Impact Report 2022

Discovery in Action
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Welcome!  

“Television education is terribly passive education, and so is the classroom. People just sit and soak things up and never get a chance to do anything. One of the reasons for having this place is that people can get the experiences of the light, the sound, and the touch, and the manipulation—and finally get back into a three-dimensional neurophysiological world.”

Frank Oppenheimer, 1982

These words from the Exploratorium’s founder seem more relevant now than ever, as our nation’s youth emerge from nearly two years of classes onscreen, into classrooms led by teachers who are persistently undervalued and under-resourced. Frank saw on the horizon what we all experience today: we’re increasingly a society of passive observers, at once anesthetized and overstimulated by our devices. At the Exploratorium, we believe it’s innately human to actively engage with others and the world around us in a lifelong journey of discovery. Our seemingly disparate exhibits and experiences have a common purpose: to invite anyone, anywhere, to see, feel, hear, wonder, and grow in ways they might not have ever imagined. Every day, we create opportunities to discover the joy of what it means to be human, experience the interconnectedness of all living things, and marvel at the vast beauty and complexity of the cosmos. Together we made 2022 a year of discovery for learners of all ages in the Bay Area and around the world.

Thank you!

Lindsay Bierman
CEO & Sakurako and William Fisher Executive Director
Who we are... and what we do.

Pi (π) Day at the Exploratorium—our holiday celebrating the never-ending number π—always features a high-spirited Pi Procession (and slices of pie).
Who we are...

Located in San Francisco, California, the Exploratorium is a public learning laboratory exploring the world through science, art, and human perception.

Our mission is to create inquiry-based experiences that transform learning worldwide.

Our vision is a world where people think for themselves and can confidently ask questions, question answers, and understand the world around them.

We value curiosity, inclusion, and lifelong learning.

Huge bubbles, square bubbles, a bubble skirt—Bubble Hoops and other exhibits in Gallery 2 encourage surprising experiments with soap and water.
...and what we do

**We create** tools and experiences that encourage active exploration, for everyone, and at any age: explore-for-yourself exhibits, our 35,000-page website, film screenings, evening art and science events for adults, and much more.

**We design and lead** professional development programs for educators.

**We are at the forefront** of changing the way science is taught.

**We share** our exhibits and expertise with museums worldwide.

**We are always discovering** new ways to fulfill our mission and create lasting change.
The area now known as San Francisco was once the home of the Ramaytush Ohlone peoples of the San Francisco Peninsula. As the original peoples of this land, the Ramaytush Ohlone have never ceded, lost, nor forgotten their responsibilities as the caretakers of this place. The Exploratorium is located upon their land and waters.

We are thankful to our Ohlone collaborators for their generosity in helping us develop a stronger understanding of our connection to this place.

The Exploratorium invites you to share in our appreciation and respect for the Ramaytush Ohlone whose perspectives and knowledge of the local environment continue to inspire us toward a more sustainable and resilient future together.

On July 1, 2021, Pier 15 reopened with Osher Fellows Kanyon “Coyote Woman” Sayers-Roods (Mutsun-Ohlone and Chumash) and Gregg Castro (T’rowt’raahl Salinan, Rumsen-Ramaytush Ohlone) leading a ceremony to honor their people and ancestors and for the Exploratorium to acknowledge the history of the unceded ancestral land and water upon which it sits.
What did discovery look like in 2022?

What we did.

Throughout the year since reopening, our dedicated staff has welcomed guests back to all six galleries with care and enthusiasm. Here, visitors at a reopening event are reflected in Kirsten Berg’s Compound Eye/i and illuminated by Mark Lottor’s Cubatron Core.
We greeted.

Our museum at Pier 15 reopened to visitors in July 2021—filling the galleries with the sights and sounds of discovery.

The Exploratorium community reconnected on Reopening Day. At the exhibit Musical Bench, two guests held hands to close a circuit and create some beautiful sounds.
This year...

We were open 260 days, during which our 51 staff in visitor services and floor facilitation welcomed 307,835 visitors. We heard:

“ It’s educational and entertaining—a great way to cultivate a passion for the world and science."

“ So many exhibits we have never seen anywhere else, and they are fun!"

“ I love the Exploratorium."

