THE WORKS:
OHIO CENTER
FOR HISTORY, ART
& TECHNOLOGY

2022 Annual Report
Our 2022 Annual Report is about sharing the stories and connections we have built with our visitors, friends, members, and supporters. The Works was proud to reach almost 47,000 youths and adults over the past year, who were either welcomed through our doors, or part of the over 13,000 impacted by our community outreach programs and STEM kits.

Each year, our innovative team creates dynamic programming that captures the imagination of all ages, furthering our mission of inspiring creativity and learning. In 2022, we were especially proud to bring back Dozers & Diggers, a community event that engaged almost 3,000 visitors. Wildlife at The Works, an event centered around our Smithsonian Habitat exhibit, brought community partners together to celebrate nature and life sciences.

Adult programs featured art, science, history and fascinating cultural topics. Our glassblowing program continues to captivate guests, and our SciDome allows viewers to have an immersive experience in constellations and faraway galaxies. Our exhibits and school tours augment in-school learning in a fun and interactive way.

The Works began with a vision from our Founder Howard LeFevre over 26 years ago, and today we continue on the course of growth and inspiration for students and families. It is with the support and partnerships within our community that allow us to develop new plans each year to engage people and ignite curiosity. That curiosity leads to careers, inspiration, education, interests, bright futures, and fosters the foundation of a strong community. Thank you for being part of our mission.

With gratitude,

Janice LoRaso
The Works staff and Board of Trustees were pleased to see museum attendance rebound in a positive way in 2022. Following impact from the pandemic, both school and family visits have seen a steady and fast-growing increase, bringing guests filled with excitement to explore the museum again. In addition, a renewed interest in in-person programming created a fun and eventful year.

We were able to reach our community in many engaging ways in the past year, including STEM program and event attendance, which reached over 3,600 participants. Outreach to our local area and broader central Ohio region included 200 locations, over 9,000 attendees, and nearly 4,000 STEM and art kits distributed to children.

Inside the museum, over 7,700 visitors had an immersive experience in the SciDome planetarium, and over 700 people experienced glassblowing by making their own glass piece alongside The Works glass artists. The team welcomed back 92 schools with over 5,200 students and chaperones throughout 2022.

Our fundraising events, generous corporate partners, and other long-time (and new!) supporters allow us to continue this momentum. We welcomed a gathering of supporters in August for the Wonderland-themed Summer Party, which generated important funds to support The Works’ mission. With sponsors, the Marcia W. Downes Art Gallery continues to bring fascinating cultural exhibits, history and fine arts to the community and is always free of charge.

Each year The Works proudly strives to create new connections with our audience, build strong partnerships, and generate innovative ideas. These are all gears that work in tandem to move The Works forward in our mission to create learning opportunities for children and families. We look forward to the many exciting things to come in 2023.

Sincerely,

Rob Montagnese
HIGHLIGHTS OF 2022
SUMMER PARTY

The Works prides itself on adding a dash of whimsy and magic to every program, outreach and event. For the 2022 Summer Party we embraced the “Wonderland” theme. Thanks to the hard work, creativity and collaboration of our team and party chairs, we created an event full of wonder and imagination featuring “Card Men,” beautiful and elaborate tea sets, eclectic furniture and much more.

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Permission to Create explored the work of Mary Sherwood Wright Jones who is widely recognized for her children’s illustrations, her fine artworks were featured for the first time. Her legacy spans generations. The exhibition traced that gift through the paintings and photographs of two of her grandchildren, Michael Kennedy and Anne Sherwood Pundyk and one of her great-children, Phoebe Pundyk. The artwork, videos and books shared life lessons with viewers, perhaps inspiring ideas about ways to embrace creativity in their own lives.

Common (Under)ground displayed the unconventional and unique styles of pop surrealism in this lively exhibition. Lowbrow or Pop Surrealist art stems from the “retro” style of comics, graffiti, and punk music. Accessibility is key to this art movement, which emerged in the mid-20th century. In this show, we presented Ohio artists that highlighted a mix of cultural symbols and inspired us to look at things a little differently.

Colors of Nature showcased both the simplicity and complexity of the flowers and leaves that surround us, as we looked through the lens of Ohio artist, Pat Kresty. Her combination of traditional eco dyeing/printing and self-developed techniques captured the beauty of fresh flowers and leaves on materials such as fabric and leather. Sugar Maples produced beautiful gold and brown tones while Red Maples transformed into stunning blues, greens and teals in this breathtaking gallery exhibit.

Then & Now allowed us to travel through time by way of the photographic work of Tim Black, who in 1976, armed with his Minolta SR-T 101 camera, walked the streets of downtown Newark capturing moments in time. Nearly 45 years later and driven by nostalgia and a love of photography, Tim revisited our beloved downtown and again captured the iconic structures, character and charm of Newark. The stark contrast of significant to minor changes from building to building was truly a magical experience.

