This year’s summer traveling exhibit Rainforest Adventure brought the Museum experience inside a fully immersive maze environment. Created by Minotaur Mazes, Rainforest Adventure offered visitors an interactive experience to educate participants on how rainforests play a vital role in both human and animal health and survival. Visitors got to explore one of the least known habitats on earth while navigating through a maze full of tropical rainforest sights and sounds. To progress deeper into the four layers of the rainforest, guests had to answer questions correctly about the rainforest. Incorrect answers led to dead ends. The maze also featured several play areas including a giant spider web, matching games, and a zipline, all of which were enjoyed by children while they learned.
Board Members

Matt Engle (Chair)
Stephanie Stallworth (Vice Chair)
Joel Schwarz, Esq. (Treasurer)
Zachary B. Conine (Secretary)
Donald T. Polednak, Esq.
(Member at Large)
Joe Tumminia (Member at Large)
Marcel T. Bloomer
Joshua Bonde, PhD.
Robert Bulmer
Cheryl Belzer
Ed Cassidy
Heather Fitzgerald
Kevin Geraghty
Julie Higgins
Bill Houghton
Carol Levins
Gregory K. Pike
Kristen Routh-Silberman
Michael Sullivan
Michele D. Tell-Woodrow
Dianne Weeks

Executive Director

Marilyn Gillespie

Mission Statement

The Las Vegas Natural History Museum strives to inspire, through educational exhibits and programs, a better understanding and appreciation of the natural world, the sciences and ourselves.
Children’s Education Fund

The Las Vegas Natural History Museum has been serving Las Vegas for more than two decades. One of its core values is accessibility for all community members regardless of their economic position. Equity in education is a pillar that makes the scholarship and subsidy programs at the Museum so important. The Museum understands the need to make certain that these marginalized populations of students not be deprived of educational opportunities outside of the classroom that can spark, imagination, and a love of learning that a classroom alone simply cannot provide.

The Nevada Department of Education reports more than ½ of the student population in Clark County is enrolled in the Federal Meal Program indicating a significant economic need. Each year 20,000 students benefit from scholarships to the Museum. But with proper funding, we can serve so many more.

Open Door & Explore!

The Museum’s scholarship programs Open Door & Explore! are supported by grants and generous donations from businesses that share the Museum’s commitment to children, education and the community. Since their inception, these programs have served more than 387,000 children.

The Open Door Program provides funds to students for field trip admission to the Museum ($5 per student).

Explore! is the counterpart which provides transportation funding for field trips (approximately $140 per field trip bus).
Educational Programs

The Museum’s field trip programs are carefully designed by grade level to introduce students to science and nature around the world.

The Learning Safari uses guided questioning and interaction to empower 1st – 8th grade students to construct knowledge, make discoveries, and connect their experience to the natural world while exploring habitats and adaptations.

Early Explorers addresses early childhood developmental milestones, through active exploration and interactive inquiry, for children between the ages of 3 to 6 years old. Children learn important skills, concepts, and vocabulary to provide a foundation for future science education.

Visitors enjoy the Museum’s Living History program, which is presented monthly in the Treasures of Egypt Gallery. Pharaohs, peasants, and even ancient Egyptian children come to life to tell the stories of the past in this live production featuring local actors and amazing stories.

Science Sleuths was created using national science standards and the Clark County curriculum essentials framework. The Science Sleuths program offers four choices that address standards for life science, earth, and ocean studies for grades 4 to 12. These programs integrate inquiry-based, investigative, and hands-on learning with peer interaction. The combined interpretive Museum tour and lab experiences encourage observational and deductive reasoning skills as well as self-discovery outside the traditional classroom setting.

The Ancient Egypt Experience, addresses middle school social studies standards and examines the ancient Egyptians’ dependence on the Nile River for survival; the social hierarchy and its impact on the daily lives of the Egyptians; and the technology and archaeology that has become their legacy. Students explore ancient Egypt through geography, history, mathematics, science, and technology.

The Discovery Cart offers science encounters for visitors including interactions with fossils, bio-facts, science experiments, and even meeting real scientists.

