Montana Science Center | Strategic Direction 2020 - 2023

“Where Science and Play Connect”

We focus on meaningful participation in informal STEAM education for all community members, therefore, lowering barriers to access to high-tech learning opportunities and creating engaging experiences for families.

Our Vision

A society in which curiosity, critical thinking and innovation are embraced as tools for understanding and thriving in a changing world.

Our Mission

To provide interactive learning experiences in science and technology that inspire creativity, innovation, and lead to real-world application.

Our Values: To Build an Inclusive Environment Where People Feel Safe to Learn, Play, Engage and Be Inspired.

These are guiding principles and define how MSC works with the full breadth of our community.

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Innovation: Solving problems with new solutions; embracing failure as part of success

kKnowledge: Exploring the principles of science & technology

Safe: Discovery that is free of physical and emotional hazards.

Play: Having fun while learning

Inclusive: Respecting diverse people, perspectives, and capabilities

cReativity: Bringing materials together in unique and surprising ways

Experience: Understanding the world and expanding knowledge through application

What We Do

MSC is dedicated to being an institution of connecting play and science to facilitate discovery and real world application.

❖ Fact-based science exhibits and experiences.
❖ Access to interactive exploration with real world scenarios regardless of socio-economic status.
❖ NGSS standards-aligned curricula for Montana classrooms.
❖ Full family engagement opportunities in play focused on STEAM topics.

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The Three Pillars of Our Strategic Direction

Montana Science Center’s overall goal is to establish ourselves as a leader in science exploration and education in Montana.

1 Science Communication & Education

We are the trusted source for interactive learning in STEAM through innovative and varied offerings of interactive and fun programming and exhibits that promote discovery and skills development across all ages.

2 Community Outreach

We initiate and participate in STEAM-related community events and identify and provide science and technology related educational opportunities across our region. We also build community partnerships and strengthen our story-telling skills to increase participation in all MSC activities.

3 Sustainable Development

We are sustainable through volunteer involvement and the creation of an environment based on community input and support, an abundance-focused culture, and relationship-based financial partnerships.

Our Partnerships

Partnerships within our community are one of our most important strategic assets. We value meaningful relationships with organizations that dedicate their time and resources to like-minded missions of improving youth skill development, communicating STEAM topics, and encouraging effective, critical thinking to solve real world problems.

Elements of our Strategic Plan

- **TEAM WORK:** Clear, concise roles between board, staff, and volunteers.
- **COMMUNITY OUTREACH:** Partnerships, events, mobile programs, promotions.
- **SCIENCE COMMUNICATION:** Discovery through programs and exhibits.
- **DEVELOPMENT:** Sustainability through memberships & donors.
- **CAPITAL CAMPAIGN:** Readiness to execute a capital campaign to build a new facility in 5-7 years.

Board of Directors

As leaders of our organization, MSC board members are engaged and hardworking visionaries who know and understand the importance of understanding the world around us through science and technology. They come to our board meetings ready to participate, provide oversight and provide guidance for a sustainable MSC future. Not only does our board provide direction, oversight and encouragement, we have 100% board financial support and are lucky to have such a group of inspired leaders to guide MSC into the future.

Our Future - What Does the Future Hold?

Our vision for Montana Science Center, by 2023, is that we will have:

- Developed a reputation as a "must see" destination for tourists.
- Diversified our programming to serve all ages in our community.
- Created a welcoming, friendly, and visitor-oriented culture within our museum.
- Increased science accessibility through virtual and digital offerings and other "in-the-community" type events.
- Be ready to build a permanent home and launch a capital campaign for MSC.

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