

**BOARD OF FINANCE & BOARD OF REPRESENTATIVES  
MARCH 28/APRIL 25 OPERATING & CAPITAL PRESENTATION  
CITY DEPARTMENTS & OUTSIDE AGENCIES  
BUDGET PRESENTATION OUTLINE FY 2018.19  
STAMFORD MUSEUM & NATURE CENTER**

**MISSION STATEMENT**

The Stamford Museum & Nature Center is dedicated to the preservation and interpretation of art and popular culture, the natural and agricultural sciences, and history. The Museum is a vital cultural and educational resource for the community, and a focal point for family activity and interaction. We seek to inspire creativity, foster self-discovery, promote environmental stewardship, and nurture an appreciation for lifelong learning through exhibits, educational programs, and special events that enhance the visitor's experience of our unique site.

**Review of 2018.19 Budget Request**

<b>SM&amp;NC 2018.19 request</b>	<b>\$1,305,000</b>
<b>Mayor Martin recommendation (3.5%):</b>	<b>\$1,248,000</b>
<b>Board of Finance recommendation</b>	<b>\$ Please, no further reductions</b>

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**The SM&NC Visitor Experience & Annual Economic Impact – 2016 Survey & Study**  
Conducted by Jeff Hughes, CCRG Marketing, Buffalo, New York

**Delivering a Quality Experience – A Beloved Organization**

From the Survey, 99 percent of respondents rated their experience at the SM&NC as either "Excellent" or "Very Good."

**Keeping Good Company**

A Net Promoter Score is based on a visitor's willingness to recommend the SM&NC to friends and family members. The SM&NC NPS is extremely high, at 72 percent. This score puts the SM&NC in the company of some of America's leading brands, such as Apple, Costco, Nordstrom, and Amazon.

**Economic Impact of Annual Operations & Profound Return on Investment for Stamford**

From the SM&NC 2016.17 Operating Budget of \$3.5 million, ongoing annual operations generated \$7.8 million in local economic activity and is responsible for 80 local jobs.

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**Our Community Program Impact & Successes from 2016.17**

Since 1936, the Stamford Museum & Nature Center is a 501 (c) (3) private, non-profit has served as Stamford's museum and by 1955, one of the largest nature-based educational institutions in the state and the largest in the City of Stamford.

- From our 2016.17 Audited Financials, 80% of our operating budget goes directly to support the delivery of programs and services for our constituencies.
- Over **200,000 visitors served** annually from Stamford and the shoulder communities
- We have over **7,500 Member participants**
- With the launch of the **SM&NC Salon Series** of cultural and social programs such as Farm-To-Table suppers, author talks, OctoberFest, and the Sunday Farm Market, we have connected more than 10,800 adults back to the joy of the SM&NC.



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- Three **seasonal Weekend Festivals** serve some 9,000 guests, plus 87 weekend programs ***Sunday Explorers*** and ***Market Madness*** engaged 16,735 family participants.
- Founded as **Stamford's fine arts museum** in 1936, we present six major exhibitions of art, natural history, popular culture attracting an average of 31,000 culturally minded visitors to the museum experience annually.
- **SM&NC-Aligned-with-the-Schools**, currently serves 34,000 children from 144 public, private, and parochial schools --- from Stamford to Bridgeport --- including every Stamford public school with emphasis on Title 1 youth.
- **Learning comes alive here.** Based on regular Pre & Post-Visit evaluations, an example of outcomes: for 312 students in grades 2-5, their summative performance showed a 60% increase in correct answers after their immersion with our expert environmental educators who complement and supplement school classroom lessons.
- ***Wild Woods Adventures; Seasons on The Farm, and WildPlay Farm & Forest Explorers*** After-School programs numbered 241 connecting over 2,800 students to our campus.
- Full-day & half-day Summer Camp experiences engaged 490 campers with 1050 sessions of summer wonder.
- **Heckscher WILD!** welcomed 38,000 guests with 80 programs bringing world habitats to life with live animals.
- State-certified **SM&NC Art, Nature & Me Pre-School** engages 112 3 & 4-year olds in 13,800 school days annually.
- We take great pride in being the best complement and supplement to public education.
- 650 volunteers contributed 8,710 hours of service, valued at \$200,000.
- We are the model for getting children out of doors for experiential education to promote a healthy mind and spirit for all children and families regardless of their financial means.

**Key Goals for 2017.18**

- **Maintain and grow our SM&NC service to the Stamford community** through strategic school and community collaborations and the development of exhibition and programming initiatives designed to meet the needs and interests of family and school audiences. We have developed a whole new **Salon Series** to engage new, multi-generational audiences in the SM&NC and build strong family ties.
- **Promote improvements to the site and facility** with adaptive re-use and creative new programs that will continue our dynamic audience development. Our **Summer Farm Market** served over 15,000 shoppers with great fresh market produce We launched a new **Farm-To-Table Supper Series** in September 2014, with great success.
- Our 2018 **SM&NC Farm Market** will again engage over 15,000 shoppers and amplify our position as Stamford's nature center with the working Heckscher Farm for Children showcasing our organic garden, maple sugaring operation, apple cidering demonstrations, and many other farm-based activities. The SM&NC Farm Market is a logical extension of our farm-based agricultural programming and a wonderful community offering and service. We are committed to owning the locavore and artisanal food movement.
- **Continue offering FREE bus transportation for public school children** which allows us to actively reach out to new school groups who have limited or no funds for field trips. We have secured bus transportation funding from private sources.



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The following table illustrates our educational and community service impact for the calendar years 2016 and 2017:

Stamford Museum & Nature Center	2017	2016	Difference
	Participants	Participants	
General Admission	113,247	103,454	9%
Community Event Days	13,822	17,717	-22%
Regional Camp Visits	3,583	3,195	12%
SM&NC Camp Programs	4,300	3,802	13%
Pre-School Programs	16,644	16,524	1%
SM&NC-In- Schools & Onsite	43,583	43,133	1%
Volunteers	3,684	3,872	-5%
Facility Use	4,265	5,007	-15%
<b>Total</b>	<b>203,128</b>	<b>196,703</b>	<b>3%</b>

**Human Capital & Budget Management for Cost Reductions**

For 2017.18 we are actively managing to an ever-changing fundraising climate and have done the following to maintain essential educational service to the community:

**Infrastructure Savings & Cost Management**

[ \$97,000 ]

- Revised Operations and Farm management positions. Promoted from within to cover duties through re-balanced Operations staff hours.
- Eliminate Operations over-time except for emergencies and weather events.
- Continued work with DAXKO, an on-line registration and data management system, to reduce administrative redundancy of registration functions for further cost savings.
- SM&NC negotiates all key annual contracts.
- Health Insurance program is competitively reviewed each year and over the last eight years we have changed our insurance plans each year to mitigate rate increases that would have ranged from 15% - 30%. For instance, for 2018, we set up a self-insurance high deductible policy. The policy avoided a 20% increase. [ \$25,000 ]
- Employees must pay the total premiums of all elective insurance – including family health insurance, dental insurance, STD insurance and vision insurance. [ \$20,000 ]
- Locked in electricity rates to reduce its exposure to ever-increasing energy costs. The rates will carry through 2019. [ \$10,000 ]
- Successfully competing for Neighborhood Assistance Act funds to address various capital projects in 2017-2018. The projects improve energy efficiency and conservation, such as window replacement, centralized AC units, and insulation. [ \$32,000 ]
- Competitive bidding (minimum of 3 bids) on all capital projects is the norm.
- Tracked individual staff activity by function/task to minimize workers comp expense. [ \$10,000 ]
- Significant and robust Volunteer Corps of over 600 serves all of our public events and fundraisers.
- Use part-time staff and volunteers to handle demonstrations on event days, and Visitor Service staff as security in the galleries and as docents on the property.



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**Operating & Programmatic Savings**

- Rigorously monitor maintenance and operations expenses throughout the year.
- Carefully managed expenses carefully on utilities, security services, insurance.

**Revenue Generation – Helping Ourselves**

- Continue to increase program and camp fees incrementally to deliver popular service.
- The new **Heckscher WILD!** live animal program has generated revenues through exhibitions and programming for both on-site and off-site locations to individual visitors and to organizations such as libraries, summer camps and schools.
- We continue to offer school programs on-site, off-site, during school and after school to serve the community – and generate increasing income.
- Always looking for innovation and piloting new ideas such as the **SM&NC Salon Series** speakers to engender more appeal to the adult community.
- Constantly prospecting for Business Affiliates Membership program even though results are challenging from a beleaguered corporate community.
- Our “signature” education-based **Weekend Family Festivals** are designed to generate important general operating support and corporate sponsorship.
- Budget development and annual program planning are mission-driven and maximize efficiency in covering the cost of public programs and events. We review the effectiveness of all events and programs in their contribution to the mission and/or the financial status of the organization.
- Continue to recruit additional support to backfill reductions or total loss of former supporters such as GE, Aquarion Water Company, Seaboard Properties, Cohen Foundation, Stokke, and BMW North America.
- Our largest fundraiser, the 81st Anniversary Wine & Food Celebration, will celebrate long-time annual donors to our operations.
- Social media, email marketing, and a robust website have become extremely cost effective tools in promoting activities and events to our constituency.
- Through contributions and earned income, the SM&NC raises 66% of its operating funds through business areas annually.

**As a high-performance, best practice organization, the SM&NC addresses the financial status of every area of business regularly to “anticipate results” and “create-and-adjust” for improvements.**

- Ongoing review of Anticipated Results from the Director of Finance and the Executive Director & CEO keeps us on track to forecasts. Our Finance Committee, Executive Committee, and the Board of Directors review progress and challenges on a monthly basis.
- Each department measures its financial performance against comparison to Prior Year Performance and current year Budget Goals. Departments perform monthly review of financial statements to control expenses and build income to budget goals.
- All public programs, exhibitions, and events are targeted to budget projections for attainable and stretch growth.
- Performance is monitored with a comparison to previous year and current year goals. After each event, the staff meets to “debrief” in order to refine and improve our service and success.



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**Cost Analysis and Spending Priorities**

**Breakout of Total Department Spending:** The following table depicts SM&NC spending by department. The break-out of expenses by department ties out to projected budget for 2017.18. The analysis accounts for direct expenses and allocates overhead expenses to estimate total spending by department.

Departments	
Early Childhood Education	\$900,000
Education & School Programs	576,000
Heckscher Farm	600,000
Exhibitions	280,000
Community Events	80,000
Visitor Services	350,000
Finance, HR, & Administration	290,000
Development & Marketing	430,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$3,506,000</b>

**What drives our program costs?**

- Program costs are driven by qualified professional staff, supplies, and operations on our complex 118 acre campus.
- We review all programs within the parameters of our mission of educational service to the community, the program's income-generating capacity, and our ability to raise contributed income from corporate, foundation, and individual sources.
- Continued diligent departmental oversight of expenses against annual revenue goals and stretch goals.
- Continued focus on what we do BEST as an educational institution and deliver our programs and events with every economy.
- Cutting into the heart of our mission-based school & family programs is a slippery slope. Program elimination has repercussions that devalue the institution and will have a ripple effect on other earned income areas, such as Membership and Admission. Why join? Why come?

**2018.19 Challenges**

Since the historic 2009.10 City of Stamford 25% (\$328,000) cut in funding, the corporate community and key donors are beleaguered with requests. We are seeing reductions and cuts from our funders as they spread themselves thinner. (We are weathering reductions in corporate and foundation support for 2017.18.) We are working diligently to mine new contributors and sponsors.

**Board of Finance Members:** Mayor David Martin's proposed re-instatement of a portion of funding for the SM&NC is powerful. Please support this proposed incremental increase at a critical time.

**SM&NC Long Range Strategic Goals**

- (1) Serve as the premiere focal point for family and community activity and interaction.
- (2) Continue to be the leading nature-based educational resource for the community.
- (3) Enhance the visitor experience of the SM&NC site.
- (4) Increase earned and contributed income to build institutional capacity for the future.
- (5) Strengthen our institutional identity and community outreach (build the brand).
- (6) Build Board leadership, staff, and financial capacity for the future.



