

What a year 2020 has been! We started off with a BIG bang as our Dinosaurs Around the World exhibit broke a 10-year record on its opening weekend, only to be shut down eight weeks later due to the virus. None of us could have predicted what was to follow: schools closing, businesses shuttering, and museums and science centers permanently ceasing operations due to lack of revenue. But, to the credit of the Exploreum team, we acted instead of reacting. During the eleven weeks the Exploreum was closed to the public, we assessed staffing needs, adjusted exhibits for social distancing, produced and released educational videos, printed 3D ear-savers for the medical community, and developed and implemented a plan for reopening and keeping the building safe for staff and guests alike. After welcoming back guests on June 2, we developed new sources of revenue including safer and secure seasonal camps, virtual classrooms for distance-learning students, and a series of after-hours events for guests 21+. Looking back at what we accomplished, we know we could not have achieved it without the support of our Members, Donors and Board of Trustees. It's with great appreciation that we say thank you!

936 Hours Disinfecting

To keep our guests safe, increased health and safety measures were put into place. Daily temperature checks, hand sanitizing stations, and frequent disinfection of all public spaces are just a few of our new practices.



1,200 Ear Savers

Through our partnership with AM/NS Calvert, we put our 3D printers to work producing "ear-savers" for those healthcare workers on the front lines of the COVID-19 pandemic. Our printers ran non-stop, and we delivered more than 1200 ear-savers to local hospitals.



2,400 Visitors

Dinosaurs Around the World, our Spring exhibit, had a record-breaking opening as we hosted the highest number of weekend guests in 10 years.

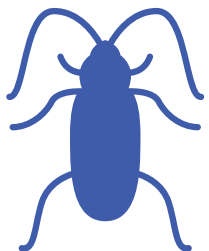
78,000 Minutes

Seasonal camps (Summer, Fall, Winter) and virtual learning instruction supplemented students' education throughout the year at the Exploreum.



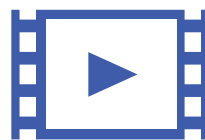
1,100 Roaches

Live and artificial, on chairs, on walls and in tanks, these critters brought to life Katsaridaphobia (the fear of roaches) during our Fall exhibit, Fear: The Science of Phobias.



"#%@" Bloopers

For the first time, the Exploreum education department created, produced, and released its own educational videos. These were posted on our Facebook page four times each week during the COVID shutdown to continue to engage and serve the Greater Gulf Coast area. (Bloopers not included!)



Building/Gallery Facelifts

From March 16 until June 1, the Exploreum was closed in response to Covid-19. Even though we were not open to the public, essential staff remained on-site for the entire period completing some much-needed tasks, one of which was the renovation of several areas within the Exploreum. The Wharf of Wonder's boat and lighthouse were repainted and the carpet in the Ball Pit was replaced with safety playground matting. The Classroom was also repainted and chair rails were added. The old IMAX projection room was converted into a brand-new classroom/meeting room, and our Butterfly Pavilion became an insect/reptile close-up experience that is now called the Nature Pavilion.

Seasonal Camps/Virtual Learning

The Exploreum opened for COVID modified Summer Camps on June 1. Over a period of 14 weeks, we educated more than 350 campers in CDC compliant classrooms. We were proud to receive the 2020 NAPPIE for Best Summer Camps.

In August, Mobile County schools resumed classes, through distance learning only, for the first semester. Recognizing the need for working parents to have a safe learning environment for their children, we converted our Summer Camp labs into distance learning centers. For more than nine weeks, our educators served as facilitators for pre-K through sixth grade students.

For the first time in more than seven years, because of continued need, we offered Fall and Winter camps to support caregivers and students during holiday breaks.

PCI Digital Dome

Despite the challenges COVID restrictions have placed on us, the theater remains popular, and in addition to our regular roster of educational films, we've created two new guest offerings.

Family Movie Day is a Saturday Matinee event that occurs about five times a year. In 2020 it featured popular films such as "Nightmare Before Christmas" and "The Wizard of Oz."

Our 21+ Movie Night, which has featured films like "Die Hard" and "Dirty Dancing," is offered about once a month on a Friday night. Guests are invited to bring a bottle of wine for a low corking fee and purchase delicious hors d'oeuvres prepared by the Exploreum. It is a great opportunity for adults to get out and enjoy a unique movie experience.

NOW OPEN: Cosmos 2021: Adventure Into The Unknown

The Exploreum Science Center is proud to announce a unique collaboration with NASA for a new exhibit, Cosmos 2021: Adventure into the Unknown. Bringing an outstanding collection of artifacts, interactives, props, and more showcasing the past, present, and future of space travel, Cosmos 2021 opened to the public on Tuesday, March 2, 2021. From the age of the Space Race and beyond, this experience will highlight the incredible journey of humans into the universe. Presented by Mobile County District 2.

This joint effort with several of NASA's flagship sites include Stennis Space Center (Mississippi), Johnson Space Center (Texas), Marshall Space Flight Center (Alabama), and Huntsville Space and Rocket Center (Alabama). The Exploreum has worked closely with all of these organizations over the past year to curate an expansive collection taking guests on a journey from the early beginnings of the space program through future ARTEMIS missions yet to be embarked upon.

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