

We refreshed natural history exhibits in January.

FAIRBANKS MUSEUM & planetarium

COVID-19 kept our galleries dark from mid-March through June.

Power lines were buried in the summer.

We opened an outdoor Astronomy Deck while our planetarium was temporarily closed.

2020 Impact Report

COME ON IN!

WHAT'S NEW

We've reimagined displays from Europe, Africa, and North America along our west wall to focus on biodiversity and habitats. The African exhibit includes a new comet moth – or Madagascan moon moth – and we've put out an armadillo that has been in storage for decades. Our wild boar found a new home among our European display, along with a new-to-us European stag beetle – Europe's largest. North American natural history now includes an

albino porcupine and squirrel, along with a melanistic or "cross" fox. All of these groupings have fresh interpretation that highlights migration, habitats, and ecosystems.

Outside, we're making necessary repairs to our beloved building to shore up the roof and re-point the masonry walls. When this work is done, this architectural gem will be restored to its original 1891 glamour!

We're getting ready to break ground for our Tang Science Annex!

This 6,000 square foot, 3-story structure will house hands-on exhibits for astronomy and meteorology and will make all levels of the Museum accessible to everyone.

Check out the model of this this \$2.5 million project in our main gallery! You'll hear more about the Science Annex soon ...

WE'RE OPEN WEDNESDAY – SUNDAY 10:00 AM – 5:00 PM.

WHAT'S HAPPENING NIGHT OWL CLUB

First Thursdays, 7:00 PM

We're launching a monthly Q&A session with science educator Bobby Farlice-Rubio to address your astronomy questions. Join the conversation on Facebook, YouTube, or Zoom.

VERMONT'S LOST LADY BEETLES

March 27, 10:00 AM

In partnership with the Vermont Center for Ecotudies

Did you know at least 42 species of ladybug (known as Lady Beetles) have been recorded in Vermont? They can be black, yellow, or red. Many Lady Beetles act as biological pest control, munching down aphids, plant mites, scale insects, and others. Join this virtual presentation to contribute to important statewide data collection, live streaming on Facebook, YouTube and Zoom.

CAMP-IN-A-BOX

April 12 – 16

Unpack adventures for kids ages 7 – 12. Each box includes astronomy-themed games, puzzles, and activities to keep your young explorer excited about discovery!

\$30/box

Member discount: \$25/box

ASTRONOMY CAMP

April 12 – 16

Get ready to blast off! Your 9 – 14-year old will engage virtually over 4 days with Fairbanks educators and guests who introduce concepts of space travel and the possibility of life on faraway planets. We'll gather outdoors on the final day to launch rockets!

\$120/student

Member discount: \$100/student

GROWING OUTDOOR CLASSROOMS

April 25 – May 20

Earn 3 credits through Castleton University as you learn to transform a traditional playground into a nature-inspired learning space. Taught virtually by April Zajko, M.Ed.

Fee: \$975

WILLIAM EDDY LECTURE

Climate Science for Everybody: What Does Climate Change Mean for Vermonters?

April 21

We welcome Dr. Lesley-Ann Dupigny-Giroux, Vermont state climatologist and UVM professor, as our keynote speaker to kick off a series of presentations and activities addressing Vermont's changing climate.

SUMMER DISCOVERY CAMPS

Creature Features and Locomotion Commotion are action-packed summer camps for kids ages 4 – 5 and 6 – 8. Register online.

2020 IMPACT REPORT

In our wildest dreams, we could never have imagined the events of 2020. We pulled through with your help. We pivoted to virtual programming and got creative, prioritizing safety and the spirit of discovery. We're still sending up test balloons with every intention of making the most of our new normal – meeting you where you are with fresh ideas to spark curiosity and inspire wonder about the natural world.

What happened during the past 12 months? A lot! And you're an essential part of this story.

In January, we closed the doors for a few weeks to roll up our sleeves and rework the magic in our galleries. This is when our exhibits team kicks into high gear to install and update exhibits and keep our galleries looking their best. We refreshed exhibits representing birds, mammals, and insects – some that have never been on display – from Australia, New Zealand, parts of Asia and South America.