Critter Connections offers visitors encounters with the Museum’s living collection of resident animals. This popular program allows guests to interact with the animals, ask questions, observe feedings and have a unique, one of a kind experience at the Museum.
Fundraising Events

Sundown in Downtown & The Dinosaur Ball

Sundown in Downtown

This year’s “Bones & Booze” themed evening, brought cold drinks, cool bones, and even better friends together for an amazing outdoor soiree. This signature summer fundraiser, drawing more than 300 guests and raising money for the Museum’s unique living collection, exhibits, and educational programs. Guests in attendance enjoyed a festive outdoor party with live music, street entertainers, and fabulous food and drinks provided by 14 amazing downtown restaurants and bars.

Dinosaur Ball

On October 21, 2017 we celebrated our 25th Annual Dinosaur Ball at the Red Rock Resort and Casino. Hosted by Nate Tannenbaum, the evening had performances by the one and only Clint Holmes and local favorite, the Steel Benders. Mayor Carolyn Goodman started off the event by presenting Founder and Executive Director, Marilyn Gillespie a proclamation from Las Vegas City Council naming October 21 “Dinosaur Ball Day”. Guests were able to bid on numerous silent auction items before dinner and experienced an amazing live auction. We would like to thank everyone who donated to the live auction; Josh Bonde, PhD., Alexandria Le. DMA, Chef Doug Taylor, Master Sommelier Jamie Smith, Bank of America, and NV Energy.
The 2017 Las Vegas Science & Technology Festival!

After seven years, the Las Vegas Science & Technology Festival continues to thrive and improve! More than 35,000 people participated in 152 programs across Southern Nevada during the nine day Festival. Around 135 cultural institutions, businesses, and organizations worked together with 132 volunteers to make the 2017 Las Vegas Science & Technology Festival a memorable event. Interest in the Festival continues to increase, and the community’s generous support grows each year.

The Las Vegas Science & Technology Festival is one of the largest educational events in Nevada, striving to inspire our community’s youth and bring the excitement of science and technology to families from all walks of life. Through engaging and educational programming, the Festival strives to spark students’ curiosity in STEM and to ultimately encourage them to consider careers in science, technology, engineering, and math. Thanks to the generous community support and hard work by the Festival’s committee, collaborators, sponsors, and volunteers, the Las Vegas Science & Technology Festival remains one of the largest educational events in Nevada.

2017 Festival Numbers
- Over 35,000 people participated in 152 programs over 9 days;
- 132 volunteers donated more than 750 hours of service;
- Over 4,000 students in 3 counties were served during the week-long Science in the Schools program;
- 6,200 people attended 52 Science is Everywhere Day events around the Las Vegas Valley;
- More than 9,000 people experienced the Giant Expo at Cashman Center
3D Imaging Project Continues

In 2017 the John Krakauer Charitable Trust stepped up with support to purchase the equipment and training needed to continue its 3D imaging project. These scans allow fossils and archaeological artifacts to be reproduced for study and education allowing students, scientists and even the public to handle these pieces without threat of destruction.

New Exhibits Added to Cox Charities Young Scientist Center

The Hands on Room got an update in 2017, adding three brand new interactive exhibits featuring the Bernoulli’s Principle and two Archimedes’ Inventions.

December to Remember

The 10th annual A December to Remember cultural celebration converted the Museum’s Grand Hall into a beautiful gallery of lights, trees, and wonderful traditions from around the world. The six week long exhibition featured more than a dozen participating community partners representing traditions of winter celebrations from around the world. Some of the participating countries, cultures, and religions were Buddhism, Christianity, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Islam, Hindu, Judaism, Kwanzaa, Mexico, Norway, Philippines, Russia, Scotland, South Africa, and Thailand.
Expenditures:
- Wages: $485,259.38
- Payroll Taxes: $44,018.50
- Accounting: $8,000.00
- Advertising: $12,021.51
- Auto: $61.50
- Cost of Goods-Giftshop: $40,718.37
- Misc. and Administrative: $17,690.66
- Dues and Memberships: $8,514.02
- Insurance: $41,608.74
- Janitorial: $7,875.00
- Office Supplies: $7,561.58
- Postage and Shipping: $2,697.61
- Outside Services: $6,906.40
- Repairs and Maintenance: $7,958.85
- Telephone: $4,027.63
- Utilities: $3,324.04
- Gift-in-Kind Expenditures: $361,452.14
- Fundraising Expenses: $95,679.18

