### **2021 GRATITUDE REPORT**





# MISSION

Be a catalyst! Ignite our community's passion for nature and science.

The Denver Museum of Nature & Science envisions an empowered community that loves, understands, and protects our natural world.

VISION



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# LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

ATITUDE REPOR

#### Reflecting on 2021 brings to mind two words:

adaptability and community. The unprecedented COVID-19 pandemic made it difficult to plan for the future as public health guidelines and other circumstances changed quickly.

However, there is no question that our community also experienced many moments of beauty during this difficult time. We saw incredible courage and persistence. We saw countless examples of the kindness of others. And we saw the power of connection through friends and supporters of the Museum like you.

This year, thanks to your generosity, the Museum continued to connect with hundreds of thousands of people across Colorado as a source of fun, education and perhaps most importantly, respite.

We transformed the Curiosity Cruiser from an interactive, multi-sensory experience into a community outreach vehicle that delighted community members with fun and science-based activities.

Our communities continued to engage with us online while also returning to Mars Outpost and Dinosaur Gulch, our play areas at Colorado Mills and the Cherry Creek Shopping Center.

We met a larger share of our guests in places other than the Museum when compared to previous years, serving 356,678 guests offsite and 442,366 people virtually.

We were humbled by the continued support of our more than 44,000 member households, which afforded us opportunities to remain adaptable in the face of uncertainty.



And perhaps most importantly, we launched our equity strategic initiative, which focuses on examining our systems and processes to ensure the Museum is a fair and welcoming place to work and visit. Our goal is to remain transparent and accountable in enacting change around our diversity, equity, inclusion and accessibility work.

Looking to the future, we're excited to take the lessons of some of the most challenging times in our history forward – the ability to quickly change course and navigate the unexpected – to forge new and deeper connections with the communities we serve so that everyone sees us as their museum.



Jeorge Sparks

**George Sparks** President & CEO



Kristin Rechardson

Kristin Richardson Chair of the Board, 2021

# GG

Being able to visit these places makes me feel connected to my community--so necessary in this time of isolation and uncertainty!





### 1,757,871 People Served



442,366



2,500 New

YouTube Subscribers

who watched 36,900 hours of programming (3,745% increase)



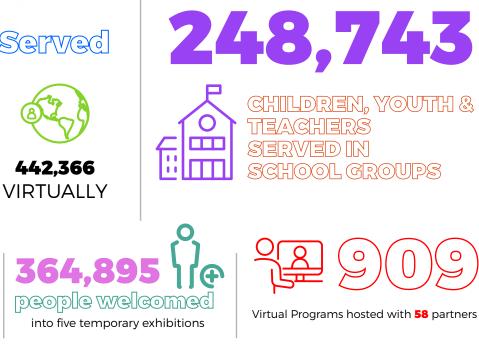
articles published



DENVER MUSEUM OF NATURE & SCIENCE 2021 GRATITUDE REPORT

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## 2021 YEAR IN REVIEW







Institute for **Science & Policy COVID-19** webinars hosted

Active volunteers contributed 27,125 hours

### 37

Research field excursions



83

Outgoing collections loans (5,066 objects)



24

Interns and 20 Teen Science Scholars mentored



"Tinv" Torosaurus model installed in the Museum

New species named

## TREASURER'S REPORT

The Denver Museum of Nature & Science is pleased to have ended 2021 on solid footing as it continues to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic. The Museum achieved operating revenues of \$50,821,000, which includes one-time governmental assistance in the form of recognition of our Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) funds (though the funds were received in and supported 2020 operations). Also included was the accrual of pending Employee Retention Credit (ERC) funds, which will support one-time investments once received. Significant recovery was seen in attendance, membership and retail revenues. Overall operating revenues for the Museum were up by 22% from 2020, not including the impacts of the two government assistance programs.

We owe special recognition to the citizens of the sevencounty metro region, the City and County of Denver and the SCFD for their ongoing operational support. SCFD revenue for the Denver metropolitan area remained strong throughout the pandemic and increased by 18% in 2021 from the previous year. The District's renewal was approved by voters in 2016.

