



MOST*

MILTON J. RUBENSTEIN MUSEUM OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

2024 ANNUAL APPEAL & REPORT

Letter from the President



“I am so thankful for the opportunity to lead an extraordinary institution like the MOST, where our amazing team inspires a life-long love of science and learning in the kids of Central New York every day.”

Lauren Kochian, President

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Dear Supporter,

The Milton J. Rubenstein Museum of Science & Technology is incredibly proud to be CNY’s premier community science center—a role that we see as key. Incredible investments in technology and manufacturing are coming to our area, bringing changes that will shape the world around us.

As you can see from our financials, 2023 was an incredible year thanks to a generous one-time donation from our friends at Micron that allowed us to develop an outstanding new exhibit and fund the startup of a few key programs. While this was critical to the museum’s growth and commitment to sustainability, investments from community partners and individuals like you will always be the foundation of our success, and we rely on your support more than ever to maintain our growth.

The MOST has always been dedicated to offering inclusive, accessible, and engaging science education to our most important asset—our children. We know it is critical to introduce STEM concepts and spark a love of learning from a young age. The MOST is an integral part of an ecosystem that is preparing students for the CNY workforce of the future.

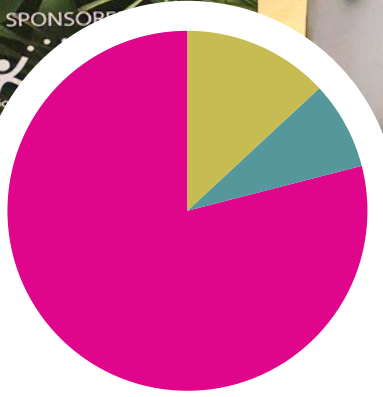
We are committed to ensuring that kids who grow up and learn here have a foundation that allows them to pursue STEM education and jobs that give them the opportunity to stay, work, and build a great future here.

This annual report highlights many of our incredible achievements from 2024 and looks beyond to the exciting additions coming to our institution. Thank you for your continued support as we look forward to a bright future for the MOST.

Sincerely,

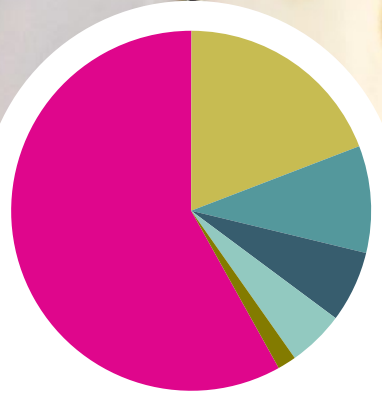
Lauren Kochian, President

FY 2023 Audited Financials



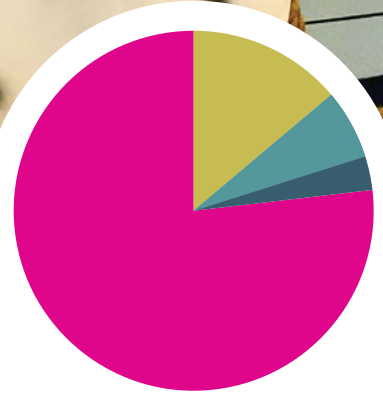
Operating Expenses

■ Program Services	\$3,026,232
■ Fundraising & Marketing	\$501,056
■ Management & General	\$302,631
Total	\$3,829,919



Operating Support & Revenue

■ Gifts & Grants*	\$2,253,711
■ Admissions	\$742,348
■ Miscellaneous**	\$372,680
■ Educational Programs	\$248,226
■ Memberships	\$196,542
■ Museum Store	\$64,917
Total	\$3,878,424



Total Assets & Liabilities

■ Total Fixed Assets	\$6,818,996
■ Right of Use Asset	\$1,229,277
■ Total Current Assets	\$555,056
■ Total Other Assets	\$269,786
Total Assets	\$8,873,115
Total Liabilities	(\$4,881,447)
2023 Total Net Assets	\$3,991,668

