



Impact Report

2024



Prepared By
Neely Myers
Executive Director

Contents

2 Contents

3 Year In Review

4 Vision and Mission

5 Our Team

6 Highlight in 2024

7 Learning and
Experimentation

8 Impact

9 Volunteers

10 Donors



Year In Review



2024 held both explosive growth and historic announcements for Creative Learning Alliance. We hosted a record number of families than we ever had before in 2024 bringing a love of STEAM to people of all ages. In June, thanks to our visionary top donor and a very creative group of entries from the public, we announced the name of the science center; the Schroeder Family Exploreum.

The Schroeder family name holds a special place thanks to the family's shared vision for a hands-on, STEAM based science center for our region. Over 65 entries were narrowed during the first part of 2024, culminating in the final choice of Exploreum to round out the name of the science center.

Our Capital Campaign committee has been hard at work raising approximately 40% of our total goal of \$6.5 million to bring this vision to life! As we raise funds, our goal is to have the North portion of the building open by summer 2025 with the South portion of the building's construction phased throughout the remainder of 2025 and into 2026.

2024 held so much in terms of growth but we can't wait to rocket past our previous milestones in 2025!

Neely Myers, Executive Director



Vision & Mission

Vision

Our vision is to engage people of all ages in hands-on learning, driven by curiosity and play.



Mission

Our mission is to create a hands-on, STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Mathematics) based attraction that exercises curiosity, promotes exploration, and develops imagination through interactivity.



Our Team



1



2



3



4



5



6

- 01. Audie Dennis-President
- 02. Shelly Kraft-Treasurer
- 03. Kitty Ward-Secretary
- 04. Stephanie Bradshaw
- 05. Chad Greer
- 06. Logan Stanley

Highlight In 2024



1

Highlight On April 8, 2024

The 4 day Solarbration Eclipse Festival served over 4000 community members with free eclipse glasses, eclipse science activities, stage shows, and a live viewing party for hundreds of area residents and visitors.

2

Highlight On November 8, 2024

November's International STEAM Day festival brought 11 local companies from veterinary care to manufacturing, from space exploration to engine repair, and from archeology to robotics who provided interactive stations allowing learners to discover all of the ways STEAM shows up in different careers.





Learning and Experimentation



2024 was full of education, exploration, and experimentation for learners of all ages through several different themes and locations with our STEAMagination Exploration series, funded in part by the Philanthropic Society of the Joplin Regional Community Foundation. We started the year off with an Artist as Outlaw lab featuring color theory and assemblage in January and Heart Day in February for which volunteers built a giant, walk through, anatomical heart! That's right, our families got to enter the heart and explore the valves and ventricles themselves. March was FULL with collaborations with Connect 2 Culture at their Magic School Bus and Janet's Planet's events, at which we were the exclusive invitee to engage the families in the lobby before the shows to provide some hands-on fun, AND the kick-off to our 3rd Thursday activities on the lawn of the Exploreum.

April brought our largest community event to date with the Solar Eclipse and our Solarbration Festival spanning 4 days and serving over 4000 community members with free eclipse glasses, eclipse science activities, stage shows, and a live viewing party during the eclipse that brought hundreds of area residents and visitors to our lawn on April 8! May provided a couple of unique collaboration opportunities. First, we loaned 6 exhibits from our permanent collection to Spiva Art Gallery for their Art in Motion exhibit, showcasing how science, technology, engineering, and math are partner to art in a variety of ways and formats. Second, we partnered with the Joplin Public Library for May the 4th Be With You day and showed off a little Star Wars science including DIY lightsabers and a droid building station.

Summer found us exploring bee science in June, water science in July, and canine companion science in August during 3rd Thursdays on our lawn. In August, we also had prehistoric fun at our Dino Days lab in partnership with the Midwest Museum of Natural Science. We got to bring prairie science to the crowd at Prairie Day at George Washington Carver National Monument and amphibian science to Porchfest in the North Heights Neighborhood. In November we celebrated International STEAM Day with a day long festival at the Exploreum. 11 local companies from veterinary care to manufacturing, from space exploration to engine repair, and from archeology to robotics provided interactive stations allowing learners to discover all of the ways STEAM shows up in different careers.

