



DISCOVERY PLACE

WONDER FOR ALL

2016-17 Annual Report



Letter from the President and Board Chair

Our Work With Communities



As we look back at the year just completed, we can see the tangible growth in service to our communities and surrounding region. From the 900 children who celebrated their birthdays at a Discovery Place museum and the nearly 52,000 children and adults who visited through our Welcome* program, to the more than 733,000 Museum visitors and nearly one million website users, we made a difference in both small and large ways in 2016-17.

One thing is clear: it takes the work and support of many to accomplish our mission. From the involvement of nearly 800 staff and volunteers to the support of more than 9,900 donors and Members, we are working together to be at the forefront of transforming the way science, technology and nature are explored and learned. We do this work to inspire the dreams of many by raising their aspirations of a better future and motivating them to develop a lifelong love of learning.

We believe strongly that science is the lens for understanding how the world works, and through this lens, we can and will close the achievement gap, create highly trained professionals and build a strong, more cohesive community. At Discovery Place, we can and do have a bold outlook on our future because you invest in us, because you believe in our mission, and together we can meet the challenges ahead.

The stories you will read in this report are possible only with the support of people like you. And, they are life-changing for the audiences we serve.

Thank you for supporting, believing and investing in us.

Mark McGoldrick

Chair, Board of Trustees

Catherine Wilson Horne

President & CEO

**The Welcome program offers \$1 per person admission to any Discovery Place museum to families who receive public assistance through EBT or WIC.*

OUR MISSION

We inspire curious thinkers to discover the wonders of science, technology and nature.

OUR VISION

We aspire to be at the forefront of transforming the way science, technology and nature are explored and learned to inspire dreams, raise aspirations and motivate people of all ages to develop a lifelong love of learning.



BUILDING YOUNG LEADERS

On your last visit to a Discovery Place museum, were you helped by one of our superstar teen volunteers? Each year, nearly 200 students ages 13-17 work in one of our Museums through the Teen Apprentice Leadership program. They help feed and care for the animals; supervise and support Summer Camps; perform live programs and science demonstrations; assist in our labs; and engage with visitors throughout the Museums.

Securing a position in the program is highly competitive. We receive nearly two applications for every spot that is open. And, many teens return year-over-year so the number of available spots is limited. To participate, teens submit two letters of reference as well as interview with their preferred departments.

Most of the Teen Apprentices love science, and the program provides a chance to explore their passion and learn about science-related

careers. Many of the participants are surprised by how much they build their confidence in public speaking and engagement. As they progress in the program, they become mentors and leaders to the newer Apprentices. The majority of teens who remain in the program through their high school years proceed to college, and many of them ultimately pursue STEM careers.



FIRST PERSON WONDER

Kelly Bryant Program Coordinator, Project More, Cabarrus County

How did you work with Discovery Place Kids-Huntersville?

Project More works with teens who are pregnant or who are parenting. Teens receive support from the program as long as they remain in high school or continue to work toward their GED. Before Project More, I worked with Safe Journey, a similar program that is run out of Charlotte. I knew that Discovery Place Kids had done some programming for the teen moms in Safe Journey, so I invited them to come to our community Block Party. Afterward, we stayed in touch and when Discovery Place Kids received a small grant, they invited the Project More moms to the Museum for a special visit.

What was the day like for you and the teens?

Our group spent about three hours in the Museum. We had lunch, and the Discovery Place Kids staff spent time showing the girls around and explaining the activities. The kids ranged in age from two months to two years old. The really little ones enjoyed the tummy time and crawling spaces while our walkers had fun in the market and café. And they all really liked the water table.

What was the most interesting thing that the teens learned?

We often talk to the moms about the importance of sensory activities. When they were at the Museum, they experienced a lot of new ways to implement sensory experiences like foam and rice. During our home visits, we've reinforced these ideas, and some of the girls have even made sensory boxes to use with their kids at home.

Was there anything that surprised you?

A lot of the girls knew about Discovery Place Science in Charlotte, but most didn't know about Discovery Place Kids right here in Huntersville. It's much closer to where they live, but transportation is still a challenge. They also were really surprised by the size of the Museum - they were shocked by the number of different things there were to do!

