

# FLINT children's museum



Celebrating 38 Years of

Exploring,  
Playing,  
and Learning!



2015-2017 Annual Report

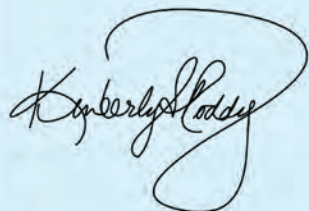
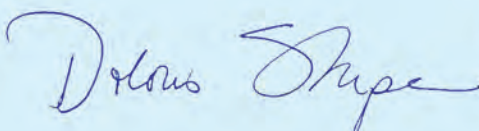


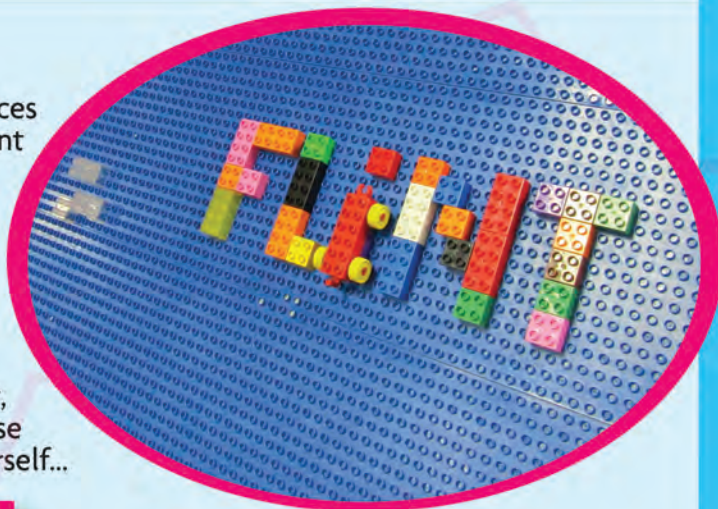
## A Letter From Our Director and Board Chair

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 musium  
i hade a wonderful time here i was very nervios  
for a few seconds but when i started acualy  
playing with stuff i warmed up to this ploace  
your material helped me feel better and  
comftrtable and safe in this area it was like  
playing with a figet spinner but better i actualy  
felt comfrotable 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,



Dolores Sharpe, Board President



Kimberly Roddy, Executive Director



## 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 Chimasaur, 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.

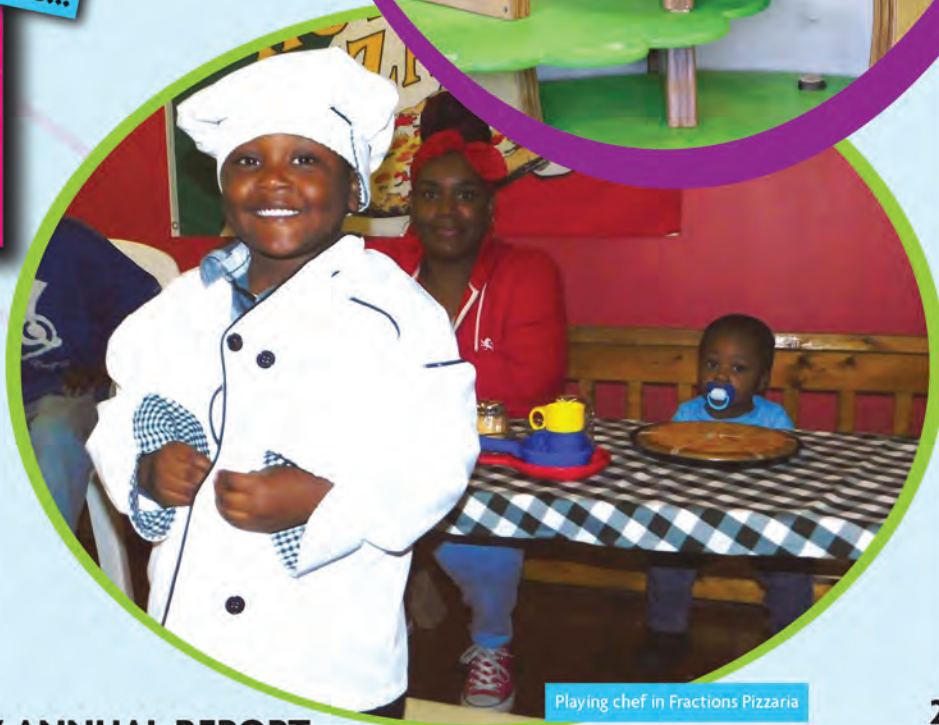
### In Their Words...