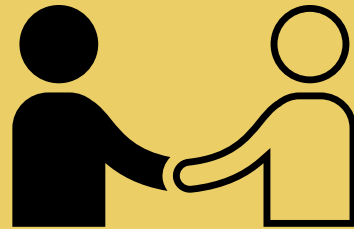
If we can accomplish all of this while fundraising and beginning the remodel of the Exploreum, can you imagine what the future holds? Full STEAM ahead!

Impact



Lab Learning
Events

13



Partnership
Collaborations

7



People Served

Over 8500

Volunteers

+ + Our growth in 2024 would not have been possible without
+ + the stellar group of community leaders and advocates that
+ + serve as the Board of Directors and committee volunteers
+ + of CLA. Their commitment to the vision of the science
center, along with their guidance, advice and unwavering
support continues to be one of our biggest assets. If you
would like to find our more information about how to be
involved, please email neely@creativelearnnigalliance.org.

- Dorothy Alsenz
- Colt Atwood
- Bob Arnce
- Kara Arnce
- Adam Badr
- Brenley Bradshaw
- Stephanie Bradshaw
- Stacy Braman
- Kevin Bullard
- Kris Bullard
- Michelle Cahill
- Carl Junction Chamber of Commerce
- Alaina Clayton
- Tracy Crider
- Audie Dennis
- Kate DeGraff
- Melody Dickey
- Jamie Foister
- Freeman Hospital
- Lorena Garcia
- Cean Gardner
- Luke Gibson
- Chuck Good
- Lori Good
- Lauren Good Hickerson
- Cormac Gray
- Kimberly Gray
- Chad Greer
- Sabrina Hayes
- Daniel Hickerson
- Nathan Hicks
- Sarah Horine
- Austin Hyslip
- Joplin Chamber of Commerce
- Jackie Kennedy
- Keri Kirby
- Chase Kraft
- Shelly Kraft
- Lindsay Kubicek
- Kerstin Landwer
- Jeannette Lehew
- Vance Lewis
- Heather McBride
- Hunter McBride
- Anne McLaughlin
- Ryan Melton
- Codi Meredith
- Aaron Mitchell
- Stephanie Moore
- Bev Mouton
- Rachelle Murray
- Sandy Myers
- Carolina NEal
- Ozark Christian College
- Lisa Nelson
- Katelyn Rogers
- Amanda Stone
- Dan Stanley
- Logan Stanley
- Jamie Strickland
- Clive Veri
- Scott Vorhees
- Kitty Ward
- Bri Watts
- Youth Volunteer Corps

Thank You Donors



Caley Hedman
Barbara Hicklin Trust
Marshal and Lisa Hogue
Wes and Jan Houser
Joplin Area Welcome Club
Joplin Regional Community
Foundation Philanthropic Society
KM Guru
Fiona Kamler-McKenzie
Charles Keeter
Vicki Kennedy
Shelly and Randy Kraft
David Lash
Jean Jack & Mildred Lemons Charitable
Trust
Liberty Utilities
Lisa Nelson
Olsson
Andrea Pence
Powershades
Schroeder Family Foundation
Southwest Missouri Bank
Specialty Risk Insurance
Dan and Melanie Stanley
Logan and Emily Stanley
Ryan and Amanda Stanley
Mitch and Deborah Stinnett
Michael and Patricia Tamburrino
Vazzo Creative
Visit Joplin
Kitty and Brian Ward
Donna Webster
Wert Family Charitable Fund
Dorothy Willcoxon
Felix Wright
Steve and Eileen Wright

Academy Animal Hospital
Arvest Bank
Sharon and Lance Beshore
Bill's Electric
Michael Borok-Wells Fargo
Stephanie and Chris Bradshaw
Scott and Kit Brothers
Glenn and Randy Brown
Steve Chenault
Commerce Bank
Joy Spiva Cragin Trust
Audie and Melody Dennis
Eagle Picher
Flanagan Group
Freeman Health System
Glauber Family Foundation
Cynthia Graham Trust
Chad Greer

+ +
+ +
+ +
+ +