A young visitor is enthralled by Red Bird, an Exploratorium commission from artist Keith Newstead, who specialized in the fantastical, often amusing mechanical sculptures known as automata.
Today, the Exploratorium is still the #1 museum in San Francisco on TripAdvisor. (At time of printing)

• We’re the largest U.S. museum or cultural organization to be an Emerging Zero Net Emissions building. (Source: New Buildings Institute)

• This year, our Energy Use Intensity (22.9) was 61% lower than the energy efficiency benchmark for college and university buildings. (Source: Energy Star)

• We used 39,850 gallons of reclaimed Bay water and saved approximately 2 million gallons of water by not having a conventional mechanical system with a cooling tower.

• Our solar panels produced 1,855,324 kilowatt hours of electrical energy—378,092 more than Pier 15’s total building load, including all rentals and food service.

• Our LEED Platinum sustainably designed facility was rented for 73 events, including 2 college groups, 4 weddings, and 11 proms. Learn more about event rentals at Pier 15.

• Over six days in August 2021, Radical Media filmed an Apple product launch on campus, our biggest rental contract to date.

• Our highest guest count this year was 1,755 guests, at an April 2022 student event held by Stanford University.

• In March, April, and May 2022, we welcomed 36% more rental events than pre-pandemic during the same period.

Health and safety remained priorities...

Eighty-six percent of survey respondents agreed that the Exploratorium satisfied most or all of their COVID-19–related health concerns. For example, one visitor commented:

“Really impressed by everyone wearing masks, and appreciated the sanitizer stations.”

And our friends lent a hand.

Seventy generous volunteers contributed over 3,700 hours of work on projects including Design and Development, Global Collaborations, Public Programs, and Organizational Development/Volunteer Engagement.

Two visitors explore electricity with the exhibit Circuit Workbench.
We explained.

The Explainers stepped back into their role as leaders and learners on the museum floor.

Discovery in 2022

Do cows see color? How does a lens work? Explainers Theodora Volpe and Ixchel Dorabji-Reyes lead one of our most beloved traditions—the cow eye dissection.
What's an Explainer? We asked Explainers Rosa Murphy and Alexis Ramos to explain it to us.

What’s an Explainer?

RM: An Explainer is analogous to a docent, but different in some important ways. When you see an Explainer in a gallery, they are there as a resource for visitors. They answer questions ranging from “Where’s the bathroom?” or “Where’s my child?” to “What does this exhibit do?” A huge part of the job is facilitating demos, like the famous cow eye dissection.

AR: The Exploratorium is very hands-on compared to a traditional museum, so a lot of what we do is going up to people and encouraging them to interact with exhibits by being like, "Hey, it’s OK, you can touch things here!" We learn and experience things alongside the visitors as peers.

Each Explainer:

- Is between ages 16–21 (most are 18)
- Interacts with ~70 visitors/week while leading demos
- Works 13–21 hours/week (summer) or 1 weekend day (school year)

Rosa Murphy (20) is a student at UC Berkeley.
What’s it like to be an Explainer?

**AR:** For High School Explainers in the summer, when we arrive in the morning, we all meet up for a mini-meeting, then head off to our stations. We shift every 30 minutes to different galleries and demos, so by lunch we’ve already done a lot of different things! We also pair up and work with other Explainers throughout the day, which creates really meaningful and lasting friendships.

We have a little training sprinkled throughout our schedules. The day wraps up when the museum closes. Before we leave, we have a little closing circle where we acknowledge some good things from the day—things we feel proud of, conversations with visitors, acts of kindness from other Explainers. It’s a very nice vibe.

**RM:** As a college student, being an Explainer is a part-time job that complements the book learning I get from school with really hands-on learning I get at the Exploratorium. It helps me exercise different parts of my brain.

For example, as an exhibit maintenance Explainer, I get to work in the machine shop, and it’s given me a whole new understanding of physics concepts. Getting a lesson on one of the machines and seeing something happen because of, say, inertia, is really incredible.

Explainers receive:

- **40–50 hours** of training, including:
  - **6 hours** science-content job training
  - **3 hours** STEM career pathways
  - **3 hours** diversity, equity, access, and inclusion workshops

Alexis Ramos (18) is a student at California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo.
Who can be an Explainer?