Operationally, the Museum had expenditures of \$37,777,000, which is still 14% below pre-pandemic levels. Staffing levels and needs for supplies and services continue to grow to meet increased attendance levels and the Museum has kept up with compensation pressures driven by the tight labor market.

The Museum continued with some capital projects in 2021. In the Everyone, Everywhere Strategic Plan, concepting work on the new Future First guest experience was completed, as was design development work for Nearby Nature.

On the following page, we present our financial results with the strategic activities separated from operations. Museum-wide, the year ended with a stated operating surplus of \$13,044,000, though when you remove the impacts of the two government assistance programs, it was approximately \$1.9 million.

The Museum received a clean audit opinion from our independent accounting firm.

Edward D. Scholz

Edward D. Scholz Vice President, Finance and Business Operations

the C Marting

Steven Halstedt Chair, Finance and Audit Committee

## YEAR END FINANCIAL REPORT

(Year ending Dec. 31, 2021, in thousands) \*Excludes DMNS Foundation operating results

SUPPORT & REVENUE	2021 Operations
Admissions	9,785
SCFD	11,150
Gifts and grants	9,758
Memberships	4,449
Gift shop and food service (net)	3,803
City & County of Denver	1,920
Program	340
Other	9,616
Total Support & Revenue EXPENDITURES	50,821
<b>Program Activities</b> Exhibits/Visitor Experiences	8,468
Physical Plant	7,153
Admissions	2,347
Collections & Research	4,823
Education	3,375
Total Program Activities	26,166
<b>SUPPORTING ACTIVITIES</b> General & Administration	6,516
Marketing	2,772
Fundraising	1,381
Membership	942
Total Supporting Activities	11,611
Total Expenditures	37,777
Changes in net assets from operations	13,044



2021 5 Initiatives	2021 All Museum
-	9,785
-	11,150
3,931	13,689
-	4,449
-	3,803
1,077	2,997
-	340
-	9,616
5,008	55,829
1,369	9,837
1,354	8,507
-	2,347
554	5,377
303	3,678
3,580	29,746
7,927	14,445
-	2,772
201	1,582
-	942
8,128	19,741
11,708	49,487
(6,700)	6,342



# THE GREATEST GIFT

On December 14, 2021, an anonymous donor gifted the Museum with its largest donation ever—\$25 million earmarked for collections and cultural knowledge conservation. Building on the Museum's decades-long foundation of object conservation, this gift will take the science division in exciting new directions while also honoring the donor's passion.

Initially, the Museum will focus on preserving the collections and exhibitions that contain catalogued objects and specimens, along with digital asset management.

In the coming months and years, many priorities and soon-to-be imagined projects will be determined. Our work will be guided by conservation in collaboration with the communities of origin. The team is already researching best practices and recruiting an advisory panel with expertise in conservation science, Indigenous cultural heritage and museums to guide the plan.

In addition, this \$25 million gift positions the Museum to play a leading role in the worldwide effort to engage source communities in decisions about how to care for objects in Western museums. It builds on more than 15 years of work by the department of anthropology to engage in collaborative work with Indigenous groups in the American Southwest, Kenya, Peru and elsewhere. December 14 will remain an important anniversary in the Museum's history for decades to come.

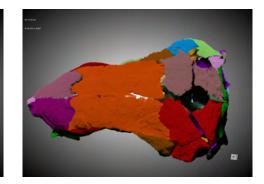


# MUSEUM WINS SEVERAL GOVERNMENT GRANTS

The Denver Museum of Nature & Science was awarded eight federal and local government grants in 2021, totaling nearly \$1.2 million. These grants support our ability to further scientific research, train a new generation of scientists, care for our collections, enhance understanding of our audiences, and ignite our community's passion for nature and science. In 2021, federal grants also helped the Museum retain critical staff that could have been lost due to COVID-19 related budget reductions. Federal grants, which are awarded through a competitive peer review process, can also inspire support from non-federal sources. These grants are one measure of your Museum's vibrant research (such the National Science Foundationsupported study on the origin of the turtle body shown on page 15), programs and relevance for supporters and community members like you.

