

# Memo: Fun Starts Here!

Greetings,

There are so many great things that happened at the Miriam P. Brenner Children's Museum this past year that we just don't even know where to begin! The best place to start might just be with -GRATITUDE!

We are beyond grateful for the Museum staff's hard work. We are grateful that our valued guests continue to walk through our doors and enjoy engaged, playful moments with friends and family. We are grateful for our dedicated board of directors who steer the Museum's impact on the Triad region. We are grateful for our supporters and donors who have given us the opportunity to serve our community in bigger, better, and newer ways. Finally, we are grateful to former MPBC Museum director, Marian King, who retired in June. Mrs. King's hard work over more than a decade has placed the Museum in a position of incredible strength, and we are excited to carry on her legacy.

The pages in this report are small windows into a robust organization that had one of the most incredible years in its history. Not all this past year was easy. There was a need for long hours, hard conversations, boundless energy, and deep generosity from our stakeholders.

As challenging as the past few years may have been we always believe that no matter what's going on, it's hard not to have a great day at the Miriam P. Brenner Children's Museum. We hope you come join us soon and share a great day with us!

All of the thanks,



Joe Rieke President & CEO



Robert Johnson MBCM Board Chair

### **MBCM** Board of Directors

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If you haven't visited

If you haven't visited

MBCM in a while, get your

prolonged smiling face

prolonged smiling

# Tomorrow is Here



Over the last two years, MBCM has been Building for Tomorrow, with a capital campaign that made (and continues to make) the facility pop! Renovated spaces, 21st century

infrastructure, a revolution in hands-on exhibits, and a new name to boot! This campaign raised a whopping **\$2,168,404**, to advance our mission of making MBCM a home for safe, inclusive play for the Triad community. To ensure powered up play, MBCM closed for part of October 2022 and the month of January 2023.



# Tomorrow is Here, and it Has a New Name

Downtown Greensboro's place for play was gifted a new name! Say goodbye to the Greensboro Children's Museum, say hello to the Miriam P. Brenner Children's Museum!





Our name honors the late Miriam P. Brenner, the mother of Frank Brenner, who with his wife Nancy, graciously gifted \$1.25 million (the largest) single donation

the Museum accepted in its tenure! With the change, came fresh branding. Isn't the new logo nifty? (Thank you, Stir Creative Group for your talents in making this evolution!)

# Tomorrow is Here, with Incredible Infrastructure



There's nothing better than a refreshed space! After closing for the month of January, the Museum started delivering to guests lively, renovated party rooms and bathrooms as well as updated flooring and roofing! While there were plenty of visible changes in the Museum, there were many more that can't be seen! MBCM moved into its facility in 1999, and with decades of fun, comes the need for updated infrastructure. This year, the Museum saw new heating and air conditioning units, a PA system, and an improved security system, all to make the Museum experience that much more comfortable, safe, and FUN!

# Tomorrow is Here, with New, Hands-On Experiences

We powered up play in downtown Greensboro, with a few modernized exhibits this year, and more to come in the next!



The Museum said farewell to House Under Construction, and now has the Construction Zone thanks to the tireless work of Fourth Elm Construction! Families don neon construction hats and vests to build their wildest creations in the now fully enclosed exhibit.



Nonie's House also traveled in time from the 1800s to the 1950s, with renovated kitchen furnishings, flooring, wallpaper, furniture, and chicken coop! And wait, there's more! Thanks to generous donations from the Cemala Foundation and the Louis DeJoy & Aldona Wos Family Foundation, we will soon have a revamped Theatre and Post Office exhibit!

# The MBCM Member Family



# **Member Spotlight**

This is MBCM member, Kamaya! This tot's favorite exhibits include the Growing Place, Water Wonders, and our clucky friends, the chickens!

Kamaya especially enjoys it when the tiny oneeye monster in the Growing Place peeps its face through the rocks. She calls out, "peek-a-boo" when they come out of hiding! 1,335 new member families

27 member scholarships given out

# **Appreciating Our Members**

We love the support of our members! In addition to many discounts for events, classes, and camps, our members participated in three events just for them: End of Summer Celebration, Magical Members Halloween, and Celebrate Spring!