AR: Explainers are high school students, college students, or recent grads who want to be Explainers!

RM: Explainers are certainly not a uniform group. I think it’s super awesome how little barrier to entry there is in terms of interests or prior experiences for the Explainer program. Even if you don’t think you like science at all, you can become an Explainer and learn to love science. Or if you love science already, you can become an Explainer and learn how to be able to communicate, teach, and share that love of science with others.

What have you learned in this program?

RM: I went to a super academic high school where everyone around me at school was always talking about college and grades and homework. In the Explainer program, I met people with goals that were totally different from mine. They were trying to figure out priorities having to do with sports teams or social stuff, and maybe they weren’t going to college. But they were here. They were learning, and they just approached learning in a really different way than I did. That was super enlightening for me.

AR: At school, you put on a different face, a kind of armor, so you don’t get picked on. But in the Explainer program, you get to be yourself, since everyone is so open and accepting of who you are. Being here fosters confidence in what’s inside you and inspires you to continue going on and open yourself up even more.
**Rosa Murphy** is a student at UC Berkeley. Her dad was an Explainer in the 1980s. “Just being around the museum, learning about science and gaining confidence talking to people, was clearly such a cool opportunity for him that when I was in high school, it was natural to think: ‘I love science. I love the Exploratorium. How can I be an Explainer?’”

**Alexis Ramos** is a student at California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo. Like Rosa, he started as an Explainer in high school. His big sister, also a High School Explainer, recommended the program to Alexis: “She really liked it, especially the strong bonds and sense of community.”
We educated.

Teachers (K–12) discovered leading-edge professional development here—and the resources they need to bring more curiosity to their classrooms.

Under pressure? Feel the atmosphere’s weight in this Science Snack activity using a giant trash bag, a vacuum, and a willing volunteer.
The best way to learn science is to do science, and the best response to any question is, “Let’s find out.”

That’s why the same interactive exhibits that make science learning joyful at our museum are central to how we train educators to teach science at the K–12 level.

When teachers bring this philosophy into classrooms, students experience what actual scientists and engineers do every day. Instead of memorizing one right answer, students do their own investigations. They develop critical thinking skills and lifelong curiosity.

- 1,465 teachers and education leaders served
- 61 in-person and online workshops and institutes held
- 490 hours of professional development offered
- 1.1 million users accessed Science Snacks online
Each year, around 2,000 educators participate in the Exploratorium’s professional learning programs, where they learn teaching methodologies and interactive activities they can use right away in their classrooms.

To leverage our impact even further, we support a network of K–12 science education leaders in all 58 counties in California. After completing our workshops, these leaders help their regions, districts, or schools implement California’s Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS). This network is transforming how science is taught in communities up and down the state.

Educators come from far and wide to our Summer Institute for hands-on, phenomena-based learning, such as building their own personal pinhole camera (see next page).

This year, the Exploratorium worked with 850 K–12 science leaders Who supported 85,000 classroom teachers in every region of California Who passed on higher-quality, standards-aligned instruction to millions of students across California.
This team says ‘yes’ to teachers, when so often they hear ‘no,’ ‘not yet,’ or ‘never.’ It is not surprising that teachers who have participated in TI programming are far more likely to remain in the teaching profession!”

— Dr. Megan W. Taylor, PhD, NBCT and Director, Teacher Institute
We created. Exhibit developers discovered new ways to make scientific and artistic phenomena come alive.
At the Exploratorium, the making of things and the collaborative process of production are as visible and accessible to the public as the finished product. The workshop buzzed with creativity and energy all year as exhibit developers designed, built, and tested remarkable contraptions before our very eyes.

Soapbox derby team’s memorable run

In April, a group of Exploratorium employees collaborated with artist and educator Crystal Vielula and photographer Janet Delaney to build a playful Muni-themed entry to our sister museum SFMOMA’s first soapbox derby in 44 years. Reporters from SFGate visited our workshop to see the design process in action. There, they got the inside scoop on the team still brainstorming on a unique design challenge: how to securely attach each wheel’s six sneakers to the spokes.
Senior exhibit engineer Peter Taylor told SFGate why one idea, driving screws through the shoes into the spokes, would be effective but risky while careening down the 800-foot course: “It would be great to look at, because those screws are going to spark up as we’re going down. There would be a shower of sparks everywhere. But on a vehicle that’s upper is made out of cardboard, showers of sparks are kind of sketch. Slash exciting, slash cool.”

