LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT and BOARD CHAIR

A question we often ask ourselves is: Who has the power to wonder? At Discovery Place, we believe that everyone should have the opportunity to wonder.

But, having the time and space to wonder is a luxury that unfortunately is not available to all. When you can wonder, it allows you to dream and think about how to build a better future for yourself and your community. It’s essential for growth, innovation and hope. However, what isn’t limited are the chances to see wonder in the world around you.

It’s very basic - open your eyes, observe what is happening around you and discover something you never saw before, never understood or never questioned. And, that is wonder.

At Discovery Place, we wonder how science knowledge and experiences can help change people’s futures. Science and technology are pervasive, and they are essential tools in making sense of the world around us. In our Museums and through our programs, we work with people every day to build an understanding of science that can transform their lives.

In the pages that follow, we have captured moments throughout the year that portray this work. We hope that as you peruse these images, you also will appreciate the thousands of moments of dedication, determination and dreaming that we couldn’t collect.

As we look to the future, we also wonder how our Museums and programs can continue to meet the growing demand for science education, training and understanding. We are working on plans that will transform Discovery Place Nature and Discovery Place Science as well as to continue to expand access to all of our Museums.

It takes vision and hard work. Our community’s support nurtures and encourages us to think boldly about the future. Thank you to all of the donors, volunteers, leaders, partner organizations and staff who are working together to help make wonder possible for all.

Luther Lockwood
Board Chair

Catherine Wilson Horne
President & CEO

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.
HOW DO WE INVENT THE FUTURE?

Discovery Place Science celebrated the Year of the Engineer, honoring the creativity and ingenuity of engineers. Throughout the year-long initiative which aimed to inspire youth to seek careers in STEM, the Museum partnered with more than 400 STEM professionals to create 2,816 hands-on experiences that impacted 268,000 visitors.
WHERE CAN TEACHERS GO FOR INSPIRATION?

Thanks to the generosity of Bank of America, educators can find support, build skills and learn new technologies at Discovery Place Education Studio. Marking the largest single donation in Discovery Place history, this year Bank of America donated the building that houses the Education Studio to Discovery Place. Since its grand opening four years ago, the Education Studio has helped 14,000 teachers become more proficient STEM educators.
WHO’S THAT GIRL?

At Discovery Place museums, that girl is the one mastering STEM skills like robotics, woodworking and coding along with environmental stewardship as part of the Girls in STEM program. Through afterschool, weekend, summer and school class programs, girls from elementary, middle and high school worked with Discovery Place educators and local STEM professionals to build skills and envision future STEM careers. The program was made possible through generous support from Bank of America.

HOW DO WE PROVIDE OPPORTUNITY?

Discovery Place Kids-Rockingham introduced its first class of youth development interns, made possible by a generous grant from The Cole Foundation. These paid internships provided four teens the chance to master science content, develop education skills and engage with the public in an informal education environment.
WHO’S BEHIND THE WHEEL?
For one special day, kids got behind the wheels and under the hoods of construction trucks, first responder vehicles, 18-wheelers, mini-excavators and more at the first ever Touch A Truck event, hosted by Discovery Place Kids-Huntersville and Central Piedmont Community College.

WHO’S THE WINNER?
At the annual Run for the Ribbons race through downtown Rockingham, this year’s winner was everyone. With the largest field in race history, more than 560 runners and their families learned about healthy lifestyle choices while Discovery Place Kids-Rockingham and FirstHealth Richmond Memorial Hospital Foundation benefitted from almost $15,000 raised by the community.
Discovery Place Nature was a hive of activity as the Museum’s honeybees began producing their first season of honey. Our certified Museum beekeepers tended the hives while providing interactive opportunities for guests to observe and ask questions.
WHAT'S INSIDE MY BODY?

How do I stay healthy? Can I help find a cure? Visitors explored these questions and more in the new Being Me exhibition and Explore More Me lab at Discovery Place Science. These new experiences are presented by The Leon Levine Foundation and Atrium Health.
HOW CAN I CONNECT WITH THE ENVIRONMENT?

At Discovery Place Nature, visitors get close to live plants and animals native to the Piedmont and participate in hands-on experiences. From the starry skies to our feathered friends, the Museum’s education programs are designed to build appreciation and understanding of the natural world.

WHAT WILL I BE WHEN I GROW UP?

