



The Milton J. Rubenstein Museum of Science and Technology

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About the MOST:

The mission of the Milton J. Rubenstein Museum of Science & Technology (MOST) is to provide informal science learning experiences that ignite curiosity, encourage discovery, and inspire investigation.

The MOST is built on a foundation of commitment to improving STEM education throughout the Central New York community. Centrally located in downtown Syracuse, the MOST welcomes visitors from Central New York, New York State, several other states, and Canada. The museum welcomes nearly 120,000 visitors each year with an annual membership base of 2,500-3,000 people, consisting primarily of families with children.

Throughout the past decade the MOST has filled its 35,000 square feet of exhibit space with hands-on exhibits, both traveling and permanent. Permanent exhibits include the *Earth Science Geology Cave*, *Life Sciences*, *Flight & Space*, *Energy: Powering our Future*, *Technotown* and the *Science Playhouse*. Most recently, the MOST has added *Dino Zone* to its roster of permanent exhibits.

The MOST hosts virtual programming with 6,000 inner city students annually through its Science Learning Partnership program with the Syracuse City School District. Additionally, the MOST serves approximately 17,000 teachers, students, homeschooled students and stay-at-home parents with preschoolers each year. Additionally, the MOST hosts four engineering-based *Design, Build & Compete* events and the regional Central New York Science & Engineering Fair for students throughout Central New York.

As we navigate through the school year the MOST has embarked on two new education programs that directly reflect how the pandemic and current social issues have impacted our community: Future Innovators and STEAM Explorers. Future Innovators is an after-school STEM mentorship program designed for Black students that will offer an opportunity for students to engage with role models to emulate and motivate them towards reaching their goals. STEAM explorers is an academic day program designed to support students and parents as schools implement hybrid learning models as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Students are given the resources they need to successfully complete their schoolwork while working remotely from their classrooms, as well as time for museum exploration, and STEAM projects, games, and activities.

The museum is inclusive and accessible to all. Active military, veterans, teachers, and personal care attendants are admitted at no charge. The MOST offers an Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) cardholder admission program where cardholders pay a reduced admission rate of \$2/adult and \$1/child. The MOST also welcomes and serves families and community groups with an adult or child with autism or

other developmental disability, both during normal museum operating hours as well as during Sensory Friendly Time.

In order to continuously accomplish its mission of providing informal learning experiences, the MOST realizes it is imperative to expand its outreach and educational efforts. A significant piece of the MOST's strategy is partnering with others in the Central New York community; the museum regularly works with distinguished staff from many local companies, including Lockheed Martin, SRC and Honeywell, as well as scholars and faculty from Syracuse University, SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry, and Le Moyne College.

Within the community, the MOST also works with local school districts, libraries, and organizations like Golisano Children's Hospital, to provide Discovery Sessions, a traveling program that offers 45-minute science demonstrations for groups. Demonstrations are performed by a MOST science educator and all activities meet the New York State and Next Generation Science Standards. This program is also offered to all Oswego County schools through funding provided by the Richard S. Shineman Foundation. Additionally, the MOST works with the Onondaga County Public Library (OCPL) each year to host a free summer science program at branches throughout Central New York. MOST educators visit library branches to conduct experiments that align with the OCPL's summer reading program and theme.

Amateur Radio on the International Space Station

ARISS allows students worldwide to experience the excitement of communicating directly with crew members of the International Space Station, inspiring them to pursue interests in careers in science, technology, engineering and math, and engaging them with radio science technology through amateur radio.

The Museum of Science & Technology, in keeping with our commitment to STEM education, will be contacting the crew of the ISS in fall of 2021. This will impact at least 20 middle school children with their direct questions over ham radio to a designated astronaut. More broadly, this event will involve the entire community of parents, siblings, and the City of Syracuse.

For a successful contact with the ISS, the MOST needs the proper equipment. A ham radio capable of utilizing the proper frequency, related antennas, feed line, tracking software, and computer equipment. Once the contact is complete, this equipment will complement the other ham radio gear in our permanent amateur radio station, K2MST.

We greatly appreciate the opportunity to apply for funding from ARDC. If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to me at laurenkochian@most.org or (315) 425-9068 x2122. Thank you again for your consideration of support for the MOST!

Warm Regards,



Lauren Kochian
President