Oppenheimer Circle’s sneak peek at exhibit R&D

Also in April, Oppenheimer Circle members returned to the Fisher Bay Observatory—after several years of virtual events—for an exclusive first look at exhibits being developed for our Global Collaborations projects.

These supporters, who have included the Exploratorium in their estate plans, had a special opportunity to see how research and development happening right here in the Bay Area both reaches distant audiences and feeds back into the experiences we offer at Pier 15. Hands-on demonstrations of early prototypes and featured guest speakers illuminated the remarkable level of detail that goes into the design and fabrication of every Exploratorium exhibit.
Hindes three-day prototyper challenge

The format for our annual Hindes Prototyping Project comes from an Exploratorium exhibit shop maxim of unknown origin: "Any proof of an idea can be represented and shared with three days and $300 in materials."

In that spirit, 12 members of the Exploratorium’s exhibits team participated in the challenge this May. Each developed an original idea into a working prototype in just three intense days. This year’s wildly creative explorations included a musical stenotype machine, 3-D textiles, a gargantuan lever, an interactive epidemic simulation, reality-bending lenses, and more.

- 3 days
- 12 exhibit creators
- $300 per project in materials
- ∞ imagination

Top: Exhibit developer Tara Pratap Ebsworth’s prototype (shown with a visitor) encourages sewing and mending.

Bottom: Exhibit engineer Mason Friedberg built an elegant kinetic sculpture he called Coffee Moment.
We uplifted.

Party at the Piers: Uplift brought our donor community together to strengthen the Exploratorium for the future.
On May 7, 2022, the Exploratorium hosted over 300 guests for Party at the Piers—on site and in-person for the first time since 2019.

The festive and uplifting evening featured ABC7’s Kumasi Aaron as emcee, dynamic dinner presentations from Dr. Ainissa Ramirez and Jonathan Van Ness (in conversation with Exploratorium Senior Scientist Julie Yu), and a post-dinner reception with live music performed by students from the San Francisco Conservatory of Music. Chaired by Jennifer Van Natta, the Exploratorium’s largest annual fundraising event raised over one million dollars for education and public programs.

Party at the Piers: Uplift was supported by PG&E, Asset Management Company, Dodge & Cox, KPMG, Power Engineering, and Sidley, with additional support from BlackRock, EHDD, Kaiser Permanente, Nibbi Brothers General Contractors, and RSM.

- 300 guests
- 2 extraordinary dinner presentations
- $1 million raised
We innovated.

Two outdoor community projects—Middle Ground and San Francisco’s Buried History—uncovered new ways of knowing beyond our walls.
Middle Ground’s Plaza visit

This summer and fall, visitors and passersby flocked to pull up a chair on the Exploratorium’s front porch. Free to all comers, the cheery yellow interactive exhibits, coffee cart, and chairs and tables created a comfortable public space for outdoor exploration. Friendly facilitators encouraged people to drop their guard for a bit, enjoy the presence of others, and learn something new.

This is *Middle Ground*, an ongoing exploration of social science made possible by grants from the National Science Foundation. Social scientists have studied how we think, feel, and behave in relation to other people for decades. Their investigations have shed light on bias and stereotyping, humor and generosity, how we work together, and how we pull apart into tribes. *Middle Ground* explores these timely topics (and more) through activities both playful and profound.

With *Middle Ground*, the Exploratorium is keenly focused on broadening its impact by better serving the needs of harder-to-reach people and places. Together with our partner Urban Alchemy, we continue to refine the project’s innovative and research-backed learning model, which combines trauma-informed facilitation with our own inquiry-based approach.

First seen on the front steps of San Francisco Main Library in Civic Center then iterated on our Plaza from June to November 2022, the project heads next to two more SF locations. Pull up a chair at *Middle Ground* back in Civic Center in spring 2023, and in India Basin in 2024.

“...Our world right now is very polarized. It’s very *us* and *them*. What this exhibition does is broaden our sense of *we*. *We* are all in this together.”

