017 Annual Report
A Letter From Our Director and Board Chair

Dear Family and Friends of the Flint Children’s Museum,
As we all know, our children thrive through play - playful experiences foster their happy, healthy, and successful development. At the Flint Children’s Museum, we are honored to be a part of childhood for so many, celebrating 38 years of hands-on play and three generations of visitors in our community. It is truly our team’s mission and pleasure to encourage children to explore, play and learn through their own imagination and creativity - creating happy, loving, and meaningful memories that last a lifetime, and we are excited to continue this mission for generations to come. Below, a young visitor candidly and sincerely expresses the impact, value, and mission of our work, as well as his gratitude toward those who make it possible. We couldn’t agree more. Please, see for yourself...

Dear childrens museum
i had a wonderful time here i was very nervous for a few seconds but when i started actually playing with stuff i warmed up to this place your material helped me feel better and comfortable and safe in this area it was like playing with a fidget spinner but better i actually felt comfortable in a very social area.
thank you you made my world a very bright star.
LOVE - Hawke
Jan 30, 2017

To those who make these memorable and meaningful early childhood experiences possible for children in our community, we thank you! Please continue to support learning through PLAY by visiting the Flint Children’s Museum any and every day!
Sincerely,

Kimberly Roddy, Executive Director

Dolores Sharpe, Board President
INSIDE THE MUSEUM

In 2016 and 2017, a record-breaking number of children and their caregivers visited the Flint Children’s Museum. More than 88,115 people came to the FCM to experience eight new exhibits, explore science and art, and learn about the world around them through hands-on play. Children became explorers in the forest and engineers building skyscrapers in Discovery Zone, our special changing exhibit space. Our financial supporters helped us bring brand new experiences to our visitors with the musical Whale Drums and Chimasurs, and a giant Outdoor Art Wall. The new custom-built Activity Pyramid added four new ways to play in the How Things Work exhibit area, and a generous grant from the Community Foundation of Greater Flint allowed us to bring Imagination Playground’s Big Blue Blocks to our visitors. Children also continued to love visiting their favorite permanent exhibits: shopping in the Smart Mart Grocery Store, serving pizza in Fractions Pizzeria, performing on Center Stage, delivering mail from the Post Office, becoming firefighters with the Fire Truck, and scaling mountains on our Climbing Wall.

This is a Genesee County gem!! So many fun and educational things for children to do. Our personal favorite is the house, store, and pizza place. We have been taking our children here for 10 years!
- Deanna Temple Turner, November 2017
SPROUTSIDE

Our outdoor exhibit area is celebrating 5 years of being a Certified Nature Explore Outdoor Classroom! In 2016 and 2017, 27,434 children and caregivers explored, played and learned in Sproutside, where children connect with nature, exercise in the fresh air, and learn about plants, food and nutrition. As one of only five Certified Outdoor Classrooms in Michigan, Sproutside is an essential part of the unique educational experience that the FCM has to offer. Sproutside was also recognized by Edible Flint in both 2016 and 2017, and our visitors tasted cherry tomatoes, squash, and kale straight from the Children's Garden -- some for the very first time! Special programming also remained exciting in Sproutside, as children worked on spelling and reading in scavenger hunts, developed their physical strength around the Fitness Circuit and in the Crim Kids Running Club, and won prizes in our annual Spring Egg Hunt.

In Their Words...

We visit annually with our Summer Camp Program! The children always have so much fun learning and exploring! The staff are pleasant, professional and accommodating! The Flint Children's Museum is definitely a gem in our wonderful city!
- Stacey Morgan, July 2017
PROGRAMMING
Our Play Educators make every visit to the Museum exciting with weekly programs that engage, entertain, and educate. In addition to all the fun of our regular exhibits, children, parents, teachers, and caregivers experience monthly themes focusing on states of matter, plants and animals, expressive art projects and more. Whether kids are making slime, experimenting with dry ice, or making all kinds of take-home activities, our unique programming is always an important part of their Museum visit.

In Their Words...

Ahhhhhh!
My kids (4 and 7) LOVE this place.
Fun for hours! I love it, too!
- Jackie Herron, January 2018
SPECIAL EVENTS
Families can always look for something new at the Children’s Museum! The Flint Fire Department’s Smoke House, Mott Campus Clowns, For-Mar’s Mobile Farm, Crim Kids Running Club, and the Food Bank’s Mobile Pantry are just a few of the organizations that we’ve brought to the FCM during 2016-2017.