"MBCM is one of our family's favorite spots in Greensboro. As a mom of three kids, it can be difficult to find a place that everyone loves. Thankfully, we've found one! There something magical there for everyone."

-Amy Turk, MBCM Member





10 themed summer camps!

# Powering Up Play in Downtown Greensboro

"We're members and love the museum and know he will have a good experience that's also somewhat familiar," -Cassie, camp parent









"Everyday after camp she said, 'this was the best day of my life!" -Susie, camp parent

# Play to Learn: Daily Programs 11 program themes

Taking a trip to the Museum includes more than selfdiscovery of our 20+ exhibits, it includes interactive experiments, storutimes, art projects, and garden time! Our daily programs are designed around STEAM education, and centered on a central monthly theme!



#### **STEAM**

Science **Technology Engineering** Art **Mathematics** 





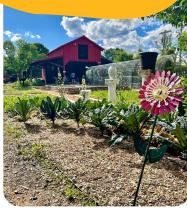
The Edible Schoolyard (ESY) is growing in more ways than the plants taking home in the garden!

# The Edible Schoolyard: From Seed to Harvest

Programmatic field trips and classes focused on the garden and ESY kitchen returned this year after the COVID closure. Field trip students are learning what it takes to plant a seed, nurture it through needed upkeep, and harvest for use. They also meet our chicken friends and taste test seasonal produce during their class visit.

ESY staff is growing, with more hands in the garden to keep the new raised beds looking verdant!







# Ch-ch-changes to the Team



After 12 years in the big red chair as the president and CEO of MBCM, Marian King stood up, so former Development Director, Joe Rieke, could take a seat.

Under King's leadership, MBCM conducted two highly successful capital campaigns, increased its exhibit space, grew its community presence, and strengthened its ties to local business and government.

Former Advancement and Community Manager, Stephanie Clifford, skipped up the stairs to development director after working 6 years at the place for play in downtown Greensboro!



The Museum also added a few new big kids to the staff, including team leaders and a garden educator! Their roles are integral to running the best family-fun, giggle-producing establishment in downtown Greensboro.



Melissa Ramsaur Team Lead



Gabby Bragg
Team Lead



Emma McHone Garden Educator

# Volunteer Spotlight

Our longest-running, most dedicated volunter is Miss Vickie! She's been volunteering at MBCM for about eight years. "When I'm at the Museum, I help the kids in The Market and help the team reset the props, and I help at the Art Table with art projects," she says

Miss Vickie is a busy person! When she isn't volunteering at the Museum on Monday-Wednesday mornings, she helps with local Sunday school classes, shops at Four Seasons mall, makes beaded bracelets, and watches the Carolina Panthers play on Sunday. Every year, she looks forward to the A&T homecoming parade.

If you see Miss Vickie during your Museum visit, make sure to stop and say hi!





#### Quick Facts!

Hometown: Greensboro, NC

Favorite Color: Blue

Favorite Food: Baked Chicken

Favorite Dessert: Chocolate Ice Cream

88 Sponsors

# Gala 2023: Tumbling Down the MBCM Rabbit Hole

400+ attendees

The 2023 Gala was a fantastic adventure, as guests gathered in Wonderland at the Museum for food tastings from delicious Triad restaurants, local brews and spirits, live music, the always-anticipated Big Raffle, and the Giving Tree!

This year's event raised \$127,041! This support allows the Museum to continue to deliver engaging, fun, hands-on play, and learning experiences for all families in downtown Greensboro.

~\$130,000 raised





Thank you to our sponsors
Presenting Sponsor





"I support the Gala because of the impact it has on creating and supporting programs for our community. I also love creating an event that gives every adult a chance to experience the joy and whimsy of childhood with fine food, drink, and entertainment."