Josh Gutwill, Director of Visitor Research and Evaluation, and co-principal investigator of *Middle Ground*, quoted on ABC’s *Localish*
San Francisco’s Buried History

What’s beneath your feet? Take your curiosity for a walk along the San Francisco shoreline, as you listen to tales of Gold Rush ships, underground creeks, sacred Indigenous shellmounds, and rock formations shaped over millions of years.

In July, we debuted San Francisco’s Buried History, a new audio walking tour that extends the Exploratorium experience beyond our walls and encourages urban exploration. The project delves beneath the streets using online multimedia storytelling—compelling audio, imagery, maps, and augmented reality (AR) features.

Just pull up the audio tour, available as a mobile-optimized and geolocative website, on your device and start strolling. (Or experience it as a gallery exhibit in the Fisher Bay Observatory.) Listen to Indigenous leaders, archaeologists, historians, landscape ecologists, geologists, firefighters, and other experts recount fascinating stories. An online map reveals locations of buried ships, the 1830s shoreline, and more, plus offers turn-by-turn walking and cycling directions. To discover the tour’s AR features using your device camera, download and print this map.

The tour starts on the Embarcadero, right outside the Exploratorium. But feel free to walk the 12 stops in any order—or simply enjoy this audio journey through San Francisco’s past and present from wherever you are.

- 13 voices interviewed
- 12 audio tour stops
- 3.3 miles in length
- 3 AR experiences to discover

The project includes a gallery exhibit in the Fisher Bay Observatory (top); historical and contemporary photography, including this view of the Market Street MUNI train tunnel where the sailing ship Rome was found in 1994 (center); and a self-guided walking tour (bottom).
We amazed.

Temporary exhibitions dazzled in winter, spring, and summer—keeping visitors coming back to discover the unexpected.

Glow

Winter at Pier 15 was alight with delight! People came from near and far to connect, play, and get inspired in the glow of luminous sculptures big and small. Eight artists—Michael Brown, CHiKA, Nick Dong, Alicia Eggert, Ekene Ijeoma, Luke Jerram, Burt Libe, and Ames Palms—turned up the radiance in our spacious galleries. Our winter calendar was also fully booked with illuminating adult and family programs for this joyful seasonal expansion of our iconic exhibits on light.

62,065 visitors basked in the Glow
11/18/21–1/30/22
Roving with Perseverance

Spring break on Mars? While NASA’s Perseverance rover was hard at work hundreds of millions of miles from Earth, hunting for signs of ancient Martian microbial life, a full-scale, lifelike model was on display this spring at Pier 15. Nearly the size of a car, with its camera “head” rising high, Perseverance’s six-wheeled look-alike offered a close-up look at the ingenious explorer transforming our understanding of the Red Planet. NASA scientists visited and we test-drove mini-rovers designed by SF teens. Featuring an immersive multimedia experience using the rich audio captured by Perseverance, this installation was out of this world.

78,380 visitors experienced Perseverance
2/17/22–5/1/22

Visitors got a good look at the six-wheeled, camera-topped rover that has been exploring Mars, on loan from NASA’s Jet Propulsion Laboratory.
The Art of Tinkering

Summertime visitors dove into the joy of tinkering—a signature Exploratorium experience—with artworks, contraptions, exhibits, and experiences. Tinkerers of all ages sculpted with light and shadow, built (and broke) circuits, and composed music from junk. We also saw familiar things used in unfamiliar ways in inspiring creations by artists including Natasha Dzurny, Junior Fritz Jacquet, Diane Landry, Golan Levin, Reuben Margolin, Tosa Novmichi, Jie Qi, and Scott Weaver. Most refreshing of all? Dancing with the fabric in Daniel Wurtzel’s captivating Air Fountain on a hot day.
We revealed.

Art installations and public programs allowed us to experience intangible phenomena and see the world in a new way.

In the Black Box, *Peacemaker* by Ekene Ijeoma (pictured) invited us to hold hands with friends or strangers to create human circuits and illuminate the installation.
Science and art intertwine here. Our founder Frank Oppenheimer liked to call scientists and artists the official “noticers” of society: both art and science are important ways of knowing that uncover the unseen facets of the world. Our art and public programs put that philosophy into practice with mind-expanding offerings all year long.