What was the most memorable part of the day?

What I will remember most is watching the teens be exposed to things that broadened their horizons. Most of the moms' perspectives are limited to what they see in their neighborhoods. They may have trouble organically playing with their kids, because they haven't been exposed to this model. Their day at Discovery Place Kids-Huntersville showed them new ways to interact and have fun. They were grateful to have the experience and wanted to come back. We'd really like to make it an annual event.

BY THE NUMBERS



23,358
Volunteer
Hours



622
Volunteers



330
Volunteers
Participating
in 6 Corporate
Takeovers



174
Staff
(FT and PT)

Open for All Learners

Families love to visit Discovery Place museums, but sometimes a trip to the Museum can be an overwhelming or even stressful experience for children with special needs like Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD).

To make the Discovery Place experience more enjoyable for these families, we teamed up with TEACCH Autism at UNC-Chapel Hill to create sensory-friendly days and sensory backpacks to ease the experience.

During 2016-17, we created a Sensational Science Day at Discovery Place Science featuring exclusive hours, reduced pricing and lighting and sound accommodations in the Museum. Community partners were on site to provide resources and support for participating families.

At Discovery Place Kids-Huntersville, kids were treated to a visit by Sensitive Santa, a specially-trained St. Nick whose tones, sounds and movements were attuned to a neurodiverse audience.



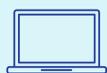
The sensory backpacks are available at Discovery Place Science and Discovery Place Kids-Huntersville, and contain tools to help families navigate the Museums including noise-cancelling headphones and sensory squish toys. Each bag also provides a custom visual schedule – a tool that uses pictures and symbols to depict a day at the Museum. A family can lay out their whole visit using Velcro images of the different exhibition areas to help prepare their child for experiences such as waiting in line, getting wet at the water table, hearing loud noises during a live show or getting ready to leave.

“We want families to know that neurodiverse audiences matter to us, and their experiences are just as important as any other guests,” said Charla Fields, Senior Director, Community Engagement and Impact. “These special days and tools help lower the stress for the whole family and allow everyone to engage and enjoy the Museum.”

BY THE NUMBERS



3,415,084
Website
Pageviews



956,515
Website
Visitors



52,635
Facebook
Followers



15,041
Twitter
Followers



4,727
Instagram
Followers

YEAR IN REVIEW



DISCOVERY PLACE SCIENCE

Winner of the 2017 Charlotte Regional Visitors Authority Attraction of the Year Award

One of the top science museums in the nation and the most popular cultural institution in Charlotte, Discovery Place Science provides ever changing experiences that help visitors of all ages understand their world through the lens of science.

The world's most famous puzzle was in the spotlight over the summer as *Beyond Rubik's Cube*, presented in Charlotte by Google Fiber, twisted visitors' minds. When a "Call for Cubers" yielded a plethora of local talent, we engaged these puzzle whizzes in all kinds of activities and workshops for guests. In August, the region's fastest cubers descended on Discovery Place Science for an all-day speedcubing competition. Using five different-sized Rubik's Cube puzzles in six rounds, the official World Cube Association

event played host to 100 competitors throughout the day.

Next Discovery Place Science was conquered by *Genghis Khan*, a global heritage exhibition presented by Wells Fargo that explored the legend and legacy of the world's greatest warrior. Featuring the largest collection ever assembled of the treasures of Genghis Khan, visitors learned about the man who built one of the largest empires in history and who also gave us the postal system, passports, hamburgers and pants! From November through April, Discovery Place Science celebrated Mongolian culture with dancers, ceremonial masks, performers and even a visit by the Mongolian ambassador. Filmgoers to the IMAX® Dome Theatre had the chance to further explore eastern culture with *Mysteries*

of China. The year ended with a celebration of the weird and the wacky as *The Science of Ripley's Believe It Or Not* made its debut at the Museum.