**Stamford Museum and Nature Center  
Comparative Financial Statements  
Board of Finance 2018.19 Budget Comparison**

**DRAFT  
CONFIDENTIAL**

	2017.18 w/ Anticipated Results			2018/2019 Budget		
	2017/2018 Budget	Adjustments	Anticipated Results	2018.19 Budget (6 months Farmhouse)	\$ Adjustments	%
<b>Revenues</b>						
Contributions	\$ 255,000	\$ (10,000)	\$ 245,000	\$ 255,000	10,000	4.1%
Annual Appeal	70,000	-	70,000	75,000	5,000	7.1%
NAA	33,600	(1,600)	32,000	0	(32,000)	-100.0%
Fund-Raising Events	140,000	(10,000)	130,000	140,000	10,000	7.7%
Membership	300,000	(5,000)	295,000	300,000	5,000	1.7%
Adult Programming	2,000	-	2,000	2,000	-	0.0%
Facility Use	110,000	(10,000)	100,000	125,000	25,000	25.0%
Gate House	33,000	-	33,000	34,000	1,000	3.0%
Classes (Summer Camp)		-				
Pre-School	625,000	20,000	645,000	665,000	20,000	3.1%
Camp	170,000	-	170,000	190,000	20,000	11.8%
Other	14,000	-	14,000	15,000	1,000	7.1%
Groups	210,000	(20,000)	190,000	220,000	30,000	15.8%
Admission	185,000	-	185,000	215,000	30,000	16.2%
Events	90,000	(30,000)	60,000	100,000	40,000	66.7%
Investment Allocation	500	-	500	500	-	0.0%
Sales-Retail	60,000	(5,000)	55,000	65,000	10,000	18.2%
Other	7,000	-	7,000	7,000	-	0.0%
City of Stamford	1,205,000	-	1,205,000	1,248,000	43,000	3.6%
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>3,510,100</b>	<b>(71,600)</b>	<b>3,438,500</b>	<b>3,656,500</b>	<b>218,000</b>	<b>6.3%</b>
<b>Expenses</b>						
Compensation	1,885,000	(35,000)	1,850,000	1,975,000	125,000	6.8%
Payroll Taxes	150,000	(5,000)	150,000	160,000	10,000	6.7%
Benefits Other Comp	208,000	(34,000)	174,000	204,000	30,000	17.2%
Professional Services	175,000	(20,000)	155,000	175,000	20,000	12.9%
Supplies	155,000	-	155,000	160,000	5,000	3.2%
Equipment	50,000	-	50,000	50,000	-	0.0%
Exhibitions	85,000	-	85,000	95,000	10,000	11.8%
Repairs & Maintenance	230,000	-	230,000	250,000	20,000	8.7%
Farm Operations	100,000	-	100,000	115,000	15,000	15.0%
Utilities	110,000	-	110,000	120,000	10,000	9.1%
Brochures & Print	75,000	(10,000)	65,000	75,000	10,000	15.4%
Postage	20,000	-	20,000	25,000	5,000	25.0%
Advertising & Marketing	25,000	-	25,000	35,000	10,000	40.0%
Meetings & Dues	16,000	5,000	21,000	20,000	(1,000)	-4.8%
Insurance	115,000	(5,000)	110,000	120,000	10,000	9.1%
Merchandise Purchase	30,000	(2,000)	28,000	33,000	5,000	17.9%
Bank Fees	27,000	-	27,000	27,000	-	0.0%
Misc (cap-ex required)	50,000	30,000	80,000	17,000	(63,000)	-78.8%
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>3,506,000</b>	<b>(76,000)</b>	<b>3,435,000</b>	<b>3,656,000</b>	<b>221,000</b>	<b>6.4%</b>
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>\$ 4,100</b>	<b>\$ 4,400</b>	<b>\$ 3,500</b>	<b>\$ 500</b>	<b>\$ (3,000)</b>	



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Stamford Museum  
& Nature Center

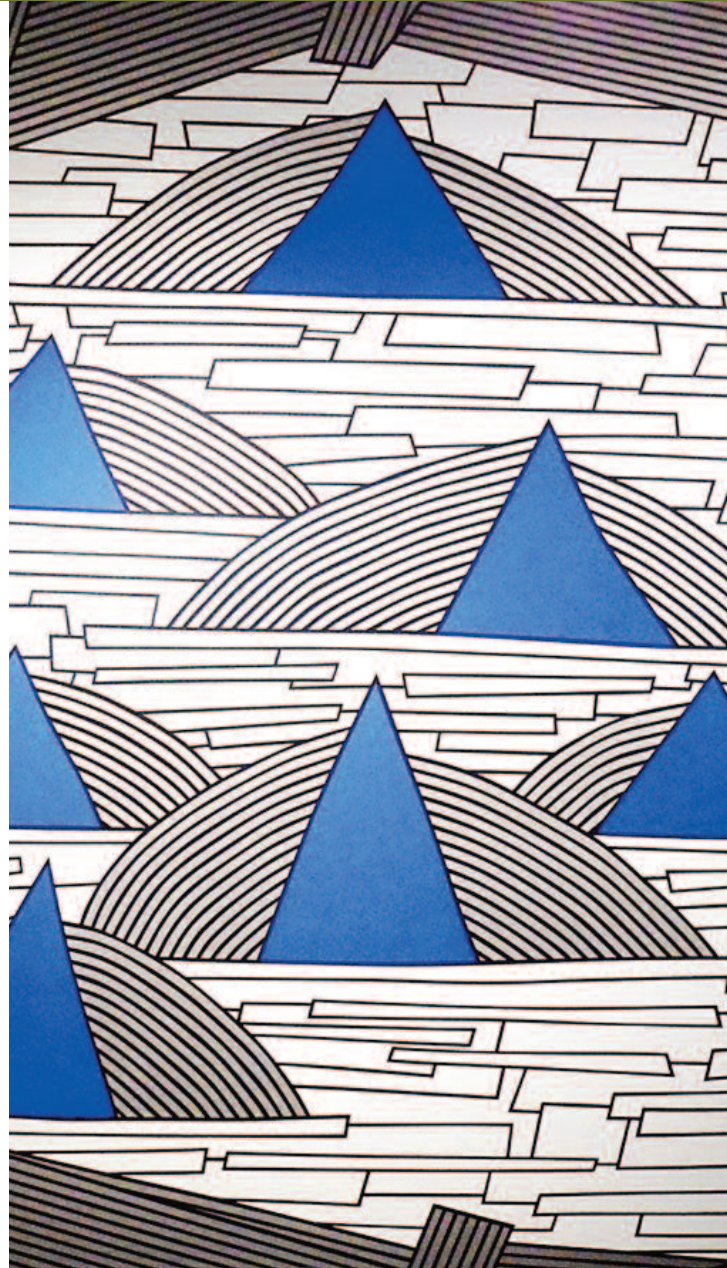
Stamford Museum & Nature Center  
SM&NC Education Programs Top Sheet

	FY 2016.17	FY 2015.16	FY 2014.15	FY 2013.14	FY 2012.13	FY 2011.12	FY 2010.11	FY 2009.10	FY 2008.09
<b>SM&amp;NC In-the-Schools Program</b>									
On-Site School Programs	807	776	720	732	638	505	469	450	369
On-Site Program Participants	16,727	16,072	15,142	15,322	13,262	10,202	10,100	7959	7190
Year-Over-Year +4%									
In-School Programs	918	875	798	522	471	243	134	50	108
In-School Program Participants	17,946	17,278	16,432	9,892	8,961	5255	3,150	1250	2160
Year-Over-Year +4%									
Total Number of Programs	1725	1651	1518	1254	1109	748	603	500	477
Number of Students Served	34,673	33,350	31,574	25,214	22,223	15,457	13,250	9209	9350
Year-Over-Year + 4.5%									
Total Number of Schools Served	144	144	140	132	119	105	95	90	73
Year-Over-Year +0%									
<b>SM&amp;NC After-School Programs</b>									
Number of After-School Programs	247	241	253	235	163	108	96	70	50
After-School Program Participants	2,816	2,651	2,783	2,597	1927	1228	1122	720	540
Year-Over-Year +6%									
<b>SM&amp;NC Summer Camp</b>									
Summer Sessions	1050	955	929	965	992	916	883	895	772
Individual Campers	575	468	468	522	513	415	335	369	302
Year-Over-Year +10%									
<b>SM&amp;NC Public Programs</b>									
Total Programs	126	87	85	75	73	75	40	21	15
Total Participants	16,735	15,486	15,018	12,385	12,109	12,046	5,099	1,216	699
Astronomy Program Participants	1127	1350	950	1250	1200	1264	1794	1224	1550
Outdoor Adventures Participants	175	220	215	262	250	220	121	428	175
Take-A-Hike Week Attendance	915	205	884	1175	1288	825	770	150	522
Junior Curator Program Hours	2200	2200	2200	2200	2200	2000	1250	1200	1125
<b>SM&amp;NC Early Childhood</b>									
Pre-School Students Enrolled	105	125	136	135	130	100	105	106	106
Parent/Child Class Participants	434	516	484	570	498	568	307	600	720
Heckscher WILD! (opened 3/17/15)									
Exhibit Attendance	37,847	37,228	15,338						
Public Programs Offered	81	70	74						
Public Program Attendance	1001	1057	1112						





## Support the Extraordinary



**ANNUAL REPORT 2016.17**





## Mission

The Stamford Museum & Nature Center is dedicated to the preservation and interpretation of art and popular culture, the natural and agricultural sciences, and history. The Museum is a vital cultural and educational resource for the community, and a focal point for family activity and interaction. We seek to inspire creativity, foster self-discovery, promote environmental stewardship, and nurture an appreciation for lifelong learning through exhibitions, educational programs, and special events that enhance the visitor's experience of our unique site.

## Board of Directors 2016.17

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Melissa H. Mulrooney  
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### ON THE COVER

Detail, Nicholas Krushenick, *Humongous American Feather Company*, 1990, Acrylic on canvas.

*We are grateful to Purdue Pharma L.P. for their generous pro bono printing of our 2016.17 Annual Report.*



## A Vision Realized – Now & For Future Generations

We are pleased to report that the Stamford Museum & Nature Center has finished another outstanding year with solid financial performance and exciting plans for the future. From humble beginnings in 1936 in a three-room office in downtown Stamford, we have grown to be Stamford's premier nature-based destination, offering a rich canvas of educational programs, exhibitions, and special events, both as Stamford's Museum and as Stamford's beloved Nature Center.

This year marks a milestone in our history as we prepare to construct the first new capital additions to our museum in over 50 years. The Phase I and II projects envisioned by our Master Plan will be nothing short of transformative and include our new **Environmental Education Farmhouse** located at the top of Heckscher Farm, as well as a re-imagined state of the art **Observatory & Planetarium complex**.

In 2016.17, we entered the quiet phase of this extraordinary \$15 million Capital Campaign focused on leadership gifts as a model for a public-private partnership with funding from the State, the City of Stamford, and donors who care deeply about our future service to the region.

We still have a ways to go with our fundraising, but we are excited by the additional educational capacity these projects will bring to the Museum and the how they will enhance our service to the Community and the region. We are most grateful to Carole and Michael Fedele for leading our **Campaign For Future Generations** with their wisdom and devotion to the Stamford Museum & Nature Center.

Every day we are guided by our exceptional mission, which touches all aspects of our institution and challenges us to scale new heights of service. We are committed to these five key aspects of that vision:

1. Our aspiration to be THE regional resource for environmental and natural science education and **to teach our children well** from a diverse palette of offerings.
2. To be an innovative and challenging cultural arts **teacher** through our art and exhibitions program. And in the coming year we will be focused on a new signature series of Adult Programs to engage our lifelong learning audience.
3. To get children out-of-doors and engaged in the natural world around them. We are deeply committed to Richard Louv's "no child left inside" movement.
4. To explore and develop our community role and our opportunities to enhance environmental programs, astronomy, social engagement, and our unique position as Stamford's largest and most diverse nature-based organization.
5. To engage a committed audience of funders – Premiere Partners, Business Affiliates, major donors, and our devoted Members.

