



MAGIC CITY
**DISCOVERY
CENTER**

**2023
ANNUAL REPORT**

MARK LYMAN

BOARD PRESIDENT 2023



2023 was a great year for the children and families of the Minot area and North Dakota! It's a year that will be remembered as the opening of the Magic City Discovery Center. It was an honor to serve as President of the volunteer Board of Directors for a portion of the year – a huge thank you to Karen Rasmussen for her service at the beginning of the year. As a founding board member, it has been a full and rewarding ten years working with hundreds of volunteers, fundraisers, and staff members who made this enormous dream a reality for our region.

It is my sincere hope that each of us sees this children's discovery center as a centerpiece for informal and formal education of thousands of children (and adults!) for generations to come. Your continued community support, through attendance at events, donations, membership, and positive word-of-mouth marketing, is sure to keep the Magic City Discovery Center as the jewel of Minot that it is!

Be proud of all the efforts that made this community vision a reality. Be proud to have a \$20 million educational asset in our region. Be proud of all those whose lives will change for the better because they are influenced by the Magic City Discovery Center. I know I am.

I would be remiss if I didn't thank my wife, Katherine, and our two daughters, in supporting me through the thousands of hours of volunteering as a member and president of the board. We are all defined, in part, by what we do with our "free time" in life. I hope that each of you, who in anyway has touched the Magic City Discovery Center project, knows that your "free time" spent in support of this amazing center has been well worth every second.

Thank you for your continued support of the Magic City Discovery Center - and please have fun the next time you visit our world-class center!

Mark Lyman



APRIL 28, 2023

BUILDING DEDICATION CEREMONY



DEDICATION PROGRAM SPEAKERS:

Commander 91st Missile Wing Col. Kenneth McGhee, Past MCDC Board President Karen Rasmusson, Commander 5th Bomb Wing Col. Dan Hoadley, Minot Mayor Tom Ross, U.S. Senator John Hoeven, Sandra Fearing, MCDC Board President Mark Lyman, Executive Director Wendy Keller, Darrell Nitschke.



Kid Ambassadors Cash, Bridget and Jonas launch the celebration.



Board of Directors with Wendy Keller, Executive Director, and Liz Weeks, Education Director & Exhibit Project Manager

THANKS TO OUR MAJOR SUPPORTERS!

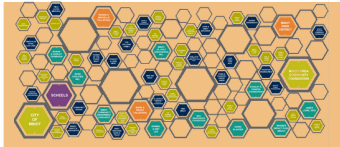
Department of Defense | State of North Dakota | Minot Park District
City of Minot | Minot Area Community Foundation | Ackerman-Estvold



YEAR IN REVIEW

1000'S
OF DONORS

ENDLESS
HOURS OF LEARNING



151 WALL OF HONOR DONORS

3000'
ROOFTOP VENUE SPACE



1 OF 11
SMITHSONIAN SPARK! LABS IN THE WORLD

12 UNIQUE GALLERIES

925 
ATTENDEES AT NEW YEAR'S EVE EXTRAVAGANZA WEEKEND

3,731 
FIELD TRIP GUESTS

37'

ONE-OF-A-KIND INTERACTIVE MAGIC CLIMBER



120+ 
HANDS-ON STEAM EXHIBITS

406 
MILITARY FAMILY MEMBERSHIPS

28,000 SQUARE FOOT BUILDING


1413
OPEN HOURS OF MCDC FUN AND LEARNING

560  
PINTS OF PAINT USED FOR THE PAINT WALL

9,653

FACEBOOK FOLLOWERS 

350,941
PAGE VIEWS
 ON GOOGLE 

140,400 
GALLONS OF WATER USED TO FILL THE WATER FLOW GALLERY

3,500
SHEETS OF CARDSTOCK USED IN CREATIVITY STUDIO

GUESTS FROM **37 STATES**


60,879 
TOTAL GUESTS

472
BIRTHDAY PARTY GUESTS



1,316
MEMBERSHIPS

THOUSANDS 
OF SMILING KIDS' FACES!