We also engaged visitors in extraordinary experiences that brought the world inside. In the IMAX Dome Theatre, moviegoers traveled around the country through *National Parks Adventure*, out of this world with *Beautiful Planet* and to the depths of the ocean in *Secret Ocean*. At the Museum's first-ever One Night Wonder fundraiser, donors were delighted by scientific marvels, while at the second annual Maker Faire, nearly 3,000 guests engaged with regional makers who showcased 3D printing, robotics, woodworking, felting and more.

DISCOVERY PLACE IN THE FIELD

“This expedition allowed us to further our research and conservation goals by strengthening our relationships with the scientific community and by helping find ways to share this information with our community,” said Elliot Provance. “Charlotte might not be a coastal city, but many of our everyday decisions impact ecosystems far away.”

Each year scientists from Discovery Place and around the world meet in Curaçao to study the island’s beautiful coral reefs. As vibrant as the reefs are, the coral population is in serious trouble due to environmental changes. Working under the guidance of SECORE (SExual COral REproduction), the scientists study the sexual reproduction of coral species and experiment with new restoration strategies.

Elliot Provance, Discovery Place’s Director, Collections has been involved in this research since 2012 at the CARMABI Foundation (Caribbean Research and Management of Biodiversity) lab

in Curaçao. This year, he led an expanded expedition to Curaçao with staff from all parts of the Museum. Partnering with Dr. Amy Ringwood, Associate Professor, Department of Biological Science at UNC Charlotte, they directed a team with representatives from the Education Studio, Collections, the labs, Discovery Place Kids-Huntersville and the Girls in STEM program. This team’s goal was to bring research experiences back to our Museums in the form of classes, exhibits, signage and research with scientists at local universities. They also wanted to spread awareness of the need for coral reef conservation and the important work that SECORE and CARMABI are doing.

Over the course of their six-day field experience, the team witnessed how Curaçao’s coral reefs are responding to a wide range of human-caused environmental impacts, from almost pristine reef health to extremely degraded reefs. They participated in group dives, collected specimens, attended lectures and learned from the SECORE research team.

The expedition was a rich source of material for the Discovery Place scientists and educators. They have developed programs based in engineering, conservation and environmental science that will be shared with visitors in the labs and throughout the Museum network.



Making Math Hands On



“When teachers have access to curriculum resources and technology to connect their students, they can help students to synthesize information and solve problems,” remarked Hema Lalwani. “When each teacher can touch 200 or more students each year, we want to make sure that they are prepared with the tools and innovative pedagogical practices they need. This partnership has been a win-win for us.”

Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools (CMS) Secondary Math Specialist Hema Lalwani is dedicated to bringing more innovation into the high school math classroom.

When Hema received a Math and Science Partnership grant through the U.S. Department of Education, she engaged Discovery Place Education Studio (DPES) to provide a professional development session for CMS high school math teachers focused on developing a conceptual understanding of math. But what really impressed the CMS team were the resources and hands-on manipulatives that were used during the session.

And that got Hema thinking: *What if all of CMS high school math teachers and their students could*

have access to these teaching tools? She approached the DPES team with this question: Could the Education Studio staff create a set of custom resource kits that would allow students to easily visualize and understand concepts and aid them in moving through the curriculum?

“In high school math, we don’t have a lot of hands-on opportunities,” said Hema. “Science has tons of stuff to model, create and explore. Students and teachers sometimes need the tangible in order to visualize the problem and understand what they are solving for.”

Hema chose to focus on a challenging high school geometry concept – coordinate proof of geometric shapes and geometric transformations. Using 3D printers and laser cutters, the

DPES team created and tested prototypes and finally settled on an approach to the problem.

When the Ed Studio staff thought they had a solution, they still needed input from the educators who work with kids in the classroom. The CMS high school math teachers came to Discovery Place Education Studio for a professional development and prototyping session. They walked through the lessons and provided feedback on the resource kits: *What worked? Where did they see conceptual challenges? What might need to be manufactured differently?*

With these insights in hand, the Ed Studio team revised the teaching manipulatives, providing a final resource kit that was truly customized to the needs of the teachers.

YEAR IN REVIEW



DISCOVERY PLACE KIDS - HUNTERSVILLE

At Discovery Place Kids-Huntersville, young children and their caregivers come together to explore their world and cultivate a love of learning. Through a hands-on environment filled with rich play experiences, children build early literacy skills, gain a foundation in math and experiment with basic science concepts.