Thank you to the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Institute of Museum and Library Services, NASA, the National Science Foundation, the Bureau of Land Management, and local agencies Jefferson County Open Space and Larimer County for their investments in the Museum's scientific activities.





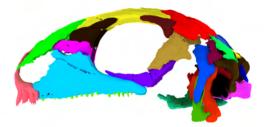
Anterior view The front of the skull

**Dorsal view** The top of the skull









L Lateral original and reconstruction Side view of the original specimen with the reconstructed model

I very much look forward to resuming my cultural life. Aside from moments of grace, charity, and unconditional love; "The Arts" is what we as humans do best.

- Anonymous



### Dear Kelly,

We had a great tour of the museum today. Thank you for arranging all this for us. It is a pity that we didn't get to meet Mr. Sparks and you though. Please pass our greetings and gratitude to Mr. Sparks.

Please also pass our gratitude to Stephanie Woods, Lauren Whynott, Charlotte, John, and Memri as we don't have their email address. Everyone we met at the museum today was so warm-hearted and we learned a lot from them. We sincerely appreciate their hospitality.



- Julia Chew

## INSTITUTE FOR SCIENCE & POLICY MAKES SCIENCE SECOND NATURE

Such a complex, important story about energy and our future. High quality production and great characters.
Wild By Nature, 11/16/2021

The Institute for Science & Policy continued its work to foster civil, productive dialogue around complex challenges. In 2021, the Institute hosted 30 free public webinars on topics that included COVID-19, misinformation, gene editing, food security and wildfires. Each program brought researchers, public officials and community members together in conversation to build trust, find common ground and discuss collaborative solutions on contentious issues.

The Institute also released "Coal at Sunset," its first-ever long-form narrative podcast. The eight-part audio series explored the ongoing energy transition through the voices of Craig, Colorado, where a coal-fired power plant and coal mines are scheduled to close. The acclaimed series, which featured more than 20 interviews with residents and policymakers, put a strong focus on a community bracing for change. "Coal at Sunset" was recently named one of the top local podcasts of the year by the Denver Post. "We wanted to focus on the human side of energy policy and bring empathy and nuance to an issue that will ultimately affect every Coloradan in some way," said Institute Director Kristan Uhlenbrock.

The Institute is preparing a second podcast for 2022 and will continue its virtual programming, beginning with a multi-part series on grassland conservation in April. Find details at institute.dmns.org.



# NEW SCIENTIFIC DISCOVERIES

Science is more and more a collaborative endeavor. Naming new species in honor of supporters is one way to recognize the collaboration and donations that help make discoveries possible. The science division staff were involved in several exciting discoveries, including:

- **Parasaurolophus cyrtocristatus:** Found by Smithsonian Ecology Fellow Erin Spear in the Bisti/De-Na-Zin Wilderness of New Mexico as part of a museum team led by Curator of Dinosaurs Joe Sertich. *Parasaurolophus cyrtocristatus* is the first new skull discovered in nearly a century from a rare species of the iconic, tube-crested dinosaur.
- *Plastomenus joycei:* A new species of fossil soft-shelled turtle named after Walter Joyce, a preeminent paleontologist who studies fossil turtles. It was found by Curator of Vertebrate Paleontology Tyler Lyson in Corral Bluffs outside of Colorado Springs, Colorado.
- *Palatobaena knellerorum:* Found by Museum Volunteer Sharon Milito in Corral Bluffs, *Palatobaena knellerorum* was a bottom dwelling turtle that lived in freshwater ponds and rivers, had a very unusual skull that was broadly rounded and eyes situated on top of its head. It was named after Stephen and Mary Lynne Kneller in recognition of all of their support for the Museum's Cretaceous/Paleogene research. The holotype specimen (the specimen the species description is based on) is on display in the "After the Asteroid" exhibition on the first floor of the Museum.
- **Pulchritudo attenboroughi** (Attendborough's Beauty): Rediscovered by Curator of Entomology Frank Krell in the Museum's "Prehistoric Journey" exhibition, *Pulchritudo attenboroughi*, or Attenborough's Beauty, is a new frog-legged beetle species from the Green River Formation in Garfield County, Colorado. Named for the beautiful patterns on its wing casings and in honor of English naturalist and broadcaster Sir David Attenborough for the way he inspired so many through his documentaries about the wonders of the natural world.



