



# 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, technology, engineering, the arts and mathematics -

**Vision:** to become a true hub for the Capital Region's STEAM Education ecosystem. Serving as a catalyst for building self-efficacy and a conduit to the region's scientific superheroes

**Intention:** to utilize a thoughtful combination of scientific discovery and play to foster strong, competent, curious children throughout the capital region.

**Tagline:** Real Science for Small Hands

### Values:

- ★ We hold a strong image of child and seek to provide a museum where all children are encouraged to believe in themselves as learners; to make choices and pursue their curiosities by engaging with a rich offering of hands-on, minds-on STEAM learning experiences.
- ★ We believe that all children deserve excellence. As such we strive to provide each child with a welcoming environment that encourages curiosity, innovation and exploration
- ★ We strive to herald the quintessential role of play and believe that children flourish when they can explore, discover and imagine with their grown-ups
- ★ We are committed to working purposefully with a shared accountability for the Museum's success
- ★ We aspire to be a strong and reliable partner, and cultivate collaborative relationships; to serve as a conduit between education, business and industry partners to foster STEAM discovery and inquisitiveness

### 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 STEAM 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 STEAM 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 STEAM activities, turning classrooms, libraries and community centers into learning labs.



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## CMOST Economic impact

- CMOST employs 18 people in our community.
- CMOST spends \$700,000 annual budget each year on goods and services in our community.
- CMOST serves 70,000 visitors each year, including 28,000 Museum visitors; 7,400 school children on fieldtrip visits to the Museum; 460 participants in our vacation day and summer camps; 3,200 birthday party celebrants; 145 homeschool students participating in our Science Enrichment Labs; 180 Scouts; and 30,500 children from the eleven counties of the Capital Region, transforming their classrooms, after-school sites, libraries and community centers into STEAM learning laboratories.
- 86% of our visitors come from the Capital District, the remaining 14% are tourists
- Admission fee: \$ 8.00 per visitor

## 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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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.
- **2013** – CMOST announces strategic partnership with College of Nanoscale Science and Engineering (CNSE)
- **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 STEAM learning at an early age through unique educational experiences.
- **2017** – CMOST and CNSE mutually agree to cease 2013 Management Agreement
- **2018** – CMOST launches community partners engagement initiative – rekindling relationships with community, corporate, academic and scholastic partners
- **2019** – CMOST celebrates 65 years of engaging the Capital Region's children, inspiring curiosity, growing self-efficacy and fostering little hands, doing real science.



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## CMOST Key Staff



### **Catherine Gilbert**

Catherine Gilbert joined CMOST as Executive Director 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.



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