In 2022 the Exploratorium featured a kaleidoscopic variety of perspectives, and a remarkable roster of presenters. In the Black Box, Lia Halloran’s video installation *Double Horizon* mesmerized, and Ekene Ijeoma’s interactive *Peacemaker* lit up the space with human connection. Osher Fellow Gregg Castro (T’rowt’raahl Salinan/Rumsen and Ramaytush Ohlone) demonstrated a “Fog Song” in the swirling water vapor between piers 15 and 17. We saw pi (π) with math artist John Sims and *light from the past* with neon artist Alicia Eggert.

Things look different *After Dark*—which is why over 37,000 visitors enjoyed 48 Thursday night programs this year. “Wondrous Fungus,” “Sexplorations,” “How to Die in Space,” and other intriguing evenings provided memorable nights out for the 18+ crowd. The limited return of *Science of Cocktails* was also popular with explorers seeking a nightlife experience, with sold-out events in February and May.
Artists exhibited this year included:

- Michael Brown
- CHiKA
- Brett Cook
- Nick Dong
- Natasha Dzurny
- Alicia Eggert
- Lia Halloran
- Mark Harris
- Ekene Ijeoma
- Junior Fritz Jacquet
- Luke Jerram
- Diane Landry

- Golan Levin
- Burt Libe
- Reuben Margolin
- Tosa Novmichi
- Ames Palms
- Jie Qi
- Bianca Marie Rivera
- John Sims
- Amy Snyder
- Scott Weaver
- Daniel Wurtzel

Clockwise from top left: Alicia Eggert’s All the Light You See Is from the Past, John Sims’ Seeing Pi (in collaboration with quilters from the Alma Sue’s Quilt Shop), and Nick Dong’s Becoming Horizon (shown here at USC Pacific Asia Museum).
“I’m so excited to have my artwork here. I love this blurring of what your expectations are for going into an art space versus going into a science space. And I think here there’s so many moments where you are learning something, and then you are experiencing something. I’ve always loved and been very influenced by that notion, from my early experience of being an Explainer here when I was 15 years old.”

— Lia Halloran, artist, Associate Professor and Art Department Chair at Chapman University and former High School Explainer
Global collaborations create global impact. In Nebraska, Brazil, and Kuwait, we shared our vision of a world illuminated by inquiry.

We expanded.
Our Global Collaborations team partners with organizations around the world who share a vision of a world driven by science and inquiry. Together, we translate, adapt, and reimagine our work to expand the impact of the Exploratorium on a global scale.

We collaborate with NGOs, nonprofits, corporations, public organizations, and private foundations to create extraordinary learning experiences. We start with stakeholder engagement, strategic visioning, and business, organizational, and concept plans. Then comes gallery design, exhibit development and fabrication, and architectural advising. Finally, we consult with our partners on programmatic and professional development strategies—an important step that allows them to share the Exploratorium ethos underlying everything we do.

Three major collaborations are currently underway...
Kiewit Luminarium, Omaha, Nebraska

In development since March 2020 and slated to open in 2023, the Kiewit Luminarium will be “a place to nurture curiosity and encourage a sense of belonging.” The 82,000-square-foot facility, located alongside Omaha’s RiverFront Park, will be a learning and entertainment destination offering interactive exhibitions and engaging programs focused on science, technology, engineering, and math, and strongly emphasizing inclusivity and community engagement.

Highlights

• Floor-testing over 28 new or adapted exhibits
• Designing and constructing a two-story immersive climbing experience with Landscape Structures
• Developing a facilitator program based on our own Explainer program
• Establishing a deeply committed local advisory group to support our community-driven work

170 exhibits and components
82,000 sq. ft. entire museum

The Kiewit Luminarium museum under construction in Omaha, Nebraska, above with Exploratorium project director Allyson Feeney.
SESI Lab, Brasília, Brazil

This new museum will promote the connection between arts, sciences, and technology through an interdisciplinary and creative educational approach. SESI Lab aims to be “an agent of innovation and social transformation that reinvents the way in which people access and produce knowledge, and to inspire a sense of agency in shaping possible futures.”

In partnership with SESI, the Exploratorium is integrating our approaches to teaching and learning into developing the spaces, exhibitions, and programs.