Sponsored by The Energy Cooperative & Explore Licking County
This year we introduced a variety of new programs and continued long-standing favorites to provide an exciting museum experience all year-round! From our new “Open Late!” nights for families to the return of Dozers & Diggers, to our annual Holiday Homecoming event, days (and nights!) at The Works were full of family fun.

**Pop-Up Science:**
From bubbles to flight, ice cream to space, The Works “popped” with excitement! Our hands-on pop-up programs were an absolute treat for the public and our education team alike covering an eclectic line up of topics. Our education team combined fun and learning through this programming. With seven different pop-ups hosted in 2022, we created a bit of fun for everyone.

**Professional Communities:**
On April 30, we hosted 30 Planetarium Professionals from around the state for the regional meeting of the Great Lakes Planetarium Association. Attendees experienced all that The Works has to offer in addition to sharing professional experiences in the SciDome planetarium alongside our team.

**Wildlife Day:**
Our Habitat Garden was buzzing with guests as we learned about the reptiles, mammals, birds, and insects that share the Earth with us. One of the highlights of the day was a magical butterfly release in celebration of the courtyard garden being designated as a monarch waystation.

**Summer Camps:**
Our camp season brought more than 100 students to The Works for preschool and robotics camps. Our youngest campers “traveled” the globe, explored different cultures, investigated nature, and even enjoyed some “explosive” fun with chemistry in our Busy Bee Camp. Our Robotics campers explored how to improve our Global Cargo system, all while solving coding challenges, building and programming robots, and competing in a robotics challenge.
**Dozers & Diggers:**
The science of big machines was all around us this summer as we brought back a family favorite for the first time since 2016. This free community event featured construction equipment, emergency vehicles and other large machinery. More than 2,500 guests of all ages explored fire trucks, forklifts, bulldozers and enjoyed science exhibits and activities inside the museum.

**Art After Dark:**
The courtyard stayed open late for this monthly summer program. Participants enjoyed the sunshine and flowers while they created projects and works of art inspired by nature.

**Teddy Bear Picnic:**
The first event of its kind was a smashing success! Utilizing the beautiful LeFevre Courtyard, guests gathered to enjoy the outdoors. With quilts spread around the area, children and their families had fun with their favorite stuffed animal friends, made Teddy Bear headbands, ate snacks and enjoyed story time. It was the perfect way to end the summer season, and we look forward to hosting this event again in 2023.

**Night @ The Museum:**
The Works was transformed into the Wizarding World of “Hogworks” at our first Night @ The Museum event! From a science or magic show, to making a circuit wand, to learning the stories of familiar stars and planets, the event proved to be a magical experience for witches and wizards of all ages.
Behind the Science: We were all-in on the science of some favorite brews this year with two local collaborations. Bella’s Beans kicked us off with an energy filled dive into what makes the perfect cup of coffee – whether brewed hot or cold. Participants taste tested to learn how the roasting and preparation process influences what we taste. Our second event partnered with Homestead Brewery to explore the science behind what we taste in different beer varietals. Homestead led a brewers tasting profile to help identify things that participants liked (and didn’t!), followed by tastings from several Licking County brewers.

Behind the History: We explored historic days past with Prohibition-Era Newark at “The Night Shift: Gin & Jazz,” an immersive adult night filled with history and fun that led to the Interurban-turned 1922 Speakeasy. This event was wildly popular and left our guests wanting more adult after-hour experiences.

Community Connections: We were fortunate to partner with Licking Memorial Health Systems and the Midland Theatre to bring together a panel discussion following the screening of The Color of Care documentary. This event, made possible through the Smithsonian Affiliate program, created a safe space for challenging dialogue as we explored under-told stories about disparities in the American healthcare system.

Holiday Homecoming: We brought storybook characters to life this Holiday Homecoming! From princesses, to elves, to red-nosed reindeer, all were welcome to enjoy the fun. Guests created holiday-themed science experiments, made Holiday crafts, read cheer-filled stories, and ushered in the holiday season with visitors big and small.

Junior Historians: In the fall, we introduced a new history program for youth visitors. It was a great opportunity to explore our local history and collaborate with outside experts in the region! From the importance of flint and the era of the Burning Tree Mastodon, our Junior Historians have “traveled back in time” to learn about the people, places, and environment of the past from the objects left behind.
Find The Glass
This dynamic collaboration with our friends at Explore Licking County encouraged outdoor exploration and adventure by placing beautifully replicated Hopewell-era flint point inspired works throughout Licking County.

The Works glass artist and studio curator, Larry Tuber crafted these one of a kind art pieces with the assistance of Holophane who agreed to cast a mold that proudly blends Licking County’s creativity and ingenuity.

Over the course of several months, Explore Licking County gave small weekly “hints” about the location of the glass piece. This wildly popular activity quickly gained a following, and we are looking forward to making this a new summer tradition.