We are grateful to our membership, donors, and community for their continued support of our mission. We are also pleased to know that our efforts to enhance our unique position as Stamford's fine arts museum and our commitment to being a premier center for environmental, agriculture science, and nature education has earned the



**Melissa H. Mulrooney, Executive Director & CEO, and William M. Aron, President of the Board of Directors.**

SM&NC ever-growing numbers of members and visitors. Overall, the Stamford Museum & Nature Center attracted over 200,000 visitors in 2016.17, yet another increase year to year. Most notably, our educators touched the minds of 34,000 students in 144 schools through the region, including every public school in Stamford and most every private.

Our thanks go to the SM&NC staff for all of the excellent work they have done to bring us through another winning year of program success. Special appreciation is due to Melissa H. Mulrooney, who this year enjoyed her 12th anniversary as our Executive Director & CEO. Her commitment to excellence and best practices is held as a model for all of us. Our shared success is measured in our rising profile as a spectacular cultural and educational force for the City of Stamford and the region.

We are deeply grateful to Governor Dannel P. Malloy for his confidence in our **Campaign for Future Generations** and the State of Connecticut's commitment to our success. We wish to thank Mayor David R. Martin and the City of Stamford for their continued public-private partnership with us – assisting us with capital and operating support with the clear understanding of our value and economic development impact. We are deeply grateful.

Here's to another wonderful year of service and to our magnificent future! In the following pages, you will see terrific outcomes from our collective work together in 2016.17. Melissa and I hope all of you will join with us for another year of enrichment and engagement. You and your families are vital to our success.

With warmest thanks for of your continued support and delight in the SM&NC!

**William M. Aron**  
President

**Melissa H. Mulrooney**  
Executive Director & CEO



## Volunteers & Community Support

During 2016 - 17, the Stamford Museum & Nature Center enjoyed the support of over 750 volunteers, who collectively donated 9,100 hours of their time. Some highlights of our volunteer program include:

In good weather and bad, volunteers assisted the staff on Heckscher Farm with all daily aspects of animal care and general maintenance.

A virtual army of youth and adult volunteers kept our festivals and special events running smoothly by helping with food tents, arts & crafts, demonstrations, face painting, hayrides, attendance counting, parking, monitoring the galleries, and more.

The **20th Annual Food & Wine Celebration** was a great success due to the tireless efforts of our volunteer Wine Tasting Committee, who worked from November through June to plan and execute this fabulous fundraising event.

A dedicated group of individual volunteers came to our offices every week to help with mailings, data entry, computer research, and other administrative tasks.

The SM&NC was fortunate to have the support of local corporations such as Ernst & Young, Frontier Communications, Indeed, JP Morgan Chase, Legg Mason, Pitney Bowes, RSM US, and State Street Global Advisors. These generous corporate partners not only supplied almost 500 hours of volunteer service, but in many cases also provided funds to purchase the necessary materials. These groups



Volunteers from Pitney Bowes, Inc.

painted exterior and interior spaces; planted trees, bushes and flowers; maintained our trails; weeded; stacked firewood for the maple sugar house; spread wood chips; erected fences; and so much more.

Other groups such as Future Five, University of Michigan Alumni, the Stamford Garden Club, Brunswick School, Boy Scouts of America, and the BiCultural Day School pitched in with a wide variety of projects.

We thank all the corporate groups, school groups, families and individuals who offer their help throughout the year. It's because of you that our festivals, programs, special events, and overall mission continue to thrive.



Volunteers from the University of Michigan Alumni Association.



Our Junior Curators program gives children the opportunity to learn about service, animal care, and farm life.



## Our Educational Footprint



Malinda Sears, Environmental Education Supervisor, teaches a class about exotic animals in Heckscher WILD!

For the 7th consecutive year, the reach of our signature education program, **SM&NC Aligned-With-the-Schools**, saw another year of growth. Almost 38,000 students, from 144 schools and organizations, participated in our school and afterschool programs within the 2016.17 school year. We saw an increase in farm-based education and geography and social studies classes, with our seasonal stars Maple Syrupping and Apple Cider continuing to remain strong. Our team of Environmental and Farm educators delivered 1,725 programs in total, a 4.5 percent increase. Both in-school and on-site programs saw approximate 4 percent increases in programming respectively.

Our educational programming continues to expand through our area communities, with students from New Haven to New York City visiting our site for immersive opportunities to explore, learn, and discover. Once again, the generous support of local foundations allowed us to provide transportation to more than 1,000 area students who otherwise would not have the opportunity to visit the SM&NC. We also completed the second year of a program with the City of Stamford introducing the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) to Stamford elementary schools. Last year every Stamford 1st grader came to the SM&NC for an interactive program on insects, focusing on the differences between the structure and function of terrestrial and aquatic insects.

Through contract programming, the SM&NC education staff is able to provide hands-on environmental education experiences throughout the school year. With schools such as Stanwich, Selma Maisel Nursery School, Childcare Learning Centers, and the Children's School, we are able to build on curricula through regular visits with students from September-June. Our Discovery Spaces, areas within the school maintained by SM&NC and designed with live animals or science activities, allow for another level of interaction with schools.

Our **Heckscher WILD!** Exhibit continues to be a strong draw for both school groups and public visitors. We again welcomed over 37,000 visitors to the exhibit this year, totaling almost 100,000 people since opening in 2015. Our 40-plus species of teaching animals from across the globe provide visitors with amazing opportunities for interactions through feedings, demonstrations, and other programming.

Our **Art, Nature & Me Preschool** completed another year as the area's premier nature-and play-based school for area preschoolers. Over 100 three-and four-year olds attended two, three, or five days a week in morning and afternoon sessions, led by our team of amazing Early Childhood Educators.



## Art & Material Culture Exhibitions

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Our annual family exhibitions schedule continues to follow the successful seasonal rhythm of exhibitions that feature art, natural history, and American pop culture.

Two live ant farms were the highlight of the *FARMERS, WARRIORS, BUILDERS: The Secret Life of Ants* summer exhibition presented by the



Christel Truglia, Lolita Valderrama Savage, Melissa H. Mulrooney, Governor Dannel P. Malloy, and State Senator Carlo Leone at the Opening Reception for *Art of LOLITA Valderrama Savage: Nature of Tuscany, Stamford & Beyond*.

Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibitions Service. The fall featured a spectacular international festival of art, music, food, and cultural exchange for the opening of the *Art of LOLITA Valderrama Savage: Nature of Tuscany, Stamford & Beyond* featuring original impressionistic landscapes by internationally acclaimed artist and Stamford resident Lolita Valderrama Savage. Superheroes saved the day in the 4th annual *BILLION BRICKS: Super Heroes in Gotham* LEGO exhibition that featured brick-built models of iconic New York City buildings as well as Wayne Manor, Clark Kent's childhood farm, and five different versions of the Batmobile. Spring brought an amazing collection of photographs by the Women Photographers of Connecticut in *POWERFUL YET FRAGILE: Waterways of Connecticut*. A delightful "pop-up" exhibition kicked off the opening of the new ReClaimed ReCreations Makerspace in the former Children's Corner. "Bella the Bride", a wedding dress created from TYVEK by artist Nancy Judd and lent by Terri Shank of Beacon Converters, Inc., was featured in the Bendel Gallery along with a recycled art piece, "Letting Loose" by local artist, June Ahrens.

## SM&NC Permanent Collections

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- "Portrait of Monsieur Wolf" was the focus of a Curator's Talk by Kirsten Reinhardt (formerly Brophy) at the "John Singer Sargent...Accepts with Pleasure" exhibition held in the H. Pelham Curtis Gallery at the New Canaan Public Library on October 15, 2016.
- The permanent collection was the cover story of the Sunday Arts & Style Section of the Advocate on Sunday November 20, 2016.



Alexander Wust, *Midsummer, Montclair, NJ*, circa 1873.

- "Midsummer, Montclair, NJ" by Alexander Wust was the focus of a Curator's Talk, "Fakes, Forgeries & Misrepresentations" by Kirsten Reinhardt, at the Loft Artists Landscape Painting Exhibition opening on January 5, 2017.
- Fourteen works of art and historical objects from the collection were featured at the **First Annual Benefit Dinner** held on March 9, 2017 at the Rockrimmon Country Club in Stamford. Highlights were the pedal cars, a print by Krushenick, paintings by Drewes and Foote, as well as sculptures by Nakian, Borglum, and Polasek.
- A signed sketch of a female nude by Raphael Soyer was a Museum purchase. Two oil paintings (portraits) by noted Stamford artist Loran F. Wilford and one oil painting (landscape) by noted Stamford artist Delos Palmer were donated by Stamford resident and WWII veteran, Frank J. Agastino.
- All of the identified books from the library of naturalist Edward F. Bigelow (44.26.1-300+) were deaccessioned and transferred to the archives of the Bruce Museum. Five paintings and 42 prints, originally deaccessioned in 2007-2008, were auctioned at the Stair Gallery in Hudson, NY.



## Heckscher Farm

Another set of seasons has passed on our productive Heckscher Farm; a year that saw changes and growth. Our maple season reminded us how much nature is “in charge” as we produced only 32 gallons of syrup this year due to the challenges brought by the weather. Staff did a full inventory of our sugarbush areas, retiring some trees and adding new trees to the tap list in preparation for the 2018 season. Cheshire Barn, one of the jewels of Heckscher Farm, received new windows, due to a generous grant from the New Canaan Community Foundation. Our Organic vegetable garden grew to new heights as staff experimented with vertical structures to increase variety and yield. Over a half dozen species of varietal corn was grown to coincide with our summer *Maize: Mysteries of an Ancient Grain* exhibition, and all summer these crops provided food for animals, staff, and programming.

The farm welcomed 16 chicks, 8 ducklings, 17 kids, 16 lambs, and Meg, the first alpaca cria born on the farm in 13 years. We also saw the first year of Heckscher Farmers, a program designed to give summer campers in grades 1-4, a small-group, hands-on experience in farming. The program was met with resounding success with a 100% enrollment with wait list.



Meg, the first alpaca cria born on the farm in 13 years, with mother Rosie.



Visitors enjoyed supporting local businesses at our Sunday Farm Market this summer.

Our **SM&NC Sunday Farm Market** kicked off another successful year, with great new vendors and returning favorites. The Heckscher Farm stand sold our own eggs, wool, and syrup, as well as items like meat and milk, in partnership with other local farms. Our market-based Edible Science series bridged food and science, as participants discovered secrets of their favorite foods, such as elasticity of dough, while exploring where our food comes from.



## Capital Improvements

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The work to maintain and improve our 118 acre site never ceases. This past fiscal year saw the planning of several large-scale projects which will benefit the space and our members and visitors for years to come. One such project was the demolition and reconstruction of new handicap bathrooms at **Heckscher WILD!**, along with the construction of a new Chicken Coop, currently being renovated by Tancreti Construction. Work is also underway, by Montagno Construction, for building the new **SM&NC**

**Farmhouse and Environmental Education Center**, in addition to new paddocks and parking area in coordination with the City of Stamford. Tied to this project is the creation of a new surface area, including a new 20 yard storage container, for sugar maple equipment to be stored during construction. This construction will be a major asset to our site and will greatly improve the visiting experience for individuals and families as well as school groups.



## Facility Rentals & Private Events

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The Stamford Museum & Nature Center remains a popular spot for individuals and businesses to hold their private and corporate events. During the past fiscal year we hosted 4,487 attendees at 65 private events, maintaining the Facility Use growth we have achieved over the past few years. Clients appreciate the flexibility that the SM&NC's unique site allows. With different indoor and outdoor spaces for groups large and small, we were able to provide a space to

suit each individual's needs. The Bendel Mansion provides a beautiful backdrop for wedding ceremonies, and we were delighted to welcome sixteen couples into our space for their special day. Our Wheels in the Woods picnic area was the perfect setting for both corporate retreats and family gatherings last year. Other events we hosted include corporate meetings, professional society dinners, wedding showers, tea parties, and parent socials.



