



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!**

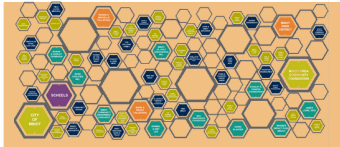
Department of Defense | State of North Dakota | Minot Park District  
City of Minot | Minot Area Community Foundation | Ackerman-Estvold



YEAR IN REVIEW

**1000'S**  
OF DONORS

**ENDLESS**  
HOURS OF LEARNING



**151** WALL OF HONOR DONORS

**4000'**  
ROOF TOP 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

## 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](http://MagicCityDiscoveryCenter.com)