### SINCE THE LAUNCH OF DMNS@HOME, THE MUSEUM'S VIRTUAL PROGRAMS **HAVE LED TO:**

**1.9 MILLION VIEWS** ACROSS ALL SOCIAL MEDIA CHANNELS

MORE THAN 300,000 VIEWS ON YOUTUBE ALONE (A 425% INCREASE!)

> **NEARLY 37,000 HOURS** OF VIDEOS WATCHED

2,500 SUBSCRIBERS

\$320.000 IN GIFTS AND GRANTS

\$66.551 IN PROGRAM REVENUE

NEARLY \$16,000 IN ROUND-UP DONATIONS

Continued engagement with the Museum's virtual programming, even as people move back to in-person school, work, and entertainment, is proof that the virtual experience is now a part of life.

# VIRTUAL PROGRAMS **HERE TO** STAY

In 2021, the Museum's virtual programs evolved. The year included a rebrand from DMNS@Home to DMNS OnDemand, launched on March 14, 2020 in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. There was exponential audience growth and the addition of a TikTok channel. (If you've ever wondered whether a star exploding will be fatal to life on Earth, follow us on TikTok to hear Astrophysicist Chris explain.)

### **58 PARTNERSHIPS**

### **1 NEW TIKTOK CHANNEL**

# IRU





Kristin Richardson Chair

Stephen G. McConahey Vice Chair



**Richard Ambrose** 



Lisa Levin Appel



Matthew Burkett



Hudson

Jenny Hopkins Christine Marquez-

Alice Jackson



Christopher Chavez



Monty Cleworth



John Couzens



James H. Crocker





Harold Logan Jr.



John E. Freyer





Steve Halstedt





Happy Haynes



Jesus Salazar



Mark Sexton





Henry Gordon





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Dave Liniger



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Timothy M. Ryan



Mark Spiecker



Leo Tilman

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## 2021 TRUSTEES EMERITI

Nancy Leprino Henry Harry T. Lewis\* Mary Pat Link Donna Lynne Carrie Morgridge William Sinclaire II Eric Sipf Thomas Swanson Sondra Talley M. Ray Thomasson **Mike Wilfley** 

\*Passed away in 2021

## EDWIN CARTER LEGACY SOCIETY

Thank you to these individuals for remembering the Museum in their estate plans.

### Anonymous

Marcelle Arak & Hal Landen Hartman Axley Mr. Paul Barrett Mrs. Barbara B. Becker & Mr. Benjamin Cordova Robert Blauvelt & Michael Corrigan Mr. and Mrs. Wilbur Blundell Mr. Roger P. Botterbusch Donald & Nikkie Brandborg Marcus Brooks & Donna L. Stuedeman Serena & Darek Bruzgo Ms. Monica K. Burkhardt Anne Canter William W. Carpenter & Kris Todd Ms. Kit Cassingham & Mr. Randy Cassingham Melissa Chaffin Barbara & Roger Chamberlain Elizabeth H. Clancy Montgomery C. Cleworth Mrs. Geraldine L. Cohen Dale Colclasure George W. Cole

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## ENDOWMENTS

Thank you for supporting these endowment funds that will sustain the Museum for years to come.

Ann O'Donnell Endowment for Outreach Education A. E. Reynolds Endowment Fund Avenir Conservation Fund Avenir Endowment for Conservation Bouslog Fund C. Neil & Carolyn S. Norgren Endowment Fund Calvin A. & Virginia J. Powers Family Fund Collections Fund Coors Exhibit Fund Dodge Wallace Endowment Fund Dodge Wallace Fellowship Fund Education Endowment Fund DMNS Foundation Frank H. Ricketson Jr. Capital Fund Gates Family Foundation Capital Fund Gates Family Foundation Hall of Life Fund Geraldine Pawley Foundation Endowment Irving & Carol Shwayder Endowment for Science & Technology O'Shaughnessy Family Endowment Fund Paul and Harriet Rosen Teen Science Scholars Endowment Fund Phipps Anthropology Collections Fund Phipps Collections Fund Phipps Family Fund Prehistoric Journey Fund Robert P. & Mary S. Hackstaff Fund Schlessman Fund for Asian Ethnology Stucky Postdoctoral Fellowship Fund The Charles C. Gates and June S. Gates Creativity Endowment