## SM&NC By The Numbers 2016.17

**201,373 VISITORS**

enjoyed the wonders of our extraordinary site last year



**35,144 ARTS & CULTURE ENTHUSIASTS**

viewed the exhibitions in our Museum Galleries

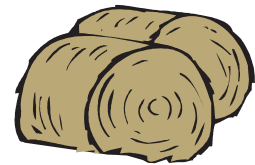
**34,673 STUDENTS**

from 144 schools participated in 1,725 SM&NC Aligned-With-The-Schools Educational programs



**21,512 MEMBERS & GUESTS**

enjoyed our seasonal festival weekends and public events



**3,285 BALES OF HAY**

were fed to our animals



**575 CHILDREN**

participated in our summer camp



**915 ADVENTURERS**

explored the outdoors as part of our "Take a Hike" week



**37,847 VISITORS**

interacted with live plants and animals at Heckscher *WILD!*

**2,563 MEMBER HOUSEHOLDS**

enjoyed the benefits of SM&NC Membership



**752 VOLUNTEERS**

supported the SM&NC's programs, events & upkeep with 9,121 hours of service



**5,896 FRIENDS**

like us on Facebook



As one of the largest nature-based educational institutions in the state, and the largest in the City of Stamford, our mission is to inspire creativity, foster self-discovery, and promote environmental stewardship. Today, the Stamford Museum & Nature Center is a vital cultural and educational resource for Connecticut, as well as a focal point for family activity and interaction.

Through our exceptional educational programs, family festival weekends, museum exhibitions, working New England farm, 80-acres of nature trails, and certified Art, Nature & Me Preschool, we are the model for experiential education and creating lasting memories for individuals of all ages.

Over the years, we have creatively adapted our facilities to meet the growing needs of the community. We have used capital funds wisely and responsibly to renovate buildings to make the most of each



educational area of our campus. However, though we have grown by more than 100 percent in the last 10 years, there has not been a new program building added to our campus in five decades.

We embarked on a Master Planning process in 2008. Over a two-year period, we developed a visionary design to identify critically needed infrastructure, capital improvements, and enriched educational and public spaces to build future capacity for the SM&NC.

In 2016.17, the Capital Campaign Steering Committee, chaired by Michael & Carol Fedele, has worked diligently on the quiet, leadership gift phase to lift off this important \$15 million campaign.



Michael and Carol Fedele, chairs of the Capital Campaign Steering Committee.

## Phase One: The Environmental Education Farmhouse

The **Environmental Education Farmhouse** (4,000 sf) is an immediate capacity-builder to develop a suite of new signature programs, with projected 58% growth in educational service in our first three years. The Farmhouse will be the first education building addition to the property in over 50 years and will serve our highly successful **SM&NC-Aligned-With-**

**Our-Schools** curriculum, family, camp, and adult enrichment programs at an iconic location overlooking the pastures of Heckscher Farm.

Relocation and construction of a new **Maple Sugar & Cidering House** captures additional 13% growth in multi-season programming that will complement the traditions of a working New England farm.





## New Environmental Education Farmhouse on Heckscher Farm

- Construction of the new Farmhouse Education Center
- Relocation and construction of the Maple Sugar & Apple Cidering House.
- Renovation/redesign to the North Parking Lot with new perimeter fencing for safety and security.
- New roadways with enhanced secure entrance to Heckscher Farm and additional Admissions Booth.
- Clearing and addition of two (2) new pastures off existing service road to add to our heritage breeds.

## What Will Happen Inside?

### • Enriched School, Scout, and Camp Programs:

The Farmhouse will be central hub and vital indoor gathering space to grow nature and agricultural experiential learning on-site in colder months. The Farmhouse Plaza creates a home base gathering space for the Explorers Full Day Camp to build upon 2-4th grade and a new 5th-7th grade camp which will have weekly day-trip components. We will accommodate expanded general scout programs with overnight programs added to our repertoire.

- **Youth and Family Programs:** Expansion of our popular on-site after school programs such as What's For Dinner? and our public programs like Family Farm Fridays, as well as new farm-to-table

based programs for families. A larger space situated on the farm will allow for larger groups to gather in all weather conditions for lectures, demonstrations, and hands-on learning that is simply not available currently. Located in a high traffic area, the new Farmhouse and Plaza will serve as a central area for food options on Festival Weekends and an all-weather demonstration area for exhibitors and hands-on activities.

### • Teacher Training/Professional Development:

We will present workshops, lectures, and hands-on learning that enhances their knowledge and teaching skills modelled after Shelburne Farms, the Farm-Based Education Network (FBEN) conference, and Northeast Environmental Education Association (NEEEA) annual conference. Stamford is very well suited for this because of its central location between Boston and New York and its variety of accommodations for visitors.

### • New Salon Series of Signature Cultural & Social Programs for adults to connect to Heckscher Farm.

"Get Your Farm On" with a mobile demonstration kitchen where we will showcase local chefs, cooking demonstrations, and Backyard Farmer demonstrations, such as canning and cheese making. This also allows for "pop-up" restaurants and guest chefs. The large space can also accommodate expanded Farm to Table suppers, landscape design and gardening programs, author talks and book signings, lectures, and boutique concerts.

## Phase Two: The Astronomy & Physical Science Center

Our second component of the **Campaign for Future Generations** is an **Astronomy & Physical Science Center** that will bring our state-of-the-art

Planetarium and Observatory programs under one roof for the first time in our history. This project is still in concept as we continue our fundraising efforts, but here's a sense of what we have planned.

The Astronomy & Physical Science Center (8,000 sf) combines the SM&NC Observatory with a full Planetarium auditorium to function as the center for STEAM education [Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts & Astronomy, and Math]. Our physical science offerings will be expanded into a hands-on "learning lab" encompassing school programs, summer camp opportunities, public programs, adult enrichment, and family programs. We calculate 84% growth in multi-generational science programming over three years.

This state-of-the-art astronomy and science destination will be a powerful Cultural Tourism asset



for the State of Connecticut and City of Stamford. Our enhanced science curriculum will support the State of Connecticut Standards and the New Generation Science Standards, enabling the SM&NC to become a distinguished regional leader in science education.

**To learn more about the Campaign for Future Generations, please visit [www.smnccapitalcampaign.org](http://www.smnccapitalcampaign.org)**

## Stand With Great Leaders

Business Affiliate members of the Stamford Museum & Nature Center are an influential, committed, and engaged group of business leaders, both global and local, who are aligned with our mission to bring the wonders of art, nature, astronomy, and early childhood education to the community. They wish to advance the communities in which they live and work, and demonstrate this by generously supporting our education programs and mission.

Business Affiliate membership helps to support our educational programs, which reached over 34,000 local students last year at 144 area schools. Business Affiliates also support the SM&NC through their sponsorship of Family Festival Weekends and Events, like our Annual Oktoberfest and our Farm to Table Suppers. Many corporate partners also participate in corporate volunteer days helping to plant trees, maintain trails, chop wood, and more.

The Stamford Museum & Nature Center is grateful to our Business Affiliate Members and their partnership, and is honored to offer them genuine quality-of-life benefits for their families, including corporate family memberships, program participation, and event planning. We are proud of our Business Affiliates program and the exemplary business leaders who are aligned with our success, and look forward to adding additional local business leaders to this influential group in the coming year.



Connecting Companies to the Natural World



Mary and Robert Granata at our Inaugural Benefit Dinner. Robert Granata is President and Chief Operating Officer of First County Bank, one of our premier Business Affiliates partners and Benefit Dinner sponsors.

## We thank the following Stamford Museum & Nature Center Business Affiliates members for their generous support over the past year.

Aquarion Water Company  
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# DIRECTOR'S CIRCLE

Our Director's Circle is a distinguished group of individuals who are passionate about the development of our community. Their generosity and commitment to the Stamford Museum & Nature Center support our holistic mission to bring the wonders of art, culture, nature, astronomy, and education to our

community and the public. We thank all of our Director's Circle members for their enduring support. For more information about becoming a member of the Director's Circle, contact the Membership Department at 203.977.6533.



Director's Circle members: Stephen A. Cohen, Carol and Michael Fedele, Lynn Villency Cohen, and Melissa Mulrooney at the Inaugural SM&NC Benefit Dinner on March 9, 2017.

## Director's Circle Members 2016.17

Karen and David Alexander  
William and Katherine Aron  
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Karen and Warren Tom  
Lisa and Paul Welch

## Inaugural Benefit Dinner

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The Stamford Museum & Nature Center's **Inaugural Benefit Dinner at Rockrimmon Country Club** on March 9, 2017, was a tremendous success. Many good friends and generous supporters of the SM&NC enjoyed viewing artwork from our Permanent Collections, up-close and personal visits with animals from Heckscher WILD! and the Heckscher Farm, delicious cocktails and dinner, and a video presentation created by SM&NC college intern Sarah Krufke.

Our thanks to all who helped create such a wonderful evening, notably Lynn Villency Cohen, Chair of the Benefit Dinner, and our distinguished Benefit Committee members: Mr. and Mrs. William Aron, Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Cohen, Mr. Stephen

Corman, Mr. Harry D. Day, Mr. and Mrs. Adam DeChiara, the Honorable and Mrs. Michael Fedele, Mr. and Mrs. William Knobloch, Mr. and Mrs. Larry Kravetz, Ms. Loida Lewis, Mr. and Mrs. Morton Lowenthal, Mr. and Mrs. Von Narcisse, Mr. Jorge Ortoll, Mr. and Mrs. Robert M. Phillips, Mr. and Mrs. Lee Rizzuto, Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Selkowitz, Ms. Marsha Shendell and Mr. Mohamed Younes.

We also thank our Sponsors, including Day Pitney LLP, Ernst & Young, First County Bank, and Barbara B. Malloy.

The Benefit Dinner was a special kick-off event for the SM&NC's signature fundraiser of the year, the **20th Annual Food & Wine Celebration** on Friday, June 2, 2017.



Patricia Phillips gets an up-close look at Willow, our resident teaching Barred Owl.



Denise Rizzuto, Sandy Goldstein, Lee Rizzuto, and Michael and Maureen Cacace at our Inaugural Benefit Dinner.

## 20th Annual Wine Tasting

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The Stamford Museum & Nature Center welcomed over 300 supporters to the **20th Annual Food & Wine Celebration** on Friday, June 2, 2017. This festive fundraising celebration and silent auction is held annually to benefit the SM&NC's programs which serve thousands of children and families every year.

On a beautiful spring evening, guests tasted artisanal foods courtesy of local caterers and restaurants, sampled fine wines from a variety of notable vintners, perused an exciting selection of silent auction items,

and enjoyed a new twist to the evening – *Dancing in the Mansion!*

We recognize and applaud the following volunteer members of the 20th Annual Food & Wine Committee for their dedication and months of hard work leading up to this event: Leslie Bruzik, Connie Hubbard, Holly Hyman, Cynthia L. Mammone, Laura Martino, Lee Morgan, Scott M. O'Connor, Lauren Ruberg, Sara Sherlock and Nicole Shanahan.