*Includes one-time \$500,000 investment from Micron

**Includes Employee Retention Tax Credit of \$211,888

Events



SOLAR ECLIPSE FESTIVAL

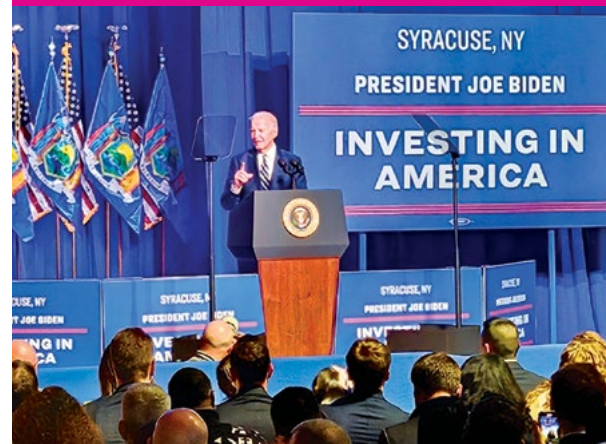
Downtown Syracuse was in the path of totality for the total solar eclipse on Monday, April 8, that enveloped the area in complete darkness for about a minute. The MOST's Solar Eclipse Festival brought thousands of people from across the region together to experience this awe-inspiring astronomical event. Our science-focused festival encouraged wonder, celebrated community, and educated people of all ages about astronomy and space science. Many vendors and educational partners joined us, including Dr. Lindsay Hays, program scientist at NASA. Leading up to the event, we installed a solar eclipse display, screened a daily eclipse-themed planetarium show, offered monthly programming focused on the eclipse, and distributed more than 15,000 pairs of eclipse glasses and 500 community education kits.

"Seeing so many people come out to witness an astronomical event, to hear them cheering and clapping when they saw the eclipse with their own eyes was so rewarding for our whole team. We work every day to make science and technology accessible, and having thousands of people who were so excited to be a part of this event was an amazing experience!"

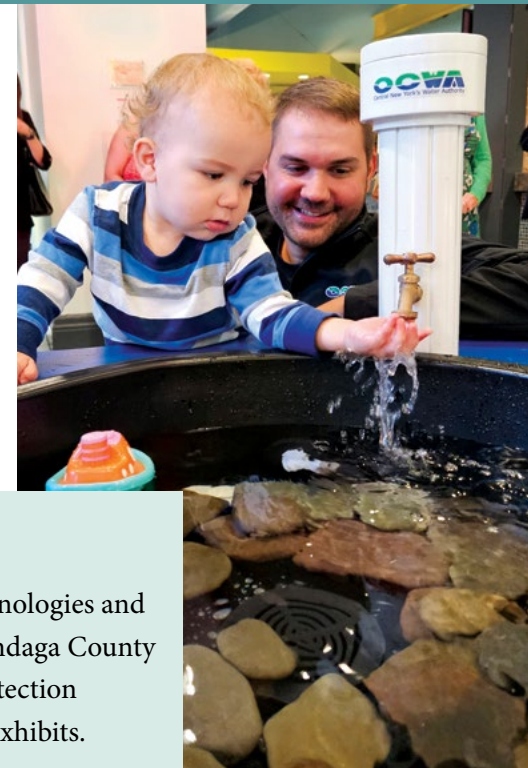
- Emily Stewart, PhD, Sr. Director of Education & Curation

President Biden Visits

On April 25, 2024, we had the once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to host President Joe Biden, Micron president Sanjay Mehrotra, and other honored guests, who gathered to announce significant new funding for microchip manufacturing through the CHIPS and Science Act.



Exhibits



NUCOR® INNOVATION STATION

Our Nucor Innovation Station hosts a permanent exhibit of locally manufactured technologies and rotating displays highlighting local companies and organizations. In the last year Onondaga County Water Authority (OCWA), Onondaga County Department of Water Environment Protection (OCDWEP), and Haun Welding Supply engaged visitors with unique and interactive exhibits.