In celebration of the Museum’s sixth birthday, the Museum received its first major exhibition upgrade. With the help of Publix Super Markets Charities, we introduced a revamped Town Market. The new experience, which opened in October, highlights healthy food options and aims to help children and their caregivers understand where food comes from and how it nourishes

our bodies. In addition to pretend food, digital cash registers and microscopes to examine seeds and produce, the new Town Market features a demonstration counter where Museum educators lead a variety of food-based nutrition programs including pumpkin dissections, bread-making demos, fruit and vegetable smoothie preparations and more.

Families in North Mecklenburg and South Iredell celebrated their children’s entry into formal schooling with the annual Countdown to Kindergarten event. More than 1,200 young students and their families joined representatives from Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools, including 80 teachers and principals. Kids experimented with new school skills such as carrying

lunch trays or boarding a bus while parents attended Q&A sessions with the educators.

The Museum continued to reach new audiences and to connect its visitors with new cultures. During the I CAN Touch China festival, Chinese exchange students from Tower Bridge International set up authentic activities for the Museum’s family visitors. Over five days in August, the program celebrated the rich history of Chinese culture with activities like Chinese calligraphy, Beijing opera masks, lantern-making and much more.



LEARNING AT THE LIBRARY

“Can I start right away?” This is the level of enthusiasm that greeted Discovery Place educators as they visited Charlotte Mecklenburg Library branches throughout the region as part of Arts & Science Council’s Culture Blocks program.

Funded by Mecklenburg County, Culture Blocks aims to bring arts, science, history and heritage activities into the community, closer to where residents live, focusing on neighborhoods that otherwise lack cultural facilities and programs. There are seven geographical blocks in the program and cultural activities are made available in partnering libraries, parks, recreation and community centers.

The Discovery Place Outreach team worked with Culture Blocks to engage upper elementary students

in hands-on science and engineering activities. Operating out of six different Library locations, the team engaged students with two six-week workshops – *Robotics* and *Think It, Plan It, Make It*.

Many students returned week-over-week to build their skills and, altogether, nearly 1,000 visits were made to the libraries to participate in the programs. Grateful parents were eager to bring their children to the programs. “My son can’t wait to return each week. Thanks for providing something new, exciting, and educational for my son,” said one parent. Many parents stayed during the workshops, so they could work together with their children.

The program provided access for kids who might not otherwise be able to attend Discovery Place

workshops and helped open their eyes to a world of possibilities. One of our Library partners remarked, “I think the best part of this series is the ‘Aha!’ moment I see each week. When the students understand more about how things work or how to make things work and their ability to make it work. It’s a beautiful thing.”

The Discovery Place program was sponsored by Culture Blocks – a community partnership between ASC, Charlotte Mecklenburg Library and Mecklenburg County Park and Recreation to bring arts and cultural experiences closer to where residents live. Culture Blocks is funded by Mecklenburg County.

BY THE NUMBERS



733,728
Total
Visitors



9,600
Member
Households



116,671
Students
(onsite and
offsite)



11,185
Adults at
Science on
the Rocks



51,997
Welcome
Visitors

Wonder More



Science, technology and nature are always changing, and Discovery Place needs to change along with them in order to continue building a STEM-literate community. This year Discovery Place took steps toward imagining what the future of two of the oldest facilities in our family might be.

In 2016, we completed the process of creating a new master plan for Discovery Place Nature. The new vision contemplates a Museum that is more connected to Freedom Park, offering visitors of all ages educational experiences in the natural world. The plan envisions a new facility that will offer live

animal encounters, hands-on labs, outdoor nature experiences and opportunities to develop deeper appreciation for the natural world.

This plan took a significant step forward this year when Mecklenburg County decided to invest in the new vision. Discovery Place Nature has long been a successful public-private partnership with the County, and County Commissioners expressed strong appreciation for the educational value the Museum provides to the community. We are grateful for their commitment of \$16 million to fund the new building and are committed to

raising the additional private funds necessary for the project.