MUSEUMS FOR ALL
The Flint Children’s Museum is committed to providing access for all children and families of our community, regardless of financial circumstances. That’s why, in 2016, we became only the second institution in the state to join the Institute of Museum and Library Services’ “Museums for All” initiative, which provides discounted admission for families with a Michigan Bridge card. Since becoming a participating institution, more than 4,100 children and their caretakers were able to visit the FCM at 50% off our regular admission cost. Our Free Access Days are also an important way that we, in partnership with our sponsors, continue to provide access free of charge to the Flint Children’s Museum for all of our community’s children and families. With more sponsors stepping up to partner with us, we’ve had more Free Access Days in 2017 than ever before -- nearly one every month! Sponsors like Al Bourdeau Insurance, Hastings Mutual Charitable Foundation, Kohl’s Cares and Hurley Children’s Hospital, and others have helped the FCM expand our reach and better fulfill our mission.

Wonderful place to play for my children. Very diverse and exceptional staff, I only wish it was free day everyday.
- Shayne Hodges, August 15, 2016
FARMERS’ MARKET

The Farmer’s Playhouse, our satellite exhibit space at the Flint Farmers’ Market, is celebrating its 4th year! In the last two years alone, this exhibit has served 38,753 children and caregivers, providing hands-on fun and introducing kids to the world of farming. At the Farmer’s Playhouse, children climb up into the Big Silo for a birds-eye view of the market, scale the Beanstalk Climbing Wall, and pretend to farm the fields on the Big Red Tractor.

Thanks to our ongoing partnership with the Flint Farmers’ Market, this space continues to be open free of charge to all Market visitors, and remains an important part of our commitment to access for all families.

In Their Words...

A very safe place for my child with special needs to play, explore, & be herself. While she has her definite favorites, every activity was exciting & engaging. Great job! Very clean, plenty of parking, great staff, & the price was right!
- Jacqueline Paquette, November 2016

OUTREACH

Over the last two years, the Flint Children’s Museum has been dedicated to taking hands-on, educational play experiences outside our walls and into the community. During that time, we’ve participated in over 50 different public events in parks, schools, churches, and beyond. With support from the Community Foundation of Greater Flint, we are more able to bring our pop-up museum to more places than ever before, using our new custom-branded trailer to bring the new Big Blue Blocks exhibit to places like STEAM Camp, Bikes on the Bricks, Ballenger Park Party, and GM/Kettering University-hosted STEM events.

In Their Words...

Great place to take the little imaginations! Friendly, clean, educational, and affordable fun. What a little gem in Flint!
- Kimberly Kruse, 2016
PARTNERS AND VOLUNTEERS

In 2016-2017, 297 volunteers contributed 2,612 hours of service to the Flint Children’s Museum. From our longest-serving volunteer Maceo Reed, to our storyteller Michel Taylor, to everyday helpers like Jasmine Scott and Brian Metcalfe, the FCM couldn’t do what we do without our many dedicated volunteers.

Our Resident Artist Carol Severn, along with her assistant Casey Carter, spent many hours transforming spaces in the Museum with their artwork. Their skilled contributions can be seen in our new educational Water Mural, as well as in many reinventions of our Discovery Zone exhibit space, from deep in the forest to a kids’ construction site. Organizations like Mr. Gaines’ Garden Program, Kettering University, Cooking With Kids, the Great Start Collaborative, and so many others also provide the Children’s Museum with invaluable services that beautify our spaces, deliver exciting programs, and help us reach as many children and families in our community as possible.

In Their Words...

All four kids had a blast. There is so much to do that covers a wide range of ages (mine are 8,6,3,1). They didn’t want to leave and can’t wait to go back.
- Elise Klosowski, December 12, 2017
FUNDING and OUR FUTURE
Support for the Flint Children’s Museum is growing, and we are honored to have the following individuals as investors in our community’s children.

$100,000+
Anonymous
Doris Sutton
Mary T. Newman Endowment Fund

$50,000+
Ruth Mott Foundation

$10,000+
Al Bourdeau Insurance Agency
Al & Barbara Koegel
Charles Stewart Mott Foundation
Detroit Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church
Foundation for Flint
Idealease/ Henry Fracalossi
Michigan Council for Arts & Cultural Affairs
Ted & Andi Lau

$5,000-$9,999
Ford Motor Company
GDM, Inc.
Hastings Mutual Insurance Company Charitable Foundation
Howard & Nedra Downing
Hurley Children’s Hospital/Kohl’s Cares
United Way of Genesee County/BEST Project

$2,500-$4,999
Diplomat Specialty Pharmacy
Flexible Automation, Inc.
Genesee Health System
Kettering University
Rachor Investment Advisory Services, LLC
Ridgway & Shannon White