**We are grateful to our Sponsors, Honorary Benefit Committee, In-Kind Sponsors, Auction Donors, Journal Sponsors, and Food and Beverage providers for their generous support of this memorable and successful event.**

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Mr. and Mrs. Stephen A. Cohen  
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Mr. Harry D. Day  
Mr. and Mrs. Adam DeChiara

The Honorable and Mrs. Michael Fedele  
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**William M. Aron, Harry D. Day, and Mary L. Fedeli at the 20th Annual Food & Wine Celebration.**

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Tequila Mockingbird  
Tim Shanahan  
Towpath Antique Center  
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Westport Country Playhouse  
Wusthof Outlet Store

## Financials

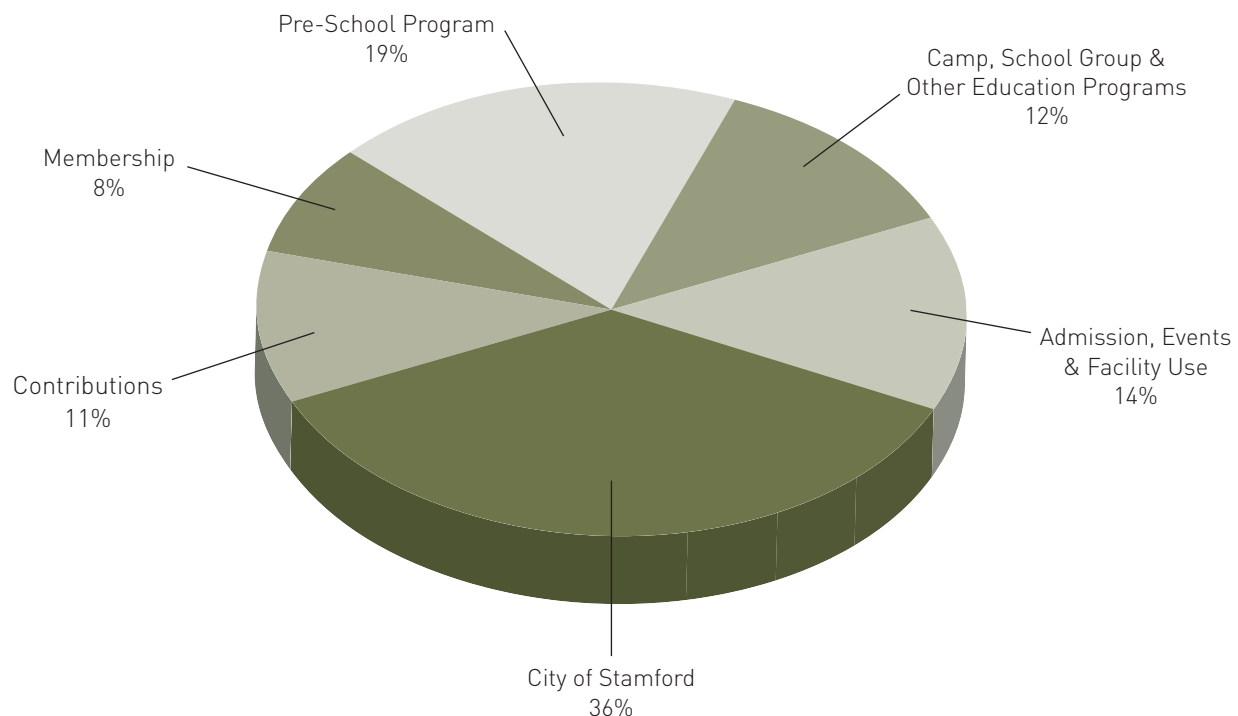
The Stamford Museum & Nature Center has finished the 2016.17 fiscal year on sound footing, recording an 11th consecutive year of balanced budgets.

Annually, we must raise 64% of our funds from corporate, foundation, and individual supports to operate this remarkable 118-acre property.

We thank all of our supporters, members, and participants for your generous, ongoing contributions.

SOURCES OF SUPPORT	
Contributions	\$ 368,000
Membership	259,000
Pre-School Program	621,000
Camp, School Group & Other Education Programs	388,000
Admission, Events & Facility Use	455,000
City of Stamford	1,174,300
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>\$3,265,300</b>
EXPENSES	
Compensation & Benefits	\$2,095,000
Professional Services	305,000
Equipment & Supplies	237,000
Exhibitions, Education Programs, & Site Operations	611,000
Net Reserve	17,300
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$3,265,300</b>

### SOURCES OF SUPPORT





# Donor List

*The Stamford Museum & Nature Center is eternally grateful to those individuals and organizations that support our mission through the Annual Appeal, fundraising events, and other contributions and make it possible for us to provide a fun-filled educational and cultural resource throughout the year.*

## Legacy

First County Bank  
Audrey and William R. Knobloch  
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*This list reflects contributions made between July 1, 2016 and June 30, 2017. Every effort is made to ensure the accurate recognition of our donors. If you find that your name appears incorrectly or if you were omitted from this year's list, please call the Development Office at 203.977.6533.*

# Stamford Museum & Nature Center



39 Scofieldtown Road  
Stamford, CT 06903  
stamfordmuseum.org  
203-322-1646

## Our Great Cultural & Environmental Work Continues



## ANNUAL REPORT 2016.17



# NEXT

SAVE THE DATE!  
21ST ANNUAL  
FOOD & WINE CELEBRATION  
FRIDAY, JUNE 1, 2018



Stamford Museum  
& Nature Center

Winter/Spring 2018 | Volume 45



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& **Nature Center**

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### OUR MISSION

The Stamford Museum & Nature Center is dedicated to the preservation and interpretation of art and popular culture, the natural and agricultural sciences, and history. The Museum is a vital cultural and educational resource for the community, and a focal point for multi-generational family activity and interaction. We seek to inspire creativity, foster self-discovery, promote environmental stewardship, and nurture an appreciation for lifelong learning through exhibitions, educational programs, and special events that enhance the visitor's experience of our unique site.

Cover artwork: Laura Quinn Harris  
"Lilac-crowned Amazon," 2017



SM&NC leaders Harry Day, Executive Vice President; Melissa H. Mulrooney, Executive Director & CEO; William M. Aron, President, Board of Directors

## Fine fundraising celebrations with friends.

Your participation, care, and generosity have driven our successful service to children and families in Stamford, Fairfield County, and beyond again this year. What a great legacy all of you are helping sustain in the community with your support of the Stamford Museum & Nature Center. Let's keep going together.

We are delighted to announce that the SM&NC **Benefit Dinner** is scheduled for **March 15, 2018** at Woodway Country Club and we look forward to hosting new supporters. This year's **Benefit Dinner** will be themed to celebrate our progress on the Environmental Education Farmhouse, a truly transformative addition to this extraordinary property. The Benefit Dinner gathers together a distinguished group of major donors and leaders in our community for an evening of camaraderie, cultivation and some great surprises.

Last year's Benefit Dinner at Rockrimmon Country Club was hosted by William Aron, President of the SM&NC Board and also President of the Rockrimmon Country Club. The 2018 Benefit dinner will be hosted by Harry Day, President of Woodway Country Club. Each have been so kind to shepherd this wonderful fundraiser.

We are so grateful to have Lynn Villency Cohen and Steve Corman Chairing this very special fundraising dinner. All proceeds from our **March Benefit Dinner** and the fabulous **21st Annual Food & Wine Celebration set for Friday, June 1, 2018** will benefit SM&NC's mission to bring the wonders of art education, and the natural world to children and families.

This year we are offering a "Two-for-One" ticketing package that includes both the Benefit Dinner in March and the Food & Wine Celebration in June. Further information can be found in this issue of NEXT on page 8.

Please mark your calendars! I look forward to seeing you here soon and often!

Melissa H. Mulrooney  
Executive Director & CEO

**Making Memories**  
*for Generations*  
and those to come





## Events in Brief

### Birds in Art exhibition

Saturday, February 24, 2018 –  
Monday, May 28, 2018



## ONGOING

**GERBERICH'S GADGETS: Best of Springs, Sprockets & Pulleys exhibition**

Saturday, November 18, 2017–Saturday, February 3, 2018

**Sunday Explorers**

Sundays, January 21–February 25, 1–4 pm

**BIRDS IN ART exhibition**

Saturday, February 24, 2018–Monday, May 28, 2018

**March WILDness at Heckscher WILD!**

Saturday, March 3–Saturday, April 7 (drop in during Heckscher WILD! hours)

**April Adventures**

Sundays, April 8–April 29, 1–4 pm

## JANUARY

15 Mon 11 am–3 pm  
20 Sat 10 am–12 pm  
1 pm–3pm

Winter Break Out Day: Build it, Make it!

Gerb-o-Matic Workshop: Make-and-Take Sculpting Event\*  
(recommended for ages 8 and up)

## FEBRUARY

15 Thu 9:30 am–12 pm  
15 Thu 10:30 am–3 pm  
16 Fri 9:30 am–12 pm  
19 Mon 11 am–3 pm  
23 Fri 6–8 pm  
25 Sun 3–4:30 pm

Vacation Drop-off Program\*

Winter Home School Day: Fire & Earth\*

Vacation Drop-off Program\*

Winter Break Out Day: Winter on the Farm

*Birds in Art* Opening Reception

Outdoor Adventures: Extreme Maple Syruping\*

## MARCH

3 Sat 11 am–3 pm  
4 Sun 11 am–3 pm  
15 Thu 6 pm  
23 Fri 7–8:30 pm  
23 Fri 7 pm  
24 Sat 11 am–4:30 pm  
25 Sun 11 am–4:30 pm  
31 Sat 11 am–4:30 pm

Maple Sugar Festival Weekend

Maple Sugar Festival Weekend; Pancake Breakfast

2nd Annual Benefit Dinner\*

Outdoor Adventures: Amphibian Amble, Session I\*

Astronomy Nights: Starbirth in the March Sky , featuring  
the Orion Nebula & the Beehive Cluster

Forest Easter Egg Adventure\*

Forest Easter Egg Adventure\*

Forest Easter Egg Adventure\*

## APRIL

6 Fri 7–8:30 pm  
10 Tue  
11 Wed  
11 Wed 1–2 pm  
12 Thu  
20 Fri 7 pm  
24 Tue 10:30 am–3 pm

Outdoor Adventures: Amphibian Amble, Session II\*

Take-a-Hike Week: Forest Adventure Day

Take-a-Hike Week: RecycleMania Day

Trash to Tunes with Dennis Waring\*

Take-a-Hike Week: Wings & Water Day

Astronomy Nights: The Moon Village: living at an  
International Moon base

Spring Home School Day: Air & Water\*

\* Pre-registration and pre-payment are required

**SAVE  
THE  
DATE!**

Registration for SM&NC's **2018 Summer Camp** programs  
opens **February 2** for Family Plus & above members and  
**February 19** for open registration. All information will be  
available online (no brochures will be sent this year).

## Winter Break Out Days

No school? No problem! Enjoy a day of special programs and self-guided activities for all ages during these school vacation days. Come for a few activities or stay for the day. The complete schedule of events will be posted on site and on [stamfordmuseum.org](http://stamfordmuseum.org). Registration is not necessary.

**SM&NC Members:** FREE | **Non-members:** Included with gate admission



### Winter Break Out Day: Build it, Make it!

**Monday, January 15, 11 am–3 pm**

Join us for the first of our two Winter Break Out Days and a return of one of our most popular themes! Challenge yourself with a scavenger hunt in our winter exhibition, *Gerberich's Gadgets: Best of Springs, Sprockets & Pulleys*. Create with LEGO® bricks and recycled materials, build your own catapult, and make your own slime. At 2:30, join us on the meadow to build your favorite campfire treat – S'mores!

### Winter Break Out Day: Winter on the Farm

**Monday, February 19, 11 am–3 pm**

Discover what is happening on Heckscher Farm in the winter! Visit our Maple Sugarhouse and see how the season is progressing, complete a farm scavenger hunt, try your hand at spinning wool, and meet some of the residents of Heckscher Farm! Make your own butter, create some great crafts, and join us at 2:30 for one of our favorite winter treats – vanilla ice cream with SM&NC's own maple syrup!



## Take-A-Hike Week

**Tuesday, April 10–Thursday, April 12**

Get outside and join us for our annual Take-a-Hike Week programming! Again this year, join us for awesome themed days that include outdoor adventures, hikes, and self-guided crafts. Pick up your 2018 passport to collect stamps and prizes! A full list of programs will be available on our website prior to Take-a-Hike Week, but here's what's in store for each day:

**Tuesday, April 10: Forest Adventure Day** – Join us for Scavenger Hunts, a guided hike on our Orange Adventure trail, a trek on our slack line, chances to make mud pies, and more!

**Wednesday April 11: RecycleMania Day** – We'll celebrate the 1st anniversary of our Recycled ReCreations Maker Space, explore the Rotten Log Hotel, race our Madagascar Hissing Cockroaches, and have a special celebration of music with recycled materials with performer Dennis Waring (advance registration needed, please see separate listing).

**Thursday April 12: Wings & Water Day** – Perennial favorites such as our Vernal Pool and Stream hikes return along with chances to hike through our spring exhibition, *Birds in Art*, and to discover the wonderful world of feathered friends.

**SM&NC Members:** FREE

**Non-members:** Included with gate admission

### Trash to Tunes with Dennis Waring Wednesday, April 11, 1–2 pm

Join us for a special performance from ethnomusicologist, performer, and artist Dennis Waring and his array of incredible homemade and indigenous instruments, made from natural and recycled materials. Dr. Waring will introduce and perform with a variety of instruments, such as bull roarer, sea shell trumpet, and bamboo flute, providing amazing music, as well as a new awareness into folklore and science. Some lucky audience members may get to help with the performance, too!