Joseph Olinger - Capstone Exhibit
Joseph’s connection to The Works began during his sophomore year of high school when his art teacher suggested participating in a glassblowing class, and he was immediately in love with the process.

Fast forward to nearly six years later, Joseph is nearing graduation from Columbus College of Art & Design with a degree in Graphic Design and Advertising. For his Capstone project, Joseph was required to host his final projects at an off-site location.

Joseph reached out to The Works to explore working in our Glass Studio and presented his work in April 2022. He performed demonstrations for 31 people and sold 10 glass pieces.
GIVING

HOW CAN YOU HELP SUPPORT THE WORKS?

We welcome support at every level! Philanthropic support from individuals and businesses is greatly appreciated and is vital to sustaining and growing The Works for future generations.

ANNUAL FUND

Each year Annual Fund gifts support general operating expenses, allowing us to provide day-to-day essentials. Unlike program- or project-specific contributions, this fund powers our day-to-day activities and allows us to provide a fun, safe, and welcoming environment for our guests.

CORPORATE MATCHING

Many companies offer charitable gift-matching programs through which they will match employees’ contributions to a nonprofit organization anywhere from 1% to 100% of the original gift, potentially doubling the amount and impact of your gift! Ask your employer today how you can amplify your gift to The Works through their corporate match.

CORPORATE MEMBERSHIP

Corporate Membership allows our community and industry partners to serve our guests through the support of The Works programming, projects, and events. Corporate Memberships are renewed each year and offer a variety of benefits that member organizations may offer to their employees.

ENDOWED GIFTS

The Works Endowed Gifts help sustain the Museum and ensure quality programming. Endowment funds include a primary endowment account, a donor-restricted capital endowment account, a donor-restricted arts and culture endowment account, and a donor-restricted STEM endowment account. Governed by The Works Board of Trustees, spending is restricted to 5% of a 12-quarter rolling average of total market value for the earnings of each endowed account. Preserving the principal of each means donor endowment contributions exist in perpetuity with the intent to generate earnings that benefit Works programs, projects, and our community.

GIVING SOCIETY

The Works Giving Society provides patrons the opportunity to support our programming at a level comfortable to them. These commitments, pledged over a period of time, help fund various programs and projects at The Works, and can be designated upon request. Levels range from the $500 Jerrie Mock level to the $25,000+ LeFevre Legacy level.

PLANNED GIVING

Estate planning is a wonderful way to support The Works and ensure the Museum and its programs thrive in years to come. Planned giving provides unique opportunities for patrons to support The Works at a higher level, allowing their legacy to live on through their gifts and help to improve our community.

SCHOLARSHIP FUNDS

Multiple scholarship funds exist to allow families, schools, and students dealing with financial barriers to experience The Works programs and memberships. Scholarship funds in honor of or in memory of friends and loved ones are excellent ways to support our community while honoring those dear to us.

KROGER COMMUNITY REWARDS

At no cost to you, Kroger Community Rewards makes it easy to show your support through everyday purchases. Once you designate The Works as your favorite non-profit, Kroger donates a percentage to the museum. New members can enroll by visiting the Kroger Community Rewards website and signing in or creating an account. Then, search “The Works” or the number UI033 and click the “Enroll” button. It is an effortless way to contribute!

VOLUNTEER YOUR TIME, TALENTS & SERVICE

If you would like to be a part of an organization that is passionate about education, consider becoming a volunteer at The Works. We have many different volunteer needs for both adults and teens — from assisting with school tours to serving at events. Contact Sadie Burger at sadieburger@attheworks.org for details.
Thank you for supporting The Works, our mission and the community we serve.

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In July of 2022, the first images from the James Webb Space Telescope were released. The brilliance and clarity of deep space was something humanity had not experienced—until now. These images have provided insight into our universe’s past, as well as its future, and serves to grow our quest for understanding the universe and exploring the unknown. The past few years have offered challenges, but like the NASA team and James Webb Telescope, we continue to see amazing things in the future.

2023 marks the five-year anniversary of our SciDome planetarium, a project in partnership with The Ohio State University at Newark. This exhibit provides immersive technology that allows guests to be surrounded by stars, planets, and faraway galaxies. We are currently working with Ohio State Newark to acquire updated technology that will enhance the experience even more for our guests. Details on these enhancements will be shared soon, and we hope you will visit us to experience the SciDome once again.

The Works is also continuing to evaluate our museum floor exhibits and experiences. We are proud to be partnering with Roto Group LLC, a leader in exhibit creation, to explore new ways to engage and inspire guests of all ages.

Navigating the future can be daunting, but as with the James Webb Telescope, provides a brilliance and clarity that cannot be reached without hard work and dedication. The Works team is excited to go on a journey with our community and hope you will join and support us as we work to reveal this new image of the future.
The financial statements have been reformatted to streamline operating vs non-operating activities including those from special event fundraising, capital expenditures and restricted endowment. Financial information above is unaudited.