Revenues:
- Operational:
  - Admissions: $299,837.66
  - Interest Income: $296.85
  - Giftshop: $65,117.64
  - Other: $12,395.99
  - Subtotal: $377,648.14
- Fundraising & Public Memberships:
  - Donations-Non Specific: $43,964.11
  - Memberships-Family: $60,415.00
  - Memberships-Corporate: $19,500.00
  - Memberships-FCM: $4,750.00
  - Friends of Paleontology: $15.00
  - Bricks-Fundraiser: $1,500.00
  - Special Events: $197,479.37
  - Donations-Gift in Kind: $361,452.14
  - Subtotal: $689,075.92
- Restricted Revenue (Program):
  - Endowment Interest: $27,000.00
  - Exhibit Donations: $5,000.00
  - Collection Maintenance: $98,835.73
  - Animal Care Donation: $10,470.70
  - Education Program: $55,365.00
  - Curation Income: $650.00
  - Science Festival: $58,960.89
  - Traveling Exhibit: $0.00
  - Subtotal: $256,282.32

TOTAL EXPENSES: $1,328,238.11

Change in net assets: $-23,168.52

TOTAL REVENUE: $1,323,006.38
A Special Thank You to Our Donors

The Museum relies upon the continued financial support of the generous community donors. The following individuals, corporations and foundations made contributions to the Las Vegas Natural History Museum in 2017. Space prevents the listing of donors under $1,000.

100,000 and above
Mrs. Robert Carlson

50,000 and above
Troesh Family Foundation

25,000 and above
Bureau of Land Management
Engelstad Family Foundation
City of Las Vegas
The Boyd Foundation

10,000 and above
Bank of America
By Dzign
Cox Communications
John Krakauer Charitable Trust
Lamar Advertising
NV Energy
Parker Medical

7,500 and above
Bank of Nevada
Wells Fargo Bank

5,000 and above
Cashman Equipment Company
Dunn Family Foundation
John Cobain & Judy Flynn
LP Insurance Services
NewMarket Advisors
Nick Taranik
Southwest Specialty Contractors
Sylvestre and Polendnak, Ltd.
Townsley Portraits
Whiting-Turner

2,500 and above
America First Credit Union
Andre Agassi Foundation for Education
Beasley Media Group, LLC
Boyd Gaming Corporation
Carpenter Sellers Del Gatto Architects
City of Las Vegas Centennial Commission
City National Bank
Connie & Ed Mullick
Courtney Landscape & Pools
Cragin & Pike
Dave & Carol Levins
Dickinson Wright
Helix Electric
John & Linda Wojcik
Joseph Beare & Company
Kevin Geraghty
Kinder Morgan Foundation
Kristen Routh Silberman
Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Authority
Las Vegas Review-Journal
L.E.C.E.T of Southern Nevada
Macy’s/Bloomingdale’s
Marilyn Gillespie Davis
Nevada Humanities
Nevada State Bank
Republic Services Disposal, Silver State Disposal
Rotary Club Of Las Vegas West
Southland Industries
Speedway Children’s Charities
Square Panda, Inc.
Sting Alarm, Inc.
Toyota Financial Savings Bank
United Way
Western Alliance Bank

1,000 and above
Barbara Dahl
Brandon & Michele Taukluvea
Buggs & Rudy Discount Corporation/Penn & Teller
Butch Harmon School of Golf
Century Link
Chris Palladino
Constellation Catering
English Garden Florist
George Isaacs
Golden Nugget
Helen Mortenson
Inner Circle Sanctuary
Kohl’s Department Stores
Mark & Carolyn Guidry Foundation
MGM Resorts Foundation
Michael E. Minden Diamond Jewelers
Niya Rivera
Oscar & Carolyn Goodman
Paul Scally
Rock’Noodles
Scutter Newton & Associates
South Point Hotel & Casino
Southwest Airlines
SPI Entertainment
The Links for Life Foundation, Inc.
Tim Cashman
Total Wine & More
Triple George Grill
Tronox
Turmeric Flavors of India
Vegas Booths Photo Booth Rentals
William McNamara

Science Festival
Clark County School District
Cox Communications
Kohl’s Department Stores
MGM Resorts International
Nevada System of Higher Education
NV Energy
Republic Services Disposal, Silver State Disposal
SolarReserve, LLC
Wells Fargo Bank
Western Exterminator Company