The Melvin & Elaine Wolf Foundation Scholarship Fund Tim & Kathryn Ryan Earth Sciences Fund Vida F. Ellison Fund Volunteer Endowment Fund Wilfley Fund William Randolph Hearst Endowed Fund for **Education & Outreach Programs** 

## COLLECTIONS

Thank you for enhancing the Museum's research collections with your donations.

### **ANTHROPOLOGY**

Harriet Rosen; Denver Museum of Nature & Science Glenn O. Sanger, Millie Sanger Thomas Van Zandt

#### **ARCHIVES**

Joseph Gyure Lorni Sharrow

### EARTH SCIENCES

Travis Apodaca, Waste Management John Foster James W. Hagadorn Jackie Hilaire Christopher S. Jenkins, Nor'Wood Development Group David Lumb Thomas Nolan Byron Shelton, Savory Institute Linda Soar Mr. Walter Stein Karissa Webster



### ZOOLOGY

Stacey Litchfield Pat Miller Kirk W. Navo Keith Stephenson Gail Stratton & Pat Miller, University of Mississippi Paul Thomas

Thank you for your dedication to giving this information to the community to helping the community be more informed.

GG

- Anonymous





### INDIVIDUALS

#### \$100,000-\$999,999

Anonymous Montgomery C. Cleworth John & Ginny Freyer Estate of W. Peter Grand John Hankla Mary Lynne & Stephen Kneller Hal & Ann Logan Edward Warner & Jacalyn Erikson

#### \$10,000-\$99,999

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Virginia Walsh Kate & Ken Weissenburger

\*Passed away in 2021

### ORGANIZATIONS

### \$100,000,000+

DMNS Foundation The Citizens of the City & County of Denver, including through the Elevate Denver Bond The Citizens of the Scientific & Cultural Facilities District

### \$100,000-\$999,999

Dea Family Foundation, Co-Presidents Peter A. Dea & Cathy Carpenter Dea Gates Family Foundation Helen H. Chatfield Trust IHS Markit Institute of Museum and Library Services Lockheed Martin Lyda Hill Philanthropies National Endowment for the Humanities National Science Foundation Schlessman Family Foundation

#### \$10,000-\$99,999

Arrow Electronics Bank of America Barbara Garlinghouse Family Trust Barker Rinker Seacat Architecture The Butler Family Fund of The Denver Foundation Catalyst Foundation

Children's Hospital Colorado Christian Olson Giving Fund The Collector's Edge Minerals, Inc Daniels Fund David B. Jones Foundation Emerson Charitable Trust Evergreen Natural Resources, LLC Firman Fund Fugere Family Foundation The Gateway Fund II of The Denver Foundation Genesee Mountain Foundation Glendorn Foundation Great American Life Insurance Company Gregory A. Kintzele Family Foundation The Harmes C. Fishback Foundation Harvey Family Foundation Kenneth King Foundation Lincoln Hills Cares Marx-Stark Family Foundation The Micah Fund Mile High United Way Morgridge Family Foundation NASA Gale & Robert Lawrence Family Foundation Occidental Petroleum Corporation PB & K Family Foundation The Donald & Harriet Peterson Charitable Fund Ping Identity Quinette Family Fund Rollie R. Kelley Family Foundation Fund S&P Global Sexton Family Foundation Sidney E. Frank Foundation - Colorado Fund Simpson Family Giving Fund Singer Family Foundation

The Sparkjoy Foundation Suncor Energy Swire Coca-Cola USA. Transamerica U.S. Bank Foundation U.S. Bureau of Land Management Virginia W. Hill Charitable Foundation Xcel Energy Foundation