Uptown, Discovery Place Science was named as a catalyst site in the new North Tryon Vision Plan that was adopted this year by Charlotte City Council. As a next step in contemplating the Museum's role in this reconfigured and reimagined streetscape, City Council approved funding to begin a master plan process for Discovery Place Science. As the year ended, we kicked off a national search for the brightest architectural minds to help imagine a new future for the Museum.



FIRST PERSON WONDER

Tijua Robinson

Program Director, Crossroads Corp.

How did you work with Discovery Place?

I've been working in the Grier Heights community for many years - first as a college intern, then as a community liaison and now at Crossroads. When Discovery Place was launching the Get Ready With Words initiative in the neighborhood, someone whispered in their ear to come talk to me to help get the neighbors involved. Get Ready With Words was a partnership between Discovery Place, Community School of the Arts and the Charlotte Mecklenburg Library [with funding provided by PNC Grow Up Great] to help build early literacy in young children. When I heard what they were doing, I went door-to-door to tell families about it. "Let's get your kids into the program," I said. "And I will go with you."

How would you describe the experience that families had at the program?

My families loved the sessions. The parental component of the program was different from anything they had seen before. It met parents where they were, and it was very hands on. The staff didn't say "you have to do this," instead they showed the families different activities and involved them. The kids had a great time, and it was a stepping stone toward building literacy.

What was most unique about the program?

The idea that these three organizations - Discovery Place, the Library, Community School of the Arts - all came together to work toward a common goal was really special. Each group did their part, and they didn't view it as a job. They spent a lot of time developing relationships so it felt like a family endeavor. There was a lot of trust built during the three years of the program.

What kind of impact did this work have on the families at home?

Parents took home techniques to use with the kids. When they shared books together at home, it was more exciting. They would refer to an activity that they did during the program or recall words they had practiced. The program was like a support system that helped parents to aid their children in building literacy skills.

Do you have a favorite memory?

The way the program grew was the thing I will remember most. When we started, we had maybe six or seven kids attending the sessions, and we were fighting to get them to come. But by the last summer of the program, we had 17 - 19 kids every day for the summer session. They didn't want it to end. So many parents have asked me if the program will be available again in the summer. Because the grant is over, the program concluded, but I would love to see something like this happen again.

BY THE NUMBERS



3,362

Educators at
Discovery Place
Education Studio



1,167

Classes
Taught



995

Outreach
Programs



900

Birthday
Parties



101

Summer
Camps



GIRLS GET SCIENCE

Middle school and high school years can be among the most formative of a student's life. Studies show that as girls get older, their interest in STEM declines, and in fact, most girls have decided by high school whether or not they want to pursue a career in STEM. This year Discovery Place joined a growing movement with a goal of changing the equation through the launch of the *Girls in STEM* initiative.

Through a series of programs, supported by Bank of America and Cognizant, that promote awareness, achievement and empowerment, we are building girls' confidence and interest in STEM. Working in partnership with Girl Scouts, Discovery Place developed and hosted a year-long series of workshops for girls in grades 2 - 8. Participants studied nature, recycling, stop-motion coding, forensics, soldering, stars and constellations, woodworking and more. As they completed each workshop and achieved mastery, more than 400 girls earned badges.

And then there were the sleepovers. During two separate events, more than 300 girls had a sleepover like no other. While spending the night at Discovery Place Science, the girls had exclusive access to the new *Thinker Space* lab and were challenged to use saws, drills, vices, hammers and all the other tools of making. The night finished with a giant screen IMAX® film and a chance to sleep near the fish or under the watchful eye of our famous giant bear. Capping the year was our first series of all-girls Summer Camps. These weeklong sessions gave girls the opportunity to explore engineering, programming, robotics, biology and chemistry in a supportive environment tailored to their needs.

These initial programs were so well-received that the *Girls in STEM* program will continue to grow in the future as we work to provide more in-depth experiences and more exposure to female role models who are already in STEM fields.



Carolyn Rodd

Principal, Huntingtowne Farms Elementary School

How does Discovery Place Science work with Huntingtowne Farms Elementary?