**The program is free of charge but preregistration is required and tickets are limited. Call 203-977-6521 to register.**

This program has been made possible by an Innovation grant from Recycle CT, as part of our Recycled Recreations Maker-space project.

**SM&NC Members:** FREE | **Non-members:** Included with gate admission



# Ongoing Drop-in Programs

## Sunday Explorers

**Sundays, January 21–February 25, 1–4 pm**

Winter is a great time to explore the SM&NC! Our popular animal meet-and-greets return, joined by our Science Spot program in our nature center classroom! Stop by the Overbrook Nature Center for a self-guided craft and to visit our animals, or join us for a program. Different themes, animals, and stories each week!

- 1–4 pm Self-guided crafts (Overbrook)
- 1 pm Animal Meet & Greet (Heckscher WILD!)
- 1:30 pm Nature Make & Take (Overbrook)
- 2:30 pm Science Spot (Overbrook)
- 3:00 pm Animal Meet & Greet (Heckscher WILD!)

**SM&NC Members:** FREE

**Non-members:** Included with gate admission



## April Adventures

**Sundays, April 8–29, 1–4 pm**

A special version of our Sunday Explorers for April! Come visit to see what spring has in store for SM&NC. Meet some of our animals, join our Slime Time to make a different slime recipe each week, hike on our trails, and more!

- 1–4 pm Self-guided crafts (Overbrook)
- 1 pm Animal Meet & Greet (Heckscher WILD!)
- 1:30 pm Slime Time!
- 2:30 pm Nature Hike
- 3:00 pm Animal Meet & Greet (Heckscher WILD!)

**SM&NC Members:** FREE

**Non-members:** Included with gate admission

## March WILDness at Heckscher WILD!

**March 3–April 7**

**Tuesdays–Fridays, Noon–4 pm**

**Saturdays & Sundays, 10 am–4 pm**

Cast your vote for our 3rd annual bracket challenge in Heckscher WILD! All of our animals are awesome, but we know everyone has their favorites. Is yours Hot Dog the Tree Frog, Wallace the Red-Footed Tortoise, Thor the Savannah Monitor, or another? Each week will feature a specific group of animals that will compete for your votes to move on in our bracket challenge. Then, the top two vote getters will battle it out to be the March WILDness winner during our Take-a-Hike Week programs. Votes can be cast in person at Heckscher WILD! during open hours. Stop by weekday afternoons in March (Tues–Fri) at 3 pm to meet one of the animals from our weekly group when casting your vote! Voting will also be available during our Maple Sugar Festival Weekend, March 3–4.

**First Round (March 3–March 10): Mammals**

**Second Round (March 11–17): Amphibians & Inverts**

**Third Round (March 18–24): Turtles and Snakes**

**Fourth Round (March 25–March 31): Lizards**

**The Terrific Two (April 1–7): 2 Highest Vote Getters**

**SM&NC Members:** FREE

**Non-members:** Included with gate admission



## Forest Easter Egg Adventure (for ages 2 and up)

Saturday, March 24; Sunday, March 25;  
Saturday, March 31

Four Sessions Each Day

(Session 1: 11 am-12 pm, Session 2: 1-2 pm,  
Session 3: 2-3 pm, Session 4: 3:30-4:30 pm)

Join us for a NEW Easter Egg Adventure this year on our Wheels in the Woods trail. A maximum of 25 kids per session ensures a fun, safe event for all! We'll start with the hunt on our trails where kids can gather eggs in the woods, then head to the Overbrook Nature Center, where we'll get to meet some live animals and create a great craft! Kids will turn in their found eggs for a goody bag! Program will run rain or shine (rain plan will be in Great Hall). **This program will take the place of the Heckscher Farm Egg Hunt for 2018. Pre-registration and pre-payment is required.** Call the Museum at 203.977.6521 to register. Limited to 25 children per session.

**SM&NC Members:** \$20/child; free admission for member adults | **Non-members:** \$25/child; 1 free adult admission for every paying child; additional adults \$5 (gate admission is included)



## Winter Planetarium Shows

Sundays, January 21, February 18, and March 18,  
shows begin promptly at 12 and 1:30 pm

Take a tour of the constellations or planets in our galaxy! Learn about star stories in the sky, how to recognize common winter constellations, which planets are made of rock or gas, and more. Topics and content will vary each week. Programs begin promptly at 12 and 1:30 with limited seating. Doors will open 10 minutes before show time; no late admissions please. Recommended for ages 6 and up. No strollers, please.

**SM&NC Members:** FREE | **Non-members:** Included with admission



## Astronomy Nights: An Evening at the Stamford Observatory

**The Observatory reopens for the season on March 2.  
(No viewing on 3/30.)**

Come join us for our exciting series of astronomy programs! Head to the Observatory on select Friday nights for a real treat as we explore the night sky, planets, stars, and more. Start by enjoying a presentation on a special topic in astronomy, followed by a visit to view the night sky through our 22-inch telescope. The presentation portion of the program will be held rain or shine. Viewing hours are weather permitting. This program is suitable for all ages 5 and over.

Location: Behind Heckscher Farm, enter from Scofieldtown Road (GPS: 151 Scofieldtown Road).

Members: FREE | Non-Members: Adults \$5, Children (5-17) \$3

**Winter Hours: Fridays, March 2 – April 1**

**7:00** – Presentation (rain OR shine)

**8:00** – Telescope viewing (weather permitting)

**Summer hours: Fridays, April 1 - Labor Day**

**7:30** – Presentation (rain OR shine)

**8:30** – Telescope viewing (weather permitting)

**Presentations:**

**March 23** Starbirth in the March Sky, featuring the Orion Nebula & the Beehive Cluster – Jason Kendall

**April 20** The Moon Village: living at an International Moon base – Tony Faddoul



# MAPLE SUGAR FESTIVAL WEEKEND

**SATURDAY, MARCH 3 & SUNDAY, MARCH 4 • 11 AM To 3 PM**

**LIVE MUSIC**  
**SWEET MAPLE TREATS**  
**FACE PAINTING**  
**CHILDREN'S CRAFTS**  
**SCAVENGER HUNT**  
**MAPLE SUGAR & TREE TAPPING**  
**DEMONSTRATIONS**  
**Pancake Brunch\***  
**SUNDAY ONLY 11 am – 2 pm**

*\*Additional fee*

Celebrate the sweetness of the maple sugaring season as this annual family favorite returns to the Stamford Museum & Nature Center. Visit the little red sugarhouse on Heckscher Farm and see firsthand how sap is turned into maple syrup. Learn how trees are tapped, see how sap is collected, make a maple-themed craft, have your face painted, enjoy live music, and visit our Museum Galleries.

On Sunday, enjoy the popular pancake brunch\* from 11 am to 2 pm. Don't forget to purchase a pint of fresh maple syrup, made from the trees at the Stamford Museum & Nature Center.

#### **DAILY ADMISSION FEES:**

**Members:** \$5 per person • **Non-members:** \$10 per person  
**Director's Circle & Family Plus Members and all children 3 & under:** FREE

**\*Pancake Brunch (SUNDAY only, 11 am – 2 pm):** Additional \$6 fee per person

**Save time by purchasing your Festival admission and Pancake Brunch tickets in advance!**

**Visit [stamfordmuseum.org](http://stamfordmuseum.org).**

(Please note that dogs are not allowed on SM&NC Grounds.)

## **SPONSOR-A-BUCKET PROGRAM**

Help support the Stamford Museum & Nature Center's Maple Sugar Education programs with our Sponsor-a-Bucket program! Your support will be acknowledged with a personalized tag that will hang on a sap bucket throughout the season. In addition, you will receive a special tasting collection of syrups made throughout the season, a pint of SM&NC syrup, and a chance to skip the lines with four tickets to our Maple Sugar Festival Weekend (March 3 and 4). You'll also be recognized as a program sponsor at our Maple Sugar Festival! Each sponsorship opportunity is \$125. To sponsor a bucket, call Elena Pepe-Salutric at 203.977.6533.

**THANK YOU to FIRST COUNTY BANK** for their generous support of all our Maple Sugar Education Programs!



PLEASE JOIN US FOR OUR

## 2nd Annual Benefit Dinner

Thursday, March 15, 2018 at 6 pm • Woodway Country Club

Co-Chairs: Lynn Villency Cohen & Stephen Corman

The Board of Directors of the Stamford Museum & Nature Center invites you to the 2nd Annual Benefit Dinner, which will be held on Thursday, March 15, 2018 at the Woodway Country Club. This dinner is a glorious celebration of the SM&NC and will feature the progress on the SM&NC's new Environmental Education Farmhouse. The Benefit Dinner is a wonderful way to entertain clients, celebrate with friends and fellow supporters, and enjoy an evening of cocktails, hors d'oeuvres, and a delicious dinner. Corporate Sponsorship and Benefit Committee membership also includes "2 for 1" Food & Wine Celebration tickets and recognition.

**Show your philanthropic spirit and love for the SM&NC and all that we do for education, our schools, and the quality of life in our community. Join the Benefit Dinner Committee, become a Corporate Sponsor, take out an ad in our Commemorative Journal, or attend the dinner with your friends!**

Tickets are \$300 per person and may be purchased over the phone or online at [stamfordmuseum.org](http://stamfordmuseum.org).

Become a Benefit Supporter at the \$1,000 level and receive two tickets to the Benefit Dinner, two tickets to the 21st Annual Food & Wine Celebration, and recognition in printed and digital promotional materials.

A \$2,500 **Benefit Committee** membership includes two tickets to the Benefit Dinner, two tickets to the 21st Food & Wine Celebration in June, a full page ad in the Commemorative Journal, and recognition in all printed and digital promotional materials. Please call or email for information about Corporate Sponsorship and the Commemorative Journal.

Please call 203-977-6546 or email [kmeizels@stamfordmuseum.org](mailto:kmeizels@stamfordmuseum.org) by March 1, 2018.



## SAVE THE DATE!

### 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Food & Wine Celebration

Friday, June 1, 2018, 7-10 pm



Join us on Friday, June 1, 2018 for our annual summer "party on foot." At this fun and casual event, over 350 guests will enjoy tasting top flight wines and beverages, sampling a wide variety of delicious food courtesy of area restaurants and caterers, and an open bar. The evening features a silent auction, the "Giving Vine" staff wish list, and much more. All proceeds from the event will benefit the SM&NC's mission to bring the wonders of art, education, and the natural world to children and families.

#### YOU CAN HELP!

**Support the Stamford Museum & Nature Center, our community's beloved cultural and nature-based institution, by joining the Food & Wine Celebration planning committee, taking out an ad in our Commemorative Journal, donating an item for the Silent Auction, or attending the event with your family and friends. For more information, please call 203-977-6536 or email [dlthompson@stamfordmuseum.org](mailto:dlthompson@stamfordmuseum.org).**







## Stamford Museum Winter Exhibition

# GERBERICH'S GADGETS: Best of Springs, Sprockets & Pulleys

**Saturday, November 18, 2017–Saturday, February 3, 2018**



Remember those crazy contraptions that would spin, rock, and play music – and they were all made from overlooked common objects?

Yes, the ingenious inventions of sculptor – and SM&NC favorite – Steve Gerberich has returned to the Stamford Museum Galleries for a totally re-imagined Winter Exhibition. Gerberich has gathered his most outstanding and outlandish large-scale kinetic sculptures and installations for a showing of the “Best of Springs, Sprockets & Pulleys.” Working with old machine parts, kitchen utensils, furniture scraps, lighting fixtures, medical supplies, toys, and carnival figurines, Gerberich mixes the aesthetics of contemporary sculpture with the scientific principles of simple mechanical motion. It’s crazy fun!



## REGISTER TODAY!

### Gerb-O-Matic Workshop: Make-and-Take Sculpting Event

**Saturday, January 20, 2018**

**TWO SESSIONS – Session I: 10 am–12 pm; Session II: 1 – 3 pm**



This workshop provides a unique opportunity for your budding artist to work directly with professional sculptor, Stephen Gerberich. Participants will sculpt their own mini-masterpieces from a smorgasbord of parts painstakingly culled from dumpsters, thrift shops, and dollar stores during Gerberich’s nationwide travels. Handmade sculptures will be assembled using hot glue “welding.” Children and adults can re-compose these objects into original works, while acquiring a new appreciation for the creative reuse of ordinary objects.

