



CHILDREN'S MUSEUM OF SCIENCE + TECHNOLOGY

CMOST at-a-glance

Mission: to instill a sense of wonder and discovery in young minds, inspiring a lifelong exploration of science and technology

Vision: to be recognized as a world class science center, inspiring students of all ages to explore, discover, and imagine their world

Strategic goals:

1. **Organizational Efficiency** - Operating in a manner which is strategically purposeful and dynamically relevant; fostering a culture of respect, engagement and accountability.
2. **Engagement** - Inviting the community to make meaningful contributions, co-creating the museum experience
3. **Educational Excellence** - Inspiring excitement & curiosity through unique STE(a)M learning experiences
4. **Fiscal Vitality** - Attaining resources to thrive financially and organizationally

Description of Services:

Chartered by the Board of Regents on behalf of the NYS Education Department in 1954, the Children's Museum of Science and Technology (CMOST) is the Capital Region's only science center designed specifically for children. In pursuit of our mission, CMOST provides an engaging, child-directed learning environment which enables children to learn and grow through play. Designed for children ages 18 months through the tween years, the Museum enables children to investigate, observe, analyze, and build in a pressure-free environment by pairing innovative educational tools and techniques with engaging exhibits and facilitated programming to support active learning. CMOST offers a unique suite of STE(a)M learning experiences including school and community programs; workshops; summer and vacation day camps; camp-ins; and daily Museum Educator facilitated activities that help children make important connections between science, the world and everyday life. Beyond the Museum, CMOST's Traveling Programs feature hands-on STE(a)M activities, turning classrooms, libraries and community centers into learning labs.

CMOST Economic impact

- CMOST employs 21 people in our community.
- CMOST spends \$950,000 annual budget each year on goods and services in our community.
- CMOST serves 81,000 visitors each year, including 16,323 Museum visitors; 5,200 school children on fieldtrip visits to the Museum; 700 participants in our vacation day and summer camps; 1,500 birthday party celebrants; 180 homeschool students participating in our Science Enrichment Labs; 123 Scouts; and 57,000 children throughout the region, transforming their classrooms, after-school sites, libraries and community centers into STE(a)M learning laboratories.
- 86% of our visitors come from the Capital District, the remaining 14% are tourists
- Admission fee: \$ 8.00 per visitor

CMOST's Values

- Play is in our DNA: Our founders from the Junior League of Troy created a museum specifically for children. Instead of having a "look but don't touch" rule to the exhibits like most museums, the Junior Museum encouraged children to please touch its exhibits. True to our beginnings, all of our exhibit experiences continue to be designed with discovery and play in mind. Why? Because discovery and play aren't just about entertainment, they are essential learning tools. Children learn about themselves, their environment, and the world around them through play. By allowing children to choose the activities and exhibits with which they wish to interact, you motivate them to keep engaging and discovering the world around them, and you help them develop a disposition for learning.



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- We're committed to Going Green! In an effort to do our part and reduce our carbon foot print and our waste stream, CMOST is committing to seeking out sustainable products that will contribute to a greener and more sustainable future.
- We are proponents of exploring the world of science and technology in a hands-on environment
- We are committed to opening the Museum to all children
- We are partners in STEM education
- We bring the Museum to you!
- We are a unique venue for immersive learning when school is out!
- We are a Museum in motion, striving to exceed best practices and visitor expectations.
- We are thought leaders! engaging teachers, informal education partners and parents as first teachers, to discuss clever strategies and ready tools for connecting children to science.
- We are advocates of early STE(a)M learning.
- We are a great place to party!
- We are community partners – glean support and engagement from the following community partners: 3M, AT&T, the Capital District YMCA, Community Foundation for the Greater Capital Region, Community Resource FCU, General Electric, Girls Inc. of the Greater Capital Region, M+W Group, McCarthy Charities, Metzger Family Foundation, Museum Association of New York; New York State Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation, Regeneron Pharmaceuticals Inc., Standish Family Fund, Stewart's

Key Events in the Museum's History

- **1954** – The Rensselaer County Junior Museum receives its Absolute Charter from the Board of Regents. Founded by members of the Troy Junior League, located in the basement of the Rensselaer Historical Society
- **1959** – The Junior Museum moved to a home of its own, The Ida Munn House, located at 108 2nd Avenue in Troy, NY.
- **1974** – The Junior Museum relocated to the historic J.J. Child Firehouse at 282 5th Avenue in North Troy, NY.
- **1995** – Board of Regents approves Charter amendment to change the Museum's name to The Junior Museum
- **2000** – The Junior Museum relocates to the former Winslow Building on the West edge of the Rensselaer campus, tripling its size.
- **2005** – Board of Regents approves Charter amendment to change the Museum's name to the Children's Museum of Science and Technology (CMOST)
- **2006** – CMOST successfully re-opens in the Rensselaer Technology Park, offering hands-on science programming to children of the Tech Valley region.
- **2015** – CMOST launches Science for Every Child initiative to remove the economic barriers for low-income children and their families ensuring open access to the Museum for the entire community.
- **2016** – CMOST and the Scotia Glenville Children's Museum (The Traveling Museum) merged in April, 2016 to facilitate STE(a)M learning at an early age through unique educational experiences.



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CMOST Key Staff



Catherine Gilbert

Catherine Gilbert joined CMOST as Vice President in August 2014. "My aspiration is that this venture will result in a museum which will exemplify progressive educational strategies and satisfy the modern museum-goers' expectation to be an active participant in the museum experience." Ms. Gilbert has her Masters of Arts in Museum Education from Tufts University and a Bachelor of Arts degree in Art History from Marist College. Catherine spent the past six-and-a-half years as Director of the Museum

Association of New York, a statewide professional services organization for museums, including her time spent as Executive Director of Museumwise before the two organizations merged. Prior to that, she spent nearly a decade connecting communities with the wealth of learning experiences offered by museums and heritage organizations by developing programs and resources at the Miami Children's Museum, the New York State Historical Association, Old South Meeting House, and the Boston Children's Museum. A strong proponent for physical activity, Catherine balances out "office time" by coaching rowing and running half-marathons.



Barbara Owens

Barbara began working at CMOST in June of 2018 as the Director of Development. She is responsible for securing sponsorship and funding for museum exhibits and programs through the generosity of individual donors, corporate partners, and community foundations. She is a graduate of the University of Buffalo and is a native Buffalonian. Barbara has worked for several Capital district non-profits and educational institutions. She spends much of her free time with her children, who do everything, and

her two lazy pugs, who do nothing.



Sarah Smith

Sarah Smith joined CMOST in September 2016 as Director of Outreach and Traveling Programs. She is responsible for the development and delivery of engaging and interactive programs that travel to both schools and public venues. Sarah is a passionate educator who discovered a love of museums during an internship at the Smithsonian during college. After graduating from Smith College with a BA in History, Sarah worked at the DAR Museum, National Doll House and Toy Museum, and the National Building

Museum before receiving her MA in museum studies from SUNY Oneonta. Sarah has over fifteen years of experience as a museum professional working at Clermont State Historic Site, the Connecticut Historical Society and Hanover Tavern Foundation. Sarah has spent the past few years working in local schools including Shenendehowa Central School District and Questar III BOCES. When she is not creating hands on learning opportunities for the museum, Sarah is a Cub Scout leader and mother of two active boys and one crazy dog.



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