An original exhibit featuring lenticular photos was created for our balcony gallery. *Inside Out: Hidden Art in Natural History Collections* peels back the surface of some intriguing natural history artifacts to reveal the artistry and mystery inside. This unique collection of photographs, x-rays, and mounts is

While our doors were closed from March 16th – July 1st, the Fairbanks education team was busier than ever reaching students and supporting teachers with interactive, online programming to carry out the school year. Science enrichment programs for grades K-8 were available to schools via Zoom, YouTube or rebroadcast by Kingdom Access TV.

We partnered with Northeastern Vermont Regional Hospital to offer weekly updates on the latest information about COVID-19 safety protocols and research, which we broadcast on Facebook and YouTube. And we turned to social media to post a daily series of behind-the-scenes videos.

Before our doors reopened on July 1st, we established systems to keep visitors and staff safe according to the most recent health guidelines.

COVID-19 protocols got us thinking about visiting in new ways, and we partnered with Time Quest NH to create an immersive puzzle that challenges guests to solve a mystery.

Summer allowed us to reimagine our outdoor space. While our Lyman Spitzer Jr. Planetarium where guests could experience a journey among the stars and planets. Our Shippee Family Eye Care Butterfly House came alive once again with native butterflies and host plants.

We established a new Delia Griffin Playground for young naturalists to have fun with balance, gravity, textures, sounds, and shapes.

As the school year approached, we installed a well-ventilated Maple Capital Management Outdoor Classroom that is inspiring in every season. We just couldn't let Halloween happen without offering an outdoor Tricks & Treats Trail that engaged families with games, experiments, and prizes!

Science educator Bobby Farlice-Rubio led a live-stream tour of the cosmos on December 21st to view the Great Conjunction of Jupiter and Saturn. This astronomy event reached hundreds of families through partnerships with Northeast Kingdom Community Action and area schools.

Improvements to our campus included a new solar array, backup batteries in our buildings, and an EV charging station.

All along, we continued to serve schools and homeschool families with flexible and engaging educational options – in person and online. We added a new dimension to our teaching services that offers direct support to teachers and schools in addition to delivering science-based content for grades K-8.

Even though our immediate plans were upended by the pandemic, our long-term goals remain in sight. We were awarded a \$458,000 "Save America's Treasures" grant from the National Park Service to help fund necessary infrastructure investments. Support from the US Economic Development Administration helped us install new solar panels and an EV charging station in our parking lot. These important improvements pay it forward – making sure the next generation enjoys this cultural and educational gem.

2020 by the numbers

Our commitment to the communities we serve is stronger than ever. We believe science is real, education is empowering, and every student deserves to discover. Your support contributes to ongoing services and public programs that deepen our understanding of the world around us. We'll get through this together.

Here's how Fairbanks Museum curators, meteorologists, experts, and educators showed up for you even when our galleries were temporarily closed:

☞ **More than 50,000 people tuned in online to engage with nearly 500 Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter images, videos, and live-streamed events**

☞ **Our YouTube channel was watched by 13,034 viewers.**

☞ **Eye on the Sky didn't miss a beat – weather forecasts were delivered 365 days on VPR and online.**

☞ **StarStruck explored the universe every month on WCAX-TV.**

☞ **710 Fairbanks Museum members supported programs, exhibits, and events throughout the year.**

We are grateful for every visit, each comment, and all of your questions. That's why we do what we do. It's been a year of surprises, and we wouldn't be here without you. Thank you so much for your support.

Fairbanks Museum & Planetarium
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2020 UNAUDITED FINANCIALS

TOTAL OPERATING REVENUES	\$1,088,158
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES	(\$1,049,728)
INCOME FROM INVESTMENTS	\$30,720
NET SURPLUS (DEFICIT)	\$69,150

RESERVE FUNDS

2020 CONTRIBUTIONS	\$0
12/31/20 BALANCE	\$407,691

PROJECT FUNDS

2020 CONTRIBUTIONS	\$727,882
12/31/20 BALANCE	\$665,224

RESTRICTED FUNDS

2020 CONTRIBUTIONS	\$152,315
12/31/20 BALANCE	\$1,207,556

2020 OPERATING INCOME SOURCES

2020 OPERATING EXPENSES