6,070 
ATTENDEES AT DISCOVERY ON THE GO! EVENTS

OUR 2023 TEAM



WENDY KELLER
Executive Director



LIZ WEEKS
Education Director &
Exhibit Project Manager
(Jan - Sept)



SARA BRENRUP
Education Director
(Nov-Dec)



KEEGAN MEEKS
Discovery Guide
Supervisor



AMY RIETVELD
Office Manager



DAN SEXTON
Facilities Maintenance
Technician



MAREN VANGNESS
Marketing Coordinator



TESSIA SAMUELSON
Educator & Outreach
Coordinator



KAREN LANGEMO
Educator & Field Trip
Coordinator



**SARAH
MALACHOWSKI**
Exhibit Coordinator



MCKENZI PADDOCK
Facilities



**BRITTNEY AVERY-
WOOD**
Lead Discovery Guide

KID AMBASSADORS



CASH



BRIDGET



JONAS

BOARD OF DIRECTORS



KAREN RASMUSSEN
President (Jan-March)



MARK LYMAN
President (April-Dec)



DAVE SCHWENGLER
Vice President



MARLYS MAGNUSON
Treasurer



MELISSA STANLEY
Secretary



TERRY ECKMANN



MIKKI ELLIOT



DEB HOFFARTH



DANIEL LEE



TERESA LOFTESNES



RIANNE KUHN



ALLAN PEARSON



MISSY SAGNESS



HEIDI SUPER



ANGIE THOMPSON



ANDREA TRAVNICEK

COMMITTEES



BUILDING | FINANCE | FUNDRAISING | MARKETING | GOVERNANCE | VENUE

SUCCESS STORIES

AWARDS & HONORS

MAGIC CITY DISCOVERY CENTER AWARDED THE ALLIANCE OF NONPROFITS ORGANIZATION OF THE YEAR

The Organization of the Year award honors a member organization that is most deserving based on their activities during the past 12 months. The nomination of the discovery center detailed how the center has collaborated with other organizations, businesses, and community members, as well as the commitment the center has to bring STEAM education to children and families of our region. The award was graciously accepted by 11 members of the discovery center staff and board.



LIZ WEEKS AWARDED THE ALLIANCE OF NONPROFITS EMERGING LEADER OF THE YEAR

The Emerging Leader of the Year award honors a newer nonprofit leader who has already made a significant contribution to the sector and has demonstrated the potential for leadership and continuing service. The nomination submitted for Liz detailed her contribution to the success of the Magic City Discovery Center through her countless hours spent organizing the 150+ exhibits and educational programming that make up the center's three floors. It also detailed her kind demeanor and belief that children learn the best through play, experimentation, and hands-on experiences.



SPECIAL RECOGNITIONS

Wendy Keller:
Nonprofit Leader of the Year Nominee

Marlys Magnuson:
Outstanding Board Member Nominee

Teresa Loftesnes:
Lowell Latimer Lifetime Achievement Award Nominee
KXMC's "Someone You Should Know"

GUEST REVIEWS



"What a gem in the Magic City! My three young grandchildren had so much fun! The staff is exceptional, the price reasonable and the activities are above and beyond. Honestly, the adults had just as much fun. Thank you for this amazing addition to Minot!"

"This place is so much fun!! I'm not sure who enjoyed it more, my 2-year-old, my 5-year-old, or me in my 30s! I definitely recommend this as a great way to wear the kids out before nap time. The only downside are the grumpy kids because they want to play more! 10/10 would recommend!!!"

"This place is phenomenal! My kids love going and playing, and I like that they are problem-solving and learning without even knowing it. A great place for kids big or small."



WHO WE ARE

OUR MISSION

To engage children and families in the magic of lifelong learning through discovery, creativity and play.

OUR VISION

The Magic City Discovery Center is a destination to bring children, their families and caregivers together in an interactive environment that inspires creativity, encourages play and enhances education.

OUR CORE VALUES

- MCDC will be an educational opportunity for all.
- MCDC will remain curious, creative, playful and fun in celebration of the wonderment of childhood.
- MCDC will promote family engagement by creating extraordinary learning experiences.
- MCDC will be a catalyst, in collaboration with organizations and institutions, for community engagement.

MEMBERSHIP

Minot Area Chamber EDC
Association of Children’s Museums

BRADY MARTZ AUDIT STATEMENT

The 2022 financial statements of Magic City Discovery Center were audited by Brady Martz & Associates, P.C. under generally accepted auditing standards, Governmental Auditing Standards, and the Uniform Guidance. They found that the financial statements presented fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the organization in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. In addition, their opinion on the supplementary schedule of expenditures of federal awards which is included in the audited financial statements was fairly stated, in all material respects, in relation to the financial statements as a whole.

MAGIC CITY DISCOVERY CENTER

1545 1st St NW | Minot ND 58703
701-858-7529 | MagicCityDiscoveryCenter.com