Highlights

- Concept planning for exhibits and programs
- Site selection and architectural considerations
- Design-build for three galleries of interactive learning experiences and outdoor exhibits
- Business, operational, and program planning

• 100+ exhibits
• 20,000 sq. ft.
• 3 galleries

Left: Lucia Koch's Brasilia RGB illuminates the “Imagining Futures” gallery in progress.
Right: The historic 1960s building was designed by modernist architect Oscar Niemeyer.
The Scientific Center of Kuwait, Salmiya, Kuwait

The Scientific Center Kuwait (TSCK), a well-established center for informal science learning in the Middle East, is undergoing an expansion of its facility. Among their goals for reopening, TSCK hopes to provide young people with the skills and knowledge needed for future professions and to shape new educational standards across the Gulf region to promote critical thinking, curiosity, and innovation.

Highlights

- Design of two new galleries: “Kuwait, Earth, Universe” and “Engineering Our World”
- Design of iconic, interactive tower structure that links the two galleries
- Production of 70 exhibits, including many newly developed for this site

- 70 exhibits
- 19,000 sq. ft.
2 galleries
Thank you!

You made a difference in 2022—thank you for your support!

In January 2022, the Oakland Originalz breakdancers performed on the Plaza for the closing weekend of Lawrence Weiner’s playful mural installation OUT OF SIGHT.
Thank You!

Operations and Expenses
Operations and Expenses: Year-End Estimate

$55.21M total revenue

$29.76M
Admission, Program Earned, Government Contracts, Museum Rentals, Membership, Retail, Pier 17

$18.44M
Program Restricted, Endowment, Federal Pandemic Relief

$7.01M
General Operating Support, Special Events

$52.43M total expenses

$34.26M
Programs

$10.26M
Administration

$5.78M
Campus and Facilities

$2.12M
Marketing
Thank You!

Our Generous Supporters

The Family Host Committee helps organize Wonder Funday, our annual family fundraiser for science education. Shown, left to right: Kristin Svercheck, Laryn Dorronsoro, Nika Robani Shirani, Emily Sheridan, Kate Nazarian, Josie Haspel, and Cathryn Lyman.
Individual Giving

Our thanks to the friends who helped support the Exploratorium with gifts made July 1, 2021, to June 30, 2022. Their generosity provided much-needed resources to help deepen our impact on science education and interactive learning worldwide.

Exploratorium Trust
- Bengier Foundation
- George W. Cogan and Fannie Allen
- Troy and Leslie Daniels
- Sakurako & William Fisher
- Frances Hellman and Warren Breslau
- The Christian Humann Foundation
- Michael Jacobson and Trine Sorensen
- Donn Kipp*
- Gary Daniel Kwan*
- Sue and Phil Marineau
- The McMurtry Family Foundation
- Ken and Kris Moore
- Diane Peters*
- Dan Yue

Leadership Circle
- Anonymous (2)
- Ravin and Alka Agrawal
- Barger Family Fund
- Terry and Anne Clark
- Clay Foundation - West
- Martha Ehmann Conte
- Crankstart Foundation
- Dana and Bob Emery and Family
- Sharon Flanagan and Patrick Galvin
- The Julie and Greg Flynn Family Fund
- Germaine and Jonathan Heiliger
- The Dirk and Charlene Kabcenell Foundation
- Roberta and Charles Katz
- Kelson Foundation

*Indicates estate gift
Leadership Circle cont.

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Our annual Día de las Madres celebration featured a thrilling Ballet Folklórico performance by Cuicacalli Dance Company with music by Mariachi La Misión.
Party at the Piers: Uplift

We are grateful to our gala donors and sponsors whose gifts were received by June 30, 2022. Their support will enable our transformative educational and public programs to flourish, both at Pier 15 and worldwide.

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After Dark attendees get absorbed in the exhibit Dancing Drops, trying to float a droplet of water in a stream of air.
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- West + Wilder

On Buoy Days, get up close with a one-ton oceanic buoy. On loan from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the buoy has been anchored between Piers 15 and 17 since 2013, collecting data on water temperature, salinity, and CO₂ levels in the atmosphere and in San Francisco Bay.
Photography

Visitors saw the museum differently—through refraction glasses—at the Exploratorium’s member and donor reopening event.
Thank you!