We've worked with Discovery Place Science for many years and they've been a wonderful partner, both sponsoring our staff events and providing opportunities for our teachers to play and learn in the Museum. The past two years, our school has been part of the Juntos Ahora/Together Now program, funded through an IMLS grant. It's a Spanish and English program that gives our families the chance to attend hands-on Saturday science workshops, make visits to Discovery Place Science and attend Summer Camps held at our school.

How would you describe the experience that your families have at these programs?

Our families love it! One of the beautiful things about Juntos Ahora is that it removes all of the barriers that make school scary and builds trust between the school and the family. The program inspires inquiry and builds family bonds ... all while exploring science and learning about opportunities at the Museum.

What is most unique about the partnership?

This is a totally bilingual program so we are bringing science to a group of people who generally don't have access to this type of enrichment. The activities nurture curiosity and connect the kids to the possibilities of science careers. They are extraordinary experiences for the whole family and so everyone just falls in love with science.

What kind of impact does this work have on the students when they are inside the classroom?

Students see science in a real world environment and it comes alive for them. When they attend the Summer Camps, it expands and retains their learning, mitigates against summer learning loss and magnifies their interest in school. It's all the benefits that you want kids to have from a program.

Is there one favorite memory or story you can share?

We took hundreds of people to Discovery Place Science for our annual family day. I was on one of the buses, and I'd say at least half of the families had lived in Charlotte for ten or more years, yet none of them had ever before been to Discovery Place Science. So I know that we are doing the right work by creating this safe environment for families to come together and learn. Now, there is just this kind of buzz about science.

YEAR IN REVIEW



DISCOVERY PLACE NATURE

Nestled in the heart of one of Charlotte's oldest neighborhoods and adjacent to Freedom Park, Discovery Place Nature encourages visitors to connect to the natural world. Through hands-on experiences with live animal species, daily educational programs and outdoor exploration, visitors discover the wonders of nature and build an appreciation for the environment.

This year brought big changes to Discovery Place Nature. In January, the Museum opened a new planetarium experience in the former nature dome. (Discovery Place Nature played host to a resident planetarium through the 1980s, but the space was converted into a home for Grandpa Tree and nature-based shows.) The new planetarium features a Digitarium Zeta system,

comfortable beanbag seating and a mix of multimedia presentations and star shows. In addition to daily public viewings, the Museum offers planetarium classes for schools, workshops for Boy Scouts and a special star show program for Birthday Parties.

In the spring, Discovery Place Nature was buzzing with activity as the Museum introduced a set of honeybee working and observation hives. Developed in partnership with Bee Downtown, the Levine Scholars Program at UNC Charlotte and Mecklenburg County Beekeepers Association, the hives allow visitors to get an up close look at the activity inside a bee hive. Guests can observe what it takes to maintain a healthy hive, and eventually, they will be able to enjoy the fresh honey produced by the bees.

The Discovery Place Nature team continued building connections with the community through programming. The Museum partnered with the Boy Scouts on two Eagle Scout projects that benefitted native wildlife; worked with Queens University of Charlotte students on a study of North Carolina's state reptile, the eastern box turtle (*Terrapene Carolina*); and teamed up with North Carolina Outward Bound School to offer educational and volunteer opportunities to Outward Bound students, instructors and alumni.



DISCOVERY PLACE KIDS - ROCKINGHAM

Located in the Sandhills region of North Carolina, Discovery Place Kids-Rockingham is a community-based museum committed to nurturing curiosity and imagination through play. The Museum provides a family-friendly environment where children and their caregivers work together to ask questions, explore solutions and build foundational skills necessary for lifelong learning.

Throughout the year, Discovery Place Kids-Rockingham continued to be a nexus of community activity. In August, the Museum celebrated rising kindergartners with the annual Countdown to Kindergarten festivities. More than 230 children and their families enjoyed a free evening at the Museum and the opportunity to meet teachers from Richmond County Schools and librarians from Leath Memorial Library.

Parents learned about healthy eating options with Purcell Clinic and savings plans with the NC 529 Plan while little ones practiced scissor safety, learned to carry lunch trays and role-played in a mock classroom.

