Since our opening in 1962, Pacific Science Center has welcomed millions of visitors and participants in a wide range of educational programs. We have grown to play an essential role in the community — inspiring youth, training educators, and building public awareness about the vital role science plays in identifying and solving the crucial problems facing our global society. As Seattle takes the stage as a global leader for innovation, we are proud to continue fueling a passion for discovery, experimentation, and critical thinking.

A leader in science education and lifelong learning, we want to ensure Pacific Science Center continues to bring relevant and interesting programming to the community. Today we are working to increase access, expand partnerships, and enhance our guest experience in order to better serve our growing and diverse region. But we cannot do it alone. Your support is essential to expanding our impact as we take bold new steps together in 2017 and beyond.

IGNITE THEIR CURIOSITY

Our Mission

Pacific Science Center ignites curiosity in every child and fuels a passion for discovery, experimentation, and critical thinking in all of us.
Born from great visionaries and architectural masters, Pacific Science Center began as the United States Science Pavilion during the 1962 Seattle World’s Fair. Nearly ten million people came to explore the wonders of science during the World’s Fair and upon closing ceremonies, the Science Pavilion was given new life as the private not-for-profit Pacific Science Center, becoming the first U.S. museum founded as a science and technology center.

Since the beginning, Pacific Science Center has been a revolutionary institution at heart. Its aspirations—and embrace—were as expansive as the buildings it claimed. As Seattle grew into an innovative, global city the Science Center became one of the nation’s great science centers, producing countless moments of inspiration and wonder for millions.

Today the Science Center is driven, inventive, and intellectually electric.

Although we remain deeply connected to our roots at the heart of downtown, our reach and impact now extend across the state of Washington and beyond. Our exhibits, educational programs, and philanthropic partners uniquely position Pacific Science Center to connect everyone in our community to hands-on science experiences.

1962
United States Science Pavilion during the 1962 Seattle World’s Fair.
The Pacific Science Center was founded as the first U.S. science and technology museum.

1973
Science on Wheels program launches, taking hands-on science experiences to schools across the Pacific Northwest.

1998
Boeing IMAX® Theater and Ackerley Family Exhibit Gallery open including the Tropical Butterfly House.

2003
Mercer Slough Environmental Education Center opens in partnership with the City of Bellevue.

2005
Discovery Corps youth development program launches, providing job and life skills to youth 14 and older.

2007
Portal to the Public Network launches to connect the public with local scientists.

2010
Pacific Science Center declared a City of Seattle Landmark.

2012
Received the National Medal for Museum and Library Science.
Pacific Science Center celebrated making science fun for 50 years.

2016
Family and Youth Access Memberships launched, making PSC more accessible than ever before.
INCREASING ACCESS TO SCIENCE

Access has always been at the heart of our mission beginning with the launch of our Science on Wheels program 44 years ago. This first initiative to take hands-on science education to schools that could not come to us is now a flagship program in a menu of offerings that seek to ensure access for people from all backgrounds. Thanks to support like yours, over the past year we have made strategic investments to expand our Access to Science pipeline.

ENABLING ACCESS FOR ALL
Studies show that getting children engaged in interactive STEM learning from an early age leads to a deeper understanding of science concepts. We believe that all children, regardless of background or circumstance, should have access to interactive science learning. In 2016 we launched the Access Membership program which serves families receiving public assistance, youth experiencing homelessness, and youth in foster care. More than 12,000 individuals receiving public assistance and 800 foster families are now able to access all the Science Center has to offer at little or no cost to them.

SUPPORTING EDUCATORS AND EDUCATION
Science On Wheels brings active STEM learning to classrooms, community centers, and special events through hands-on, inquiry-based activities and lessons. The program has a long history of reaching students in schools where resources and/or location prevent equitable access to science education. Many of the visits are to communities with high minority and low-income populations traditionally underrepresented in science fields. In the year ahead we are expanding our commitment to serving the highest need schools, those with a Title I designation, with low or no cost programming.

DISCOVERY CORPS
An innovative youth development program, Discovery Corps works with teens to inspire a lifelong interest in science, technology, engineering, math, and education. The program empowers youth to progress up a career ladder while fostering growth in a supportive environment. Since the program’s inception in 2005, more 400 youth have participated of whom 100% have graduated from high school. There are currently 68 active members; 63% are girls, 44% are participating in free or reduced lunch programs, and 78% are people of color.

CREATING A COMMUNITY LABORATORY
We are committed to expanding access to ideas in science and technology. Over the last year we have harnessed our role as a community living room and laboratory to serve as a gathering place for people of all ages to discuss, debate, and collaborate. New initiatives include bi-monthly Curiosity Days where local professionals in the science and technology communities come to the Science Center for themed weekends to provide hands-on activities and presentations. Also new is our Science in the City lecture series which provides discussion on current science topics and research from leading, local organizations. By diving into topics that affect our community, the Science Center is serving as community resource in an exciting new way. (cut last sentence if needed for space)

Pacific Science Center is proud to serve many individuals and communities whose access to science is limited. But we know there is much more work to do. With your continued investment, we will increase service to our community in the year ahead with a specific focus on traditionally underrepresented populations.
YOUR PARTNERSHIP

As a nonprofit organization Pacific Science Center relies on generous contributions from the community to fuel our mission. Your support sustains our many interactive exhibits and educational programs each year. The Science Center is fortunate to have strong revenue generating avenues with our exhibit admissions, IMAX and Laser shows, and fees for Science On Wheels and Summer Camps. Yet admission and program fees do not cover the entire cost of fulfilling our mission. With philanthropy and membership representing 35% of our annual budget, we simply could not succeed without your generosity.

Pacific Science Center donors make hands-on science experiences accessible for nearly one million people each year.

With your generosity and partnership, we will continue inspiring the next generation of science enthusiasts. To learn more about the ways your support can make an impact at Pacific Science Center please contact our Development team.

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