### \$5,000-\$9,999

Association of Science & Technology Centers Burns & McDonnell City & County of Denver Davis Graham & Stubbs LLP Denver Water EOG Resources, Inc. Fairfield & Woods, P.C. Fugere Family Fund Koelbel Family Foundation The Lloyd J. King & Eleanor R. King Foundation Margulf Foundation Metropolitan State University of Denver Peine Family Fund Prologis Raytheon Technologies The Thomas & Beatrice Taplin Fund Team Streams Thomas Family Foundation Welles-Gertz Family Fund

### \$1,500-\$4,999

The Collaborative of the SCFD Community First Foundation Frank & Marjorie Braisted Fund The Greenwood Fund Hawk's Nest Fund The Heitler Fund The Humphreys Foundation Jefferson County Colorado Open Space Larimer County Department of Natural Resources The David & Katherine Lawrence Foundation Luminary Retailers Matthew & Amelia Hayden Charitable Fund Microsoft Corporation Mikkelson Education Fund Morse Family Foundation National Renewable Energy Laboratory Ovintiv Inc. The Rieschel Foundation The Schramm Foundation State of Oregon Department of Justice Van Vleet Foundation William D. Radichel Foundation

### **GIFTS IN KIND**

John Hankla

### 2021 Scientific Publications

Denver Museum of Nature & Science staff published **38** peer-reviewed journal articles, edited volumes, books, and book chapters

Ahrens, D., Ahyong, S.T., Ballerio, A., Barclay, M.V.L., Eberle, J., Espeland, E., Huber, B.A., Mengual, X., Pacheco, T.L., Peters, R.S., Rulik, B., Vaz-de-Mello, F., Wesener, T. & **Krell, F.-T.** Is it time to describe new species without diagnoses?—A comment on Sharkey *et al. Zootaxa* 5027(2): 151–159. <u>https://doi.org/10.11646/zootaxa.5027.2.1</u>

Blais, B.R., Smith, B.E., Placyk Jr., J.S., Casper, G.S. & **Spellman**, **G.M.** Phylogeography of the smooth greensnake, *Opheodrys vernalis* (Squamata: Colubridae): divergent lineages and variable demographics in a widely distributed yet enigmatic species. *Biological Journal of the Linnean Society* 134(4): 940– 957. https://doi.org/10.1093/biolinnean/blab124

Carpenter, A.M., Graham, B.A., **Spellman, G.M.**, Klicka, J. & Burg, T.M. Genetic, bioacoustics and morphological analyses reveal cryptic speciation in the warbling vireo complex (*Vireo gilvus*: Vireonidae: Passeriformes). *Zoological Journal of the Linnean Society*, zlab036 (20 pp.). <u>https://doi.org/10.1093/</u> zoolinnean/zlab036

Fabbri, M., Navalón, G., Mongiardino Koch, N., Hanson, M., **Petermann, H.** & Bhullar, B.A. A shift in ontogenetic timing produced the unique sauropod skull. *Evolution* 75: 819–831. <u>https://doi.org/10.1111/evo.14190</u>

Gates, T.A., Evans, D.C. & **Sertich, J.J.W.** Description and rediagnosis of the crested hadrosaurid (Ornithopoda) dinosaur *Parasaurolophus cyrtocristatus* on the basis of new cranial remains. *PeerJ* 9: e10669 (35 pp.). <u>https://doi.org/10.7717/peerj.10669</u>

Gent, V.A., Longman, M.W., Bottjer, R.J. & **Hagadorn, J.W.** Stratigraphic distribution of the Codell Sandstone in the Denver Basin using wireline logs and core. *The Mountain Geologist* 58(3): 305–330. <u>https://doi.org/10.31582/rmag.</u> mg.58.3.305

#### $\boldsymbol{\Diamond}$ indicates articles that have not been peer-reviewed.

Graham, M.R., **Garcia, E.L.**, Hendrixson, B.E. & **Cushing, P.E.** Pliocene origins, Pleistocene refugia, and postglacial range expansions in southern devil scorpions (Vaejovidae: *Vaejovis carolinianus*). *Organisms Diversity & Evolution* 21: 575–590. https://doi.org/10.1007/s13127-021-00505-z

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