In November, kids had a chance to imagine what their futures might look like at the I CAN Be Anything Fair. Through one-on-one interaction, hands-on activities and table demonstrations, visitors to this kid-sized career fair began to understand the variety of possibilities in their lives. Organizations from throughout the Richmond County community were on hand to showcase what they do each day. Partners included the Rockingham Police and Fire Departments, Richmond County Sheriff's Department, Duke Energy Progress, Pee Dee Electric, the Purcell Clinic, State

Employees Credit Union, Stogner Architecture and more.

Spring came out of the starting blocks strong with the annual Run for the Ribbons road race. Working in partnership with the Foundation of FirstHealth, City of Rockingham and Richmond County Schools, this year's race had more than 500 participants – more than double the number of the prior year. Richmond County Schools students and staff were challenged to see which school could have the most runners and more than 300 students and staff registered at a discounted rate. After the race, the runners were invited to visit Discovery Place Kids-Rockingham free of charge and then join SpringFest in downtown Rockingham.

Coding for the Future



“We are creating the mindset that our students can do anything and that they can compete on a worldwide level” Kelvin Wymbs remarked. “We are preparing them with the skills they will need for 21st century jobs. It all starts here.”

Last year, the leadership of the Florence (SC) School District One approached the Discovery Place Education Studio (DPES) team with a goal in mind. *“We want to be a leader in South Carolina in teaching programming and coding to high school students.”*

Florence convened an advisory panel of industry executives, representatives from higher education and district level leadership to look at 21st century career readiness standards. They asked, “What are employers looking for?” “How do we equip our students to meet the needs of the future?”

The answer was a four-year coding curriculum, taught in all of Florence's high schools that would equip students with skills in programming language and computational thinking.

Using existing models for standards, the Ed Studio team set out to design a curriculum that would begin in the ninth grade and build sequentially over the course of a student's high school career. The program is highly interactive and gets the students involved in hands-on learning from the start.

Florence's three high school computer science teachers partnered with the DPES team throughout the process. As the curriculum was developed, the teachers provided feedback about how it might work in the classroom, and the DPES team made revisions.

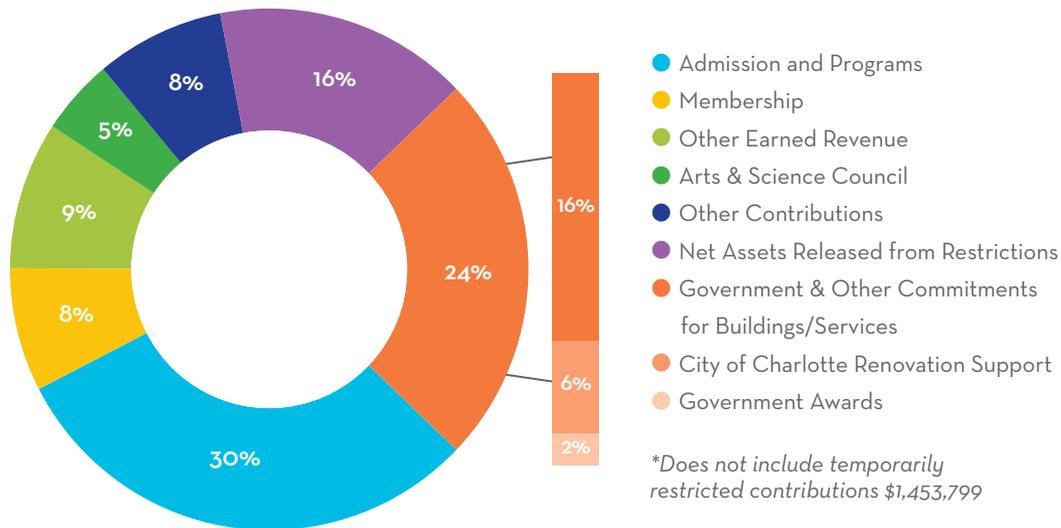
“It's been a tremendous experience on all levels,” said Kelvin Wymbs, director of secondary education for Florence School District One. “The people who actually facilitate the course are getting to provide instant feedback and are

impacting the development. We are not just creating a curriculum, but a curriculum that fits our organization and our students.”