#### REGISTRATION

**Members:** starting December 1, 2017 | **Open registration:** December 8, 2017

Call 203.977.6521 to register. **Registration closes January 15, 2018**, or earlier if all spaces are filled.

#### PRICING

**Members:** \$40 for 1 adult and 1 child, \$20 for each additional adult or child in party

**Non-members:** \$55 for 1 adult and 1 child, \$25 for each additional adult or child in party

All children must be age 8 or older. All children must be accompanied by an adult. All must pre-pay and pre-register. For non-members, gate admission is included in this price. Space is limited, register early.

## Collections Spotlight: The Carved Ostrich Egg

**This issue's *Collection Spotlight* is a mysterious and beautifully carved ostrich egg! It appears to have a Middle Eastern design, but what makes it mysterious? This ostrich egg is listed as “found in collection”, which means that it is an “undocumented object that remains without status after all attempts to reconcile them to existing records of permanent collection and loan objects are completed.”**

Egg carving, etching and/or decorating is a practice found across multiple cultures and has been carried on for thousands of years. Although skills are needed for egg carving, ostrich eggs can take a punch! Ostrich eggs measure up to six inches in diameter and when full, can weigh up to three pounds. They are large and very durable – perfectly suited for the African wild. To empty the contents of the egg, a small hole is chipped out of the egg shell, drained, and cleaned. Before the comfort of modern technology, ostrich eggs were probably carved with organic materials such as stones, bones, or wood. Today, different hand tools such as high-speed dental burs, dental drills, and other small cutting tools are used to sculpt designs on the hard exterior of the egg shells. Carved ostrich eggs have served many different purposes throughout the millennia: luxury trade goods, funeral gifts, celebratory gifts, storytelling, and, of course, more practical uses such as food and storage containers.



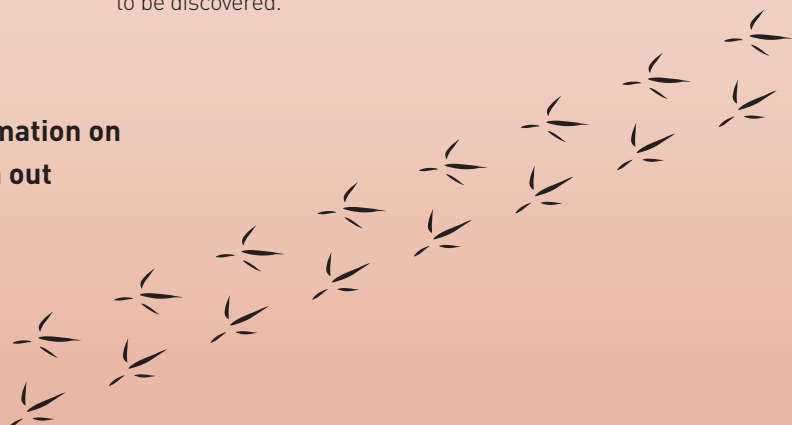
Archaeological research in Africa suggests that symbolic carvings on ostrich eggs have occurred for 60,000 years.

The artifacts from the Howieson Poort Shelter, collected by Anthropologist Pierre-Jean Texier and his team, suggest that not only were the ostrich eggs used as a food source, but that the designs on the ostrich eggshells followed a kind of symbolic language – giving us some insight to the daily lives of prehistoric humans.

We fast forward to the Iron Age (about 1200 – 300 BC) when ostrich eggs were traded amongst elites as luxury items from the Middle East to the Western Mediterranean. Archaeologists have found both intact ostrich eggs and fragments that were ornately decorated with paint, ivory, and precious metals.

Research is currently being done on questions such as: Were ostriches farmed for their eggs? or Were the eggs collected out in the wild? While much is known about the significance of carved ostrich eggs, there is still much more to be discovered.

**We need your help! If you have any information on our mysterious ostrich egg, please reach out to [info@stamfordmuseum.org](mailto:info@stamfordmuseum.org).**





# BIRDS in ART

**Saturday, February 24-Monday, May 28, 2018**

**Opening Reception: Friday, February 23, 2018, 6-8 pm**

**OPEN TO THE PUBLIC | REFRESHMENTS AND APPETIZERS | FREE OF CHARGE**

**RSVP by Monday, February 19th to [rsvp@stamfordmuseum.org](mailto:rsvp@stamfordmuseum.org) or by calling 203-977-6521.**

Birds, in all of their majesty and fragility, connect us with the natural world and have been the source of artistic inspiration for millennia. Today, talented artists from across the globe vie for membership in the exclusive cadre of avian artists chosen to exhibit in "Birds in Art." Now into its fifth decade, *Birds in Art* is recognized around the world as **the** exhibition that sets the standard for avian art.

Organized by The Leigh Yawkey Woodson Art Museum in Wausau, Wisconsin, this exhibition presents a juried collection of 60 outstanding contemporary artistic interpretations of birds and related subject matter. Two- and three-dimensional artworks in all media, except crafts and photography, are included. More than 60 artists have created original paintings, sculptures, and graphics, within the past three years, for inclusion in this 42nd annual exhibition. Wildlife enthusiasts, ornithologists, and backyard birders will be delighted by the quality and variety of the artworks that capture birds in all their natural splendor.



Fully illustrated catalogues will be available for purchase.

**The Stamford Museum Galleries are open Monday-Saturday, 9 am-5 pm; Sundays 11 am-5 pm.**

**SM&NC Members: FREE**

**Non-members: Included with gate admission**







# Birthday Parties at SM&NC

Hold your child's birthday at the Stamford Museum & Nature Center!

Our experienced educators will lead an amazing experience your child and his or her friends will love!

Choose from farm or exotic animal experiences, planting, science experiments, nature hikes, or even creating your own stuffed animal! New program themes will launch in January 2018.

For more information, please visit <http://www.stamfordmuseum.org/birthdayparties.html> or e-mail Tessa Grebey, our Birthday Coordinator, at [birthdayparties@stamfordmuseum.org](mailto:birthdayparties@stamfordmuseum.org)



- **Fantastic Farm (turning ages 2 and up)**  
Interactive farm tour party

- NEW!** • **Planting Party (turning ages 3 and up)**  
Pot decorating and planting

- **Animal Adventure (turning age 3 and up)**  
Live exotic animal interactions

- **Fizz, Foam & Fly (turning age 5 and up)**  
Science experiments

- NEW!** • **Trail Trek Adventure (turning ages 5 and up)**  
Nature hike, trail games and activities

- NEW!** • **Pig & Friends (turning ages 6 and up)**  
Farm animal interaction & create your own stuffed animal

## The SM&NC:

### *A Perfect Setting for your Next Event*

Imagine hosting your next private or corporate event at the Stamford Museum and Nature Center's picturesque 118-acre site. We have meeting rooms and party spaces to suit your every need, including our historic 1920s Bendel Mansion, which boasts high ceilings, hardwood floors, period moldings, and artwork from the Museum's permanent collection. Whether you are planning a wedding, shower, large corporate event, or small-group seminar, this unique venue will offer you the opportunity to truly customize your event within a serene setting.

For help planning your special celebration at the SM&NC, please contact our Facility Use & Private Events Manager, Jeanette Gromko, at 203.977.6523 or [jgromko@stamfordmuseum.org](mailto:jgromko@stamfordmuseum.org).





# Volunteer Spotlight: Thank You to our Corporate Volunteers!

In 2017, the SM&NC was fortunate to have the help of employees from generous local corporations, including:

- Ernst & Young
- Legg Mason
- Indeed
- Pitney Bowes
- JP Morgan Chase
- State Street Global Advisors

These energetic volunteers fulfilled many “wish list” projects such as staining the otter enclosure fence, installing a new split rail fence in the organic garden, painting projects inside

the Overbrook Nature Center and Heckscher Barn, building and painting new picnic tables, creating the new Orange Adventure Trail, and a host of landscaping projects. Their help allowed us to make many improvements that otherwise might not have been accomplished. In many cases, they also provided funding to purchase materials for their projects.

We salute these volunteers, and the local corporations who encourage employee involvement in the community where they work and live.



## Share Your Hobby or Skill



Every year the Stamford Museum & Nature Center’s seasonal festivals such as Maple Sugar Weekend, Spring on the Farm, and Harvest Festival draw a family audience of thousands from Fairfield and Westchester Counties. The visitors enjoy learning about old-time hobbies and talents which are fast being forgotten.

We are seeking individuals and groups to volunteer to share their know-how by giving demonstrations at our festivals. Examples might include, but are not limited to:

- Barbershop Quartet
- Basket Making
- Calligraphy
- Copper Smith
- Country & Western Dance
- Crocheting
- Musical Instruments such as Banjo, Dulcimer or Mandolin
- Soap Making
- Square Dance
- Stained Glass
- Tin Smith
- Rug Braiding
- Rug Hooking
- Ukrainian Egg Decoration
- Weaving
- Woodcarving



Do you have an idea for a demonstration? Please call or email and share your specialty with us! 203.977.6530 or [volunteer@stamfordmuseum.org](mailto:volunteer@stamfordmuseum.org)

### Upcoming Volunteer Opportunities

**Maple Sugar Weekend, March 3 &4**  
**Spring on the Farm, May 5 & 6**

For more information, visit [stamfordmuseum.org/volunteers](http://stamfordmuseum.org/volunteers), or call or email us at 203-977-6530 or [volunteer@stamfordmuseum.org](mailto:volunteer@stamfordmuseum.org).

# AFTER SCHOOLS & ENRICHMENTS

## Animal Extravaganza After School (for ages 5-9)

**Tuesdays, January 23–February 13, 3:45–5 pm**

If you love animals, this after school program is for you! Help make treats and food for our tortoises, otters, and pigs, help exercise our ferrets and goats, learn how to handle some of our teaching animals, and more. Meet at Heckscher WILD! Limited enrollment.

**Code: EEW1**

**SM&NC Members:** \$60 per child

**Non-members:** \$70 per child



## Winter Wild Adventure After School (for ages 5-9)

**Wednesdays, February 21–March 14, 3:45–5 pm**

Winter is a great time to explore the SM&NC! Our newest on-site after school will take us behind-the-scenes of our latest exhibit, on the trails, and to our Maple Sugar House. We'll paint the snow, search for animal tracks, help to collect maple sap for syruping, and more! Meet at Overbrook Nature Center. Limited enrollment. Dress for outdoors.

**Code: EEW2**

**SM&NC Members:** \$60 per child

**Non-members:** \$70 per child

## Wild Woods Adventure After School (for ages 5-9)

**Wednesdays, April 18–May 9, 3:45–5 pm**

Explore the forest like never before as we search for salamanders and snakes, help to build a fort, learn how to make fire, and more! We'll use our zip line in the forest, learn some basics of wild edibles, dig in the dirt, search the stream for creatures, and discover our engineering skills as we make a small dam for our stream. We'll test our outdoor adventure skills in a safe, fun atmosphere that will allow kids to challenge themselves while exploring our wild woods! Limited to 12 children for a great small group experience, so register early.

**Code: EES1**

**SM&NC Members:** \$60 per child

**Non-members:** \$70 per child





# AFTER SCHOOLS & ENRICHMENTS

## Vacation Drop Off Days (for ages 4-9)

**Thursday, February 15 and Friday, February 16,  
9:30 am–12 pm**

Spend some of your February break at the SM&NC! We'll discover what animals do in the winter, explore winter stars in the sky, create great art, hike on winter trails, and more. Meets at Overbrook Nature Center. Limited enrollment of 12 children for a small group experience. Must be 4 by the start date of the program. Snack and drink will be served.

**SM&NC Members:** \$30/child one day or \$50/child both days

**Non-members:** \$35/child one day or \$60/child both days



## Junior Curator (for ages 10-13)

**April 16-20; May 21-25, 3:30–5 pm**

This unique, hands-on program provides an overview of basic animal care and experiential learning on Heckscher Farm. The course includes a behind-the-scenes tour of Heckscher Farm and various hands-on experiences, such as cleaning and feeding of animals. Upon completion of the program, each participant will be eligible to become a farm volunteer. Space is limited!