-Kristin Bell, Gala Co-Chair

#### Food

Café Europa
'Cille & 'Scoe
The Fresh Market
Ghassans
GIA: Eat, Drink, Listen
Iron Leaf Provisions
Luv 2 Cook Catering
M.J.'s
Neighbors
Pepper Moon Catering
Pho Hien Vuong
Wanderlust Boards

#### Decor

Reconsidered Goods

#### **Drinks**

End of Days Distilling Little Brother Brewing Oden Brewing Company SouthEnd Brewing Co. Steel Hands Brewing

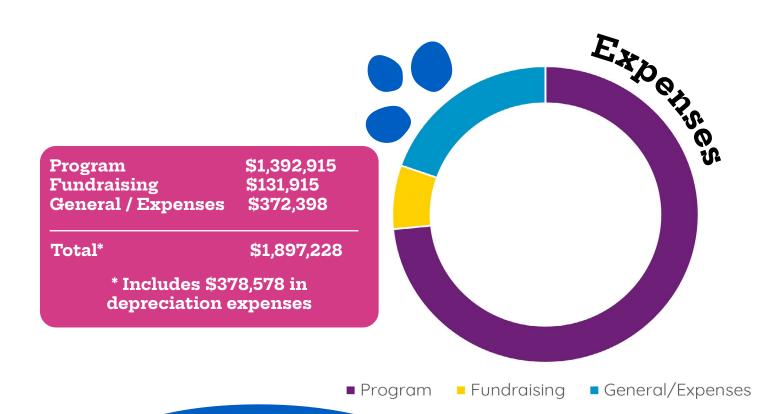
#### **Donated to Raffle**

Beacon Property Management, Inc GIA: Eat, Drink, Listen Greensboro Grasshoppers Hounds Ears Skotty Wannamaker Summerfield Farms TMRW Wealth Vintage 82



## 2022-2023 Financials





#### 2022-2023 Donors

\$25,000 +

**Creative Greensboro** Fourth Elm Construction Lincoln Financial Foundation NC Department of Natural & Cultural Resources **NC Science Museums Grant Program Phillips Foundation** 

\$10.000-\$24.999 The Fresh Market, Inc. The Greensboro Center for **Pediatric Dentistry** Jack and Jill of America, Inc.

SJ Edwards

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**Piedmont Natural Gas** Simply Southern The Stanley & Phyllis Shavitz Family Fund Well-Spring, A Life Plan Community \$2.000-\$4.999 Russellene Angel **BlueScope Foundation** John & Martha Chandler Laura & Adam Duaains **EcoLab Foundation** Lori & Tyler Richardson **Terminix Triad Volvo Financial Services** 

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#### \$500-999

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Downtown Greensboro Inc. Dr. Elise Leger - Physicians for Women of Greensboro Katie & David Egerton Amanda & Jordan Green Grimsley Class of 1976 Allison & Keith Helsabeck Maria Hicks-Few & Lowell Few **Hudson Financial Services** Sarah & Sean Kelly Mitchell, Bartlett & Bell, DDS, MS, LLC Linda & Rod Mortenson Murray Anderson Wealth Management of Davenport & Co. LLC

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# **Building for Tomorrow Donors**

Thank you to our generous Building for Tomorrow capital campaign donors for their vision of the future of MBCM! With their help, we can ensure that the families of our community and beyond will have an engaging place for hands on learning and play for generations to come.

CHILDREN'S

William Anderson
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Steven & Jackie Bell
Bernard Robinson & Company
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Frances Brenner
Nancy & Frank Brenner
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Erin & Keith Rosen
Joy Cohen Shavitz
Bill & Sue Smith
Linda Hyman Strauss

The William I. and Patricia S. Snyder Foundation

#### The Plan

MBCM's Building for Tomorrow capital campaign was organized into three phases, starting in fall 2022, with an anticipated ending in winter 2023. Phase one covered the renaming and rebrading of the Museum, phase two consisted of updated infrastructure, and phase three includes all the new exhibits constructed and to be renovated.



# Everything imaginable!