Novelis Recycling Station

This exhibit highlights the technology used by the largest aluminum recycler in the world—Novelis—whose Oswego plant produces more than a billion pounds of recyclable aluminum sheet each year. Illustrating the process and benefits of recycling, visitors start by dropping an aluminum can into the exhibit to see the steps required to turn it back into usable aluminum.

“Dynamic elements such as the Novelis Recycling Exhibit and Science Learning Partnership are a few examples of how the MOST collaborates to ignite curiosity and encourage discovery.”

- Leila Giancone, MOST Board Member



Exhibits



Tessy Machines & Makers, sponsored by Marquardt continued to evolve and grow with additions from several local manufacturing partners. Visitors can create their own custom printed keytag with a new laser engraver from Marquardt, CADimensions' additive manufacturing display visually depicts the journey from a simple sketch to a fully realized 3D-printed model of a car, and Morse Manufacturing lets guests engage with a simple machine that shows how large, heavy drums are emptied.



“The Machines & Makers exhibit allows children and their families to explore the concepts of simple machines in fun and engaging ways. It simultaneously fosters interaction with the long-standing legacy of manufacturing in our community.”

- Manufacturing Association of CNY (MACNY)

Programs



STEM Challenges

Every year, the MOST organizes four design, build, & compete outreach programs—steamboats (*replaced with catapults in 2024*), bridges, robotics, and rockets—and a science & engineering fair for students across the region. These free programs engaged more than 1,100 students throughout the 2023–2024 school year. The winners of the CNY Science & Engineering Fair, Manya Kukkar and Migual Mathis, went on to compete in the Regeneron International Science & Engineering Fair in Los Angeles with all expenses paid by the MOST!

“Our STEM Challenges are incredibly popular because they engage kids of all backgrounds by combining hands-on science skills with fun competitions.”

- Mike Leone, PhD, MOST Board Member



IMPACT Programs

Inclusive, Mission- & vision-driven, Public understanding of STEM, Accessible, Community-minded, and Trustworthy

Our IMPACT programs touch the lives of historically underrepresented groups in science and technology fields through free hands-on programming and collaboration with community partners.

Micron STEAM Explorers Inclusion Programs

MACNY Future Women in STEM—Middle school girls work with local female STEM professionals in a fun, hands-on activity to spark interest in high-tech careers.

KeyBank Future Innovators in STEM—Monthly challenge-based workshop for Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) students featuring building activities, career exploration, engineering challenges, and more.

Sensory Friendly Science presented by Amanda Russell-Brown—Our monthly Sensory Friendly Time is for guests who prefer a less stimulating environment. Sounds, lighting, and other components are adjusted to accommodate learners with sensory-processing difficulties.

STEM Inclusion Showcase presented by Toyota

As part of our commitment to inclusion, our rotating inclusion showcase highlights achievements from diverse groups who have been underrepresented in STEM fields. Each showcase celebrates achievements by Black, female, Asian American & Native Hawaiian-Pacific Islander, LGBTQ, Hispanic, and Indigenous scientists.

National Grid Science Learning Partnership

The Science Learning Partnership brings every kindergarten, 4th-, 5th-, and 6th-grade student in the Syracuse City School District to the MOST on a free field trip every year. Visits include customized workshops and labs tailored to school curriculum, a National Grid Explora-Dome show, exhibit exploration, and a snack/lunch.



OPENING MARCH 2025

GROW

AGRICULTURE & FOOD SYSTEMS
IN CENTRAL NEW YORK

Meeting our community's food needs in the present—without harming the ability of future generations to meet theirs—relies on both scientific innovation and sustainable practices. From farmers and food distributors to scientists and shoppers, everyone has an important role to play in ensuring the sustainability of our region's natural resources and the health of our communities.



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