**Code:** JCS1 (April), JCS2 (May)

**SM&NC Members:** \$140 | **Non-members:** \$160

## Junior WILD Keepers (for ages 10-13)

**April 23-27, 3:30-5 pm**

Discover how the SM&NC environmental education staff care for our exotic teaching animals in this unique hands-on program! Work with our reptiles, amphibians, mammals, and invertebrates in our Heckscher WILD! exhibit and learn the proper techniques of feeding, handling and caring for these exotic animals. We will learn about proper food choice for animals by preparing diets, explore how we habituate animals for classes through handling, and go through specific needs for certain species. After completion of this class, participants are eligible to volunteer with the animals in the Heckscher WILD exhibit. Limited enrollment.

**Code:** JWKS1

**SM&NC Members:** \$140 | **Non-members:** \$160



# HOME-SCHOOL PROGRAMS

## Winter Home School Day: Fire & Earth (for ages 5-10)

Thursday, February 15, 10:30 am–3 pm

Homeschoolers, join us for an in-depth look at two of the four elements, Fire & Earth! Discover how the three rock types are created and the science behind volcanoes, try your own hand at making fire with our bow drills, see how fire is important in making maple syrup, and discover the properties of soil in our Dirt Discovery class. Limited enrollment for small group experience; prepayment is required. No charge for teachers/chaperones and non-participating siblings. A group lunch will allow for home schoolers to meet each other and exchange ideas. To register, please call the Environmental Education office at 203.977.6540 or e-mail [dshulby@stamfordmuseum.org](mailto:dshulby@stamfordmuseum.org).

**SM&NC Members:** \$15/child | **Non-members:** \$15/child



## Spring Home School Day: Air & Water (for ages 5-10)

Tuesday, April 24, 10:30 am–3 pm

We'll tackle the other two elements for our Spring Home School Day! Discover the ecology of our vernal pools, explore the power of air in our wind lab, launch stomp rockets into the air, and investigate the ecology of a watershed.

Limited enrollment for small group experience; prepayment is required. No charge for teachers/chaperones and non-participating siblings. A group lunch will allow for home schoolers to meet each other and exchange ideas. To register, please call the Environmental Education office at 203.977.6540 or e-mail [dshulby@stamfordmuseum.org](mailto:dshulby@stamfordmuseum.org).

**SM&NC Members:** \$15/child | **Non-members:** \$15/child



This series of family programs, led by the Stamford Museum & Nature Center Environmental Education team, explores the amazing natural wonders found right here on our campus. Limited enrollment.

Pre-payment and pre-registration are required. Call 203.977.6521 to register. Meet at the Overbrook Nature Center.

**Members:** \$5/person | **Non-Members:** \$8/person

## Extreme Maple Syruping

Sunday, February 25, 2018, 3–4:30 pm

Join us for a special behind-the-scenes look at our Maple Syruping operation and get to help with some of the daily tasks that go into turning our sap into syrup! Help to collect sap and measure how much sugar is in it, learn to use our auger to drill tap holes, tour our sugarbush, and more! See the process of turning sap into syrup with our evaporator and do a taste test of the different grades to see which one you prefer! We'll end our program with a special treat featuring our own maple syrup! Meet at the Maple Sugar House. Limited enrollment; preregistration only. Recommended for ages 6 and older.

## Amphibian Amble

Session 1: Friday March 23, 7–8:30 pm

Session 2: Friday April 6, 7–8:30 pm

Join in on this Spring favorite! Grab your flashlights, hiking boots, and discover some of the unique creatures that visit these vernal pools once a year to lay their eggs, like wood frogs, American toads, and spotted salamanders. Meets at the Overbrook Nature Center. Register early, this sells out every year! Pre-registration only. Recommended for ages 5 and older.







## PRESCHOOL CHILD WITH ADULT SPRING 2018

*All classes take place at Heckscher Barn.*

*Awaken your senses to the arrival of spring. Come and see the new arrivals on the farm both animal and plant life. In the classroom make your own signs of spring. Please bring a smock for your child if you want. Please note that siblings, for safety reasons, who are in a baby carrier on adult are welcome but otherwise please make other arrangements for them during class.*

**Family PLUS & above  
Member levels:  
Wednesday, December 20**

**Open registration:  
Wednesday, December 27**

**Register online at  
[stamfordmuseum.org](http://stamfordmuseum.org)**



**Little Farmers • 9:30 am-10:15 am • Tuesdays, Wednesdays, or Thursdays  
Age: 18-24 months | Instructor: Beth Strauss**

Our youngest "farmers" will see how the farm is waking up from the winter: new baby animals, peepers in the pond and plants beginning to grow. Children will create a spring project with attending adult.

**EC1S**, 10 weeks, Tuesdays, March 13-May 22 (no class April 10) OR

**EC2S**, 10 weeks, Wednesdays, March 14-May 23 (no class April 11) OR

**EC3S**, 10 weeks, Thursdays, March 15-May 24 (no class April 12)

**SM&NC Members: \$150 | Non-members: \$170**

**Art Farm • 9:30 am-10:15 am • Mondays or Fridays  
Age: Just 2 | Instructor: Teri Barry**

Our young two year olds will visit the farm to see and hear what new things are happening with the animals, in the garden and in the pond. Children will create a project with attending adult.

**EC4S**, 10 weeks, Mondays, March 12-May 21 (no class April 9) OR

**EC5S**, 10 weeks, Fridays, March 9-May 25 (no class March 30 & April 13)

**SM&NC Members: \$150 | Non-members: \$170**

**Spring on the Farm • 10:30 am-11:15 am • Tuesdays, Wednesdays or Thursdays  
Age 2+ | Instructor: Beth Strauss**

March around SM&NC and see how spring has arrived on the farm. The earth is warming up and plants and animals are waking up from their winter rest. The farm is a busy place. Children will create a project with attending adult.

**EC6S**, 10 weeks, Tuesdays, March 13-May 22 (no class April 10) OR

**EC7S**, 10 weeks, Wednesdays, March 14-May 23 (no class April 11) OR

**EC8S**, 10 weeks, Thursdays, March 15-May 24 (no class April 12)

**SM&NC Members: \$150 | Non-members: \$170**

**Spring! • 10:30 am-11:15 am • Mondays or Fridays  
Ages 2+ | Instructor: Teri Barry**

Visit the farm and see how spring has arrived. Meet baby farm animals, hear peepers in the pond and see plants sprouting in the garden. Children will create a project with attending adult.

**EC9S**, 10 weeks, Mondays, March 12-May 21 (no class April 9) OR

**EC10S**, 10 weeks, Fridays, March 9-May 25 (no class March 30 & April 13)

**SM&NC Members: \$150 | Non-members: \$170**

**Afternoon on the Farm • 1:30 pm-2:15 pm • Fridays  
Ages 2+ | Instructor: Teri Barry**

Come after lunch and enjoy the farm with your child. We will explore and learn. Each class will be different. Scavenger hunts, visiting animals, art, tasty treats and books are the activities that will happen during the 10 weeks.

**EC11S**, 10 weeks, Fridays, March 9-May 25 (no class March 30 & April 13)

**SM&NC Members: \$150 | Non-members: \$170**

# GENERAL INFORMATION . . . About Spring Classes

## Registration

Register online at  
[stamfordmuseum.org](http://stamfordmuseum.org)

Family PLUS & above

Member levels:

Wednesday, December 20

Open registration:

Wednesday, December 27

Register early, as classes fill up quickly! Please include class code and numbers when registering (example: EC1S).

- Registrations are accepted on a first-come, first-served basis.
- Registration form must be accompanied by payment in full.
- Registration closes one week prior to program start date.
- No phone registrations.
- Fax registrations will be handled as mail-in registrations.
- We do not send confirmations.

- Registrants are notified if classes are canceled or full.
- Children must reach the required age prior to the first class of a session.
- No guests or pets allowed.

## Class Schedules

Based on the Stamford Public School Calendar, some classes will not be held the week of April 9-13. Some programs may still be scheduled. Please read class listings carefully.

## Weather Related Closings

If the Stamford Public Schools are closed, we will be closed. Make-up classes will be scheduled. You may also call 203-322-1646 (ext 6599) for cancellation information.

## Refunds

No refunds are given unless a class is cancelled by the Stamford Museum & Nature Center. Emergency situations will be considered at the Museum's discretion. Please register carefully.

For more information, call  
**203.322.1646**

Ext. 6521 Main Office  
Ext. 6528 Early Childhood  
Education (class code EC)  
Ext. 6529 Farm Office (class code F)

## \*NOTE\*

*From time to time Stamford Museum & Nature Center representatives photograph children during SM&NC classes, workshops, and camps. These photos may be used on the SM&NC website and social media, in brochures, newsletters, class catalogs, and for related publicity. If you do not want your child to be photographed, please send a letter to the effect. Attn: Photo Dept. Thank you!*

Register online for SM&NC classes @[stamfordmuseum.org](http://stamfordmuseum.org)!





# WINTER/SPRING CLASSES 2018

## Registration Form

- Make checks payable to Stamford Museum & Nature Center
- Mark envelope “Registration”
- Mail to: Stamford Museum & Nature Center, 39 Scofieldtown Road, Stamford, CT 06903 or Fax to: 203.322.0408

1st Parent’s Name Dr. | Mr. | Mrs. | Ms. | circle one

Name (last) (first) email

2nd Parent’s Name Dr. | Mr. | Mrs. | Ms. | circle one

Name (last) (first) email

Address

City State Zip

Tel (home) (business)

Emergency Contact Name Tel

1st Child’s Name

Date of Birth Age Entering Grade

Documented serious allergies

1. Class # Title Fee

2. Class # Title Fee

3. Class # Title Fee

2nd Child’s Name

Date of Birth Age Entering Grade

Documented serious allergies

1. Class # Title Fee

2. Class # Title Fee

3. Class # Title Fee

Membership fee for *new members* and *renewals* must accompany this registration form.

- ☐ \$175 Family Plus
- ☐ \$100 Family
- ☐ \$ 30 Nanny Card add-on

Please note: Replacement cards \$10 each

- ☐ Check this box to opt in to membership auto-renewal. Terms and conditions can be found on our website.

Total Class Fee

Membership Fee

Annual Appeal Donation

**Total Amount Enclosed**

Check one: ☐ Current Member ☐ New Membership ☐ Renewal Membership ☐ Non-Member

Method of Payment: ☐ MasterCard ☐ Visa ☐ AmEx ☐ Cash (in person only) ☐ Check (make checks payable to Stamford Museum & Nature Center)

☐ Credit Card ☐ MasterCard ☐ Visa ☐ AmEx

Acct No. Name (as it appears on card)

Exp Date CW Code Signature

Billing Address: Street City State Zip



**Stamford Museum  
& Nature Center**

39 Scofieldtown Road, Stamford, CT 06903

**HOURS:**

**Stamford Museum Galleries & Bendel Mansion**

Monday–Saturday, 9 am–5 pm; Sunday, 11 am–5 pm

**Heckscher Farm**

Daily 9 am–5 pm; April–October

Daily 9 am–4 pm; November–March

**Heckscher WILD!**

Tuesday–Friday, Noon–4 pm

Saturday–Sunday, 10 am–4 pm

School vacation days & summer, 10 am–4pm

**Nature's Playground, Hiking Trails**

Daily, 9 am–5 pm (weather permitting)

**Overbrook Nature Center**

Hours vary

**SM&NC Closed**

New Years Day, Thanksgiving Day & Christmas Day

**The Stamford Museum & Nature Center  
is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization.**

## Give the gift of MEMBERSHIP

Whether you are looking for the perfect gift for a family or individual, membership makes for a unique, well-appreciated gift. With a gift membership, recipients can experience the full benefits of membership, including free access to the Stamford Museum & Nature Center for a full year; discounts on programs, classes, and camps; and discounted admission to our Family Festival Weekends. Individual, Grandparent, Family, and Family Plus levels are available.

Contact Elena Pepe-Salutric in the Membership Department at 203-977-6533 or at [epepesalutric@stamfordmuseum.org](mailto:epepesalutric@stamfordmuseum.org) with any questions or to arrange your gift membership.



Connect with us:



#smnc

**[stamfordmuseum.org](http://stamfordmuseum.org)  
203.322.1646**

**SM&NC Membership Information  
203.977.6533**