Before finalizing the full program, the Florence educators participated in an intensive four-day professional development session. They were both taking and testing the course. *What is still not working? Where will we have challenges?* The DPES team made final adjustments.

Florence School District One will roll out the new coding program to the first group of ninth graders in the 2017-18 school year. Education Studio educators will provide support as the program unfolds.

Unrestricted Operations Revenue
\$17,905,895



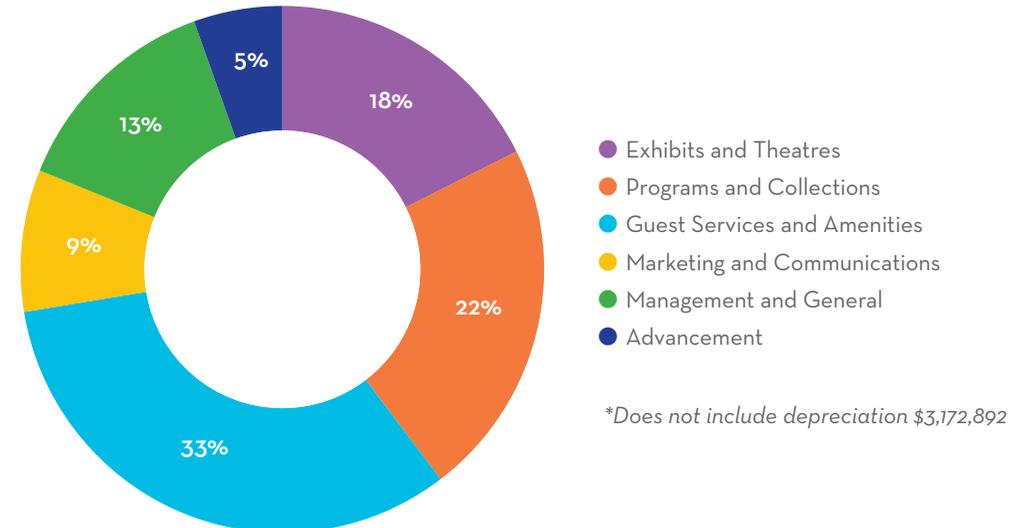
Attendance

Discovery Place Science	416,222
Discovery Place Nature	70,880
Discovery Place Kids-Huntersville	177,839
Discovery Place Kids-Rockingham	32,883
Outreach & Other Offsite Programs	35,904
Total Attendance	733,728

Membership

Member Households	9,600
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Unrestricted Operations Expenditures
\$16,354,880



Volunteers & Staff

Full Time Staff	112
Part Time Staff	62
Volunteers	622
Total Staff & Volunteers	796

Museum Space (sq. feet)

Discovery Place Science	180,500
Discovery Place Nature	14,000
Discovery Place Kids-Huntersville	24,500
Discovery Place Kids-Rockingham	17,300

Thank You

We gratefully acknowledge these individuals, foundations, organizations and corporations who made a donation to Discovery Place between July 1, 2016 and June 30, 2017.

\$1,000,000+

City of Charlotte

\$750,000 - \$999,000

Arts & Science Council

Carolinas HealthCare System

\$500,000 - \$750,000

Bank of America

Town of Huntersville

The Leon Levine Foundation

\$250,000 - \$449,000

Estate of John W. Glaze, Jr.

\$100,000 - \$249,000

Appalachian State University

City of Rockingham

Duke Energy Foundation

Lowe's

NC Science Museums Grant Program

Thrive Fund

Wells Fargo

\$50,000 - \$99,000

Albemarle Foundation

Burroughs Wellcome Fund

I-77 Mobility Partners

MetLife Foundation

Publix Super Markets Charities

Richmond County

Sharp

UTC Aerospace Systems

\$25,000 - \$49,999

American Airlines

Clariant Corporation

Institute of Museum and Library Services

Leah and Martin Foley

John S. and James L. Knight Foundation

Mecklenburg County

OrthoCarolina

PNC Foundation

Shurtape

Sean and Andrea Smith Family Fund

Emery Wister Endowment Fund

\$10,000 - \$24,999

AXA Foundation

Balfour Beatty Construction

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