Through a partnership with Atrium Health, students explored the vast array of opportunities in health services through the Day in the Life series. Once a month, professionals from Atrium spent the day at Discovery Place Science introducing visitors to careers in nursing, radiology, research and more through technology, simulation and hands-on activities.
WHAT HAPPENS WHEN MIND AND BODY COME TOGETHER?

Guests explored these connections at One Night Wonder, Discovery Place’s annual celebration of wonder that raises support for our educational programs and experiences serving students and families throughout the Carolinas.
BY THE NUMBERS  JULY 1, 2017 - JUNE 30, 2018

763,729 TOTAL MUSEUM ATTENDANCE

- Discovery Place Science: 430,265
- Discovery Place Nature: 71,927
- Discovery Place Kids-Huntersville: 182,286
- Discovery Place Kids-Rockingham: 33,383
- Outreach and Offsite Programs: 45,868

MUSEUM SPACE

236,300 TOTAL SQUARE FEET

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

VOLUNTEERS AND STAFF

- 10,478 Active Member Households
- 132,214 Students Reached (on site & offsite)
- 13,410 Adults attended Science on the Rocks
- 61,844 Welcome Visitors
- 2,217 Outreach Programs
- 3,849 Educators Trained at DPES

- Full Time Staff: 119
- Part Time Staff: 69
- Volunteers: 517
- Total Staff & Volunteers: 705

Active Member Households: 10,478
Students Reached (on site & offsite): 132,214
Adults attended Science on the Rocks: 13,410
Welcome Visitors: 61,844
Outreach Programs: 2,217
Educators Trained at DPES: 3,849
Full Time Staff: 119
Part Time Staff: 69
Volunteers: 517
Total Staff & Volunteers: 705
FINANCIALS JULY 1, 2017 - JUNE 30, 2018

UNRESTRICTED OPERATIONS REVENUE* $25,221,659

- Admission and Programs
- Membership
- Other Earned Revenue
- Arts & Science Council
- Other Contributions
- Net Assets Released from Restrictions
- Contributed Assets including gifts of real estate
- Government & Other Commitments for Buildings/Services
- City of Charlotte Renovation Support
- Government Awards

*Does not include temporarily restricted contributions - $2,293,145

UNRESTRICTED OPERATIONS EXPENDITURES* $16,490,461

- Programs and Collections
- Guest Services and Amenities
- Marketing and Communications
- Management and General
- Advancement
- Exhibits and Theaters

* Does not include depreciation - $1,793,313
We gratefully acknowledge these individuals, foundations, organizations and corporations who made a donation to Discovery Place between July 1, 2017 and June 30, 2018.

**$1,000,000+**
City of Charlotte
Bank of America

**$750,000 - $999,000**
Arts & Science Council

**$500,000 - $750,000**
Town of Huntersville
Ingersoll Rand

**$250,000 - $449,000**
Atrium Health
City of Rockingham
Duke Energy Foundation
Lowe's
NC Science Museums Grant Program
The Leon Levine Foundation

**$50,000 - $99,000**
Appalachian State University
Community Foundation of Richmond County
Crescent Communities
I-77 Mobility Partners
Institute of Museum and Library Services
Publix Supermarket Charities
Richmond County
The Charlotte Knights
The Cole Foundation
The Sean and Andrea Smith Family Fund
Thrive Fund

**$25,000 - $49,999**
Albemarle Foundation
American Airlines
BASF
Clariant Corporation
Compass Group North America
Martin and Leah Foley
GE Foundation
Dale F. Halton and Fred Wagner
Jane and Luther Lockwood
Richard Mathias/Mathias Family Trust
Mecklenburg County
OrthoCarolina
Rodgers Builders
ShurTape
Emery Wister Endowment Fund

**$10,000 - $24,999**
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AXA Foundation
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Capital Bank
Freida and Hugh Cathey
Betty Fleming and Ed Weisger
Flying Fish
HoopTee Charities
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Little Diversified
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PNC
PricewaterhouseCoopers
The Foundation of FirstHealth
UTC Aerospace Systems

**$6,000 - $9,999**
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**$3,000 - $5,999**
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Foundation For The Carolinas
C.W. and Catherine Gilchrist Endowment Fund
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Hudson Paving
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Lois and Harrison Steans
The Dickson Foundation
Lindsey White and Kellen Nixon
Karen and Kim Western
Tifferney M. White

Anonymous (2)
AREVA
Association of Science-Technology Centers, Incorporated
Joclyn and John Baland
Joan and Russell Bennett
Margot and Charles Brinley

$1,000 - $1,499

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