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

Enjoying the Climbing Tree in "Into the Woods"



Putting on a show in our Puppet Theater



Playing chef in Fractions Pizzeria



## 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 Sproutsides, 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, Sproutsides is an essential part of the unique educational experience that the FCM has to offer. Sproutsides 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 Sproutsides, 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.



Creating a masterpiece on our outdoor Art Wall



Collecting eggs during our annual Egg Hunt

Making and eating watermelon shapes



### 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.

Making slime



## In Their Words...

Ahhhhhh!  
My kids (4 and 7) LOVE this place.  
Fun for hours! I love it, too!  
- Jackie Herron, January 2018

Magnetic painting



Noah building a swing

Lead Play Educator Eardell Johnson presenting dry ice experiments





## In Their Words...

We love coming to play!  
We bought a year membership and try  
to make it once a week.  
My little guy loves to pretend play!  
- Krystina Roberts, February 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.

## In Their Words...

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

Building a skyscraper with blocks



Play Educator Manager Jacky Metcalfe plays with the Mott Campus Clowns



Playing a tune on our new Chinasaur





Driving the Big Red Tractor at the Farmer's Playhouse



## 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.

Playing under the Big Silo



## 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



Our new branded trailer can bring the Museum anywhere!



## 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.



Cooking With Kids in our Sproutsie garden



Maceo Reed is awarded with a pin for more than 20 years of volunteer service



Kettering student volunteers Andy and Henry help construct the Activity Pyramid



Casey Carter paints bear tracks for Into The Woods



Cooking With Kids shows off their healthy harvest

### 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**

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Genesee Health System  
Kettering University  
Rachor Investment Advisory Services, LLC  
Ridgway & Shannon White

### **\$1,000-\$2,499**

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Dallas & Nola Gatlin  
Dort Federal Credit Union  
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Dr. Morley Biesman, DDS  
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Hardenbrook Family Trust  
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Idealease/Kurt Fracalossi  
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Auto Workers of America  
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Leo & Debra Jennings  
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The Williams Firm, P.C.  
United Healthcare Community Plan

### **\$500-\$999**

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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**





FCM members and financial supporters Andi and Noah Lau play the new Chimasaur

## THANK YOU TO ALL OF OUR DONORS

### Up to \$100

Amy Rainey  
Barry A. Wolf, Attorney at Law  
Bradley Wernette  
Cathy Foland  
Cathy Laube  
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Beacon & Bridge  
Beautifully Candid Photography  
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Blackstone's Pub & Grill  
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The Dance Studio  
The Holly House Inn Bed & Breakfast  
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University Relations  
University of Michigan – Flint Recreation Center  
YMCA of Greater Flint

### \$100-\$249

Al Serra Auto Plaza  
Alicia Willard  
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Making a magnetic track at our Activity Pyramid

## FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT



Taking a ride in our Fire truck

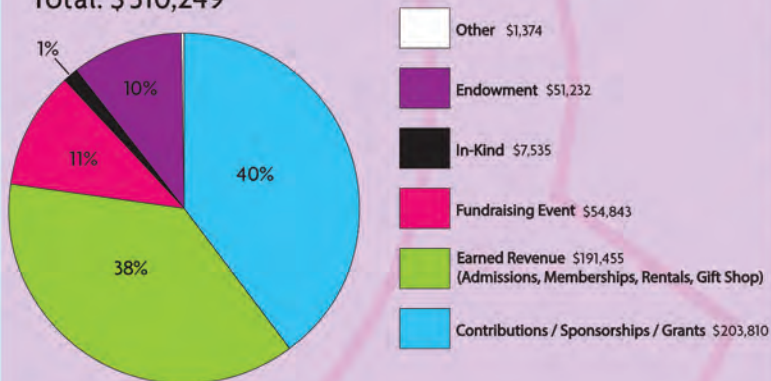


Experimenting with dry ice bubbles

### 2016

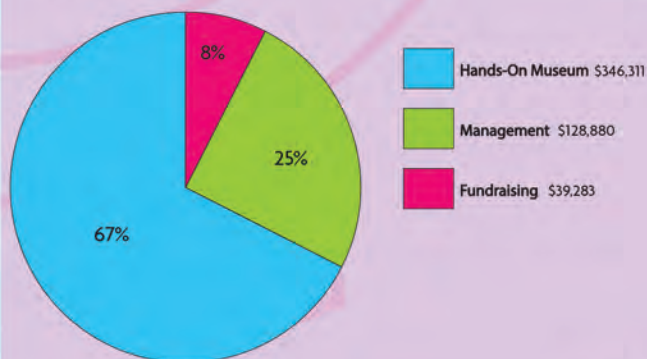
#### Revenue

Total: \$ 510,249



#### Expenses

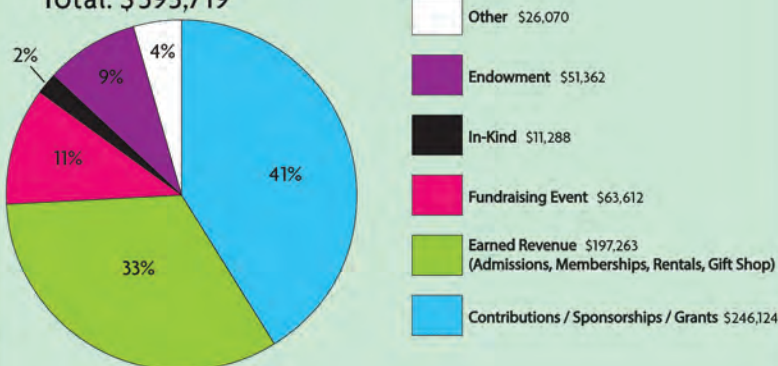
Total: \$ 514,474



### 2017

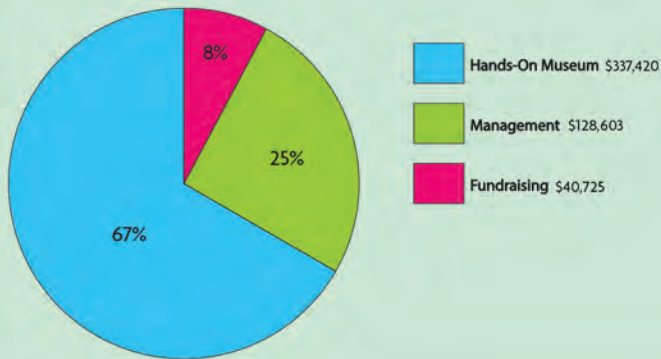
#### Revenue

Total: \$ 595,719



#### Expenses

Total: \$ 506,748





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Ken Leslie, **Treasurer**

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Kimberly Roddy, MPA, **Executive Director**

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Stephen Wisniewski, PhD, **Visual & Exhibits Director**

Diana Osman, **Bookkeeper**

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Katherine Watson, **Administrative Assistant**

Eardell Johnson, **Lead Play Educator**

**Play Educators:** Jessi Eldredge, Karla Froehlich, Khyra Robinson, Mallory Stock

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