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Greater Flint Imaging
Belill Eye Care, PLC
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Dallas & Nola Gatlin
Dort Federal Credit Union
Drs. Bobby & Nita Mukkamala
Dr. Morley Biesman, DDS
Goyette Mechanical
Hardenbrook Family Trust
Hurley Foundation
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Idealease/Kurt Fracalossi
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June Roddy
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Linda & Lennex Broughs
Lynn Wandrey
Mary Newman
Michel Taylor
Mott Children’s Health Center
Salon Jewel – SaRyn, Inc.
Stephen Burton
The Downing Clinic, P.C.
Tony & Cindi Mainprize

In Their Words...
“This has really been a safe space for Solomon. Please, say thank you to the donors, and ask them to stay supportive here. We need you guys.”
9/20/2016
THANK YOU TO ALL OF OUR DONORS

Up to $100
Amy Rainey
Barry A. Wolf, Attorney at Law
Bradley Wernette
Cathy Foland
Cathy Laube
Clark & Paula Harris
Daniel & Carol Cruz
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Dionne Minner
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Julia Anderson
Julie Taylor
Karen & Carl Bekofske
Karen Bengston
Maples Auto Collision of Flint
Marc & Kimberly Baines
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Flint Firebirds Hockey
Flint Golf Club
Flint Institute of Arts
Flint Institute of Music
Flint River Watershed Coalition
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Gemma Amendola
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IHOP
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Josue Montesinos
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LaVida Massage of Grand Blanc
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Pamela Althermer
Pottery Land
Pure Bliss Salon and Spa
Quality Dining, Inc. (Chili’s)
Randy Scott
Ray Kerns of Flint Co.
Regency Beauty Institute
Rollhaven Skate & Fun Center
Sagano Japanese Bistro & Steakhouse
Sam’s Club
Scott Smith, DDS
Serendipity Wellness Spa
Shelton Automotive, Inc.
Sherry Hunda
Skateland Arena
Sloan*Longway
Spa Rodzina
Steve Reynolds Studio 110
Stonehouse Hair & Nails
Style Maker Hair & Nails
Sweet D’s Bakeshop, Tea Room & Café
Target
The Dance Studio
The Holly House Inn Bed & Breakfast
The Laundry/Crust
University of Michigan – Flint Office of University Relations
University of Michigan – Flint Recreation Center
YMCA of Greater Flint

$100-$249
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Amy Pugate
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Applewood Cafe
Brian Wheeler & Cynthia Hines
Brian & Lea Anne Ivory
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YWCA of Greater Flint

2015-2017 ANNUAL REPORT
FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT

**2016**

**Revenue**  
Total: $510,249

- Other: $1,374  
- Endowment: $51,232  
- In-Kind: $75,355  
- Fundraising Event: $54,843  
- Earned Revenue: $191,455  
  (Admissions, Memberships, Rentals, Gift Shop)  
- Contributions / Sponsorships / Grants: $203,810

**Expenses**  
Total: $514,474

- Hands-On Museum: $346,311  
- Management: $128,880  
- Fundraising: $39,283

**2017**

**Revenue**  
Total: $595,719

- Other: $26,070  
- Endowment: $51,362  
- In-Kind: $11,286  
- Fundraising Event: $63,612  
- Earned Revenue: $197,263  
  (Admissions, Memberships, Rentals, Gift Shop)  
- Contributions / Sponsorships / Grants: $246,324

**Expenses**  
Total: $506,748

- Hands-On Museum: $337,420  
- Management: $128,603  
- Fundraising: $40,725

2015-2017 ANNUAL REPORT
Our Board of Directors
Dolores Sharpe, President
Debra Jennings, Vice President
Pamela Diment-Flores, Secretary
Ken Leslie, Treasurer
Directors: Tabitha Marsh, Jack Stock, Jason Grindle, Mary Tosto
Steven Randall, Gregory Timmons, Dr. Dallas Gatlin, Chelsea Down

Our Staff
Kimberly Roddy, MPA, Executive Director
Andrea Miller, Museum Educator
Stephen Wisniewski, PhD, Visual & Exhibits Director
Diana Osman, Bookkeeper
Jacky Metcalfe, Visitor Services Manager
Katherine Watson, Administrative Assistant
Eardell Johnson, Lead Play Educator

Play Educators: Jessi Eldredge, Karla Froehlich, Khyra Robinson, Mallory Stock
Marisa Juarez, Melissa Wheat, Pam Gaines, Rolecia Looney, Tamara Wilson, Madeleine Logeais, April Harman