SCIENCE MIUSEUM OF LONG ISLAND

REPOR

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PRESIDENTAL REMARKS: DR. HILDUR PALSDOTTIR

This annual membership meeting 2023 is a milestone moment, as this year marks 60 years of The Science Museum of Long Island (SMLI) serving our community and inspiring a lifetime of learning, conservation, and love for the natural world. It is appropriate to reflect on the original founder's mission, appreciate the trajectory we've been on and note where we're at right now, so that we can mindfully engage with the future with a sense of our unique identity, a real understanding of our mission and purpose. With sincere self-reflection we can thoughtfully foster the fascination of science while cultivating a deep felt sense of care for the natural world.

Literacy enables us to read, write and learn. Eco-literacy goes a step further and engages us with the environment and living world, enabling vital recognition and deeper understanding of our next of kin. The scientific discipline of ecology prompts us to learn about the interdependent relationships between humans and nature. The web of life contains both our near and distant relatives of all species, the beings with which we share our ecosystem. The threads in the web of life are regrettably torn. We're in the midst of the sixth mass extinction. The human impact on life on Earth has been so pronounced and devastating that a new geologic era has been proposed, the Anthropocene, marked by human-made irreversible changes to our biosphere. We're experiencing the symptoms of that in intense storm surges, flash flooding, extreme weather events and climate instability.

In the last 60 years, humans have caused dramatic changes to the landscape, polluting the ocean and the atmosphere, and some claim that the climate crisis is indeed a waste management crisis. It's predicted that in the near future, there'll be more plastic than fish in the sea. Plastic doesn't break down (biodegrade) but breaks up into a trillion pieces that last forever. With harmful consequences to public health, forever chemicals are found in most biological tissues by now and senior scientists are to blame for the largest existential threat of them all, the nuclear bomb. Yes, it's timely to teach young scientists' mindfulness, ethics and morality. Just because we can make it, doesn't mean we should.

At SMLI, our mission is to address environmental matters by teaching awareness, accountability, and responsibility towards the living world. We teach our youth to scientifically care for the ecosystem. Our health and well-being is indeed inseparable from ecosystem health and prosperity. We've made significant steps towards reducing unnecessary waste. By reducing pollution, we become part of the solution. With that in mind we've worked on reducing single-use plastics and are committed to supporting the field of sustainable science. We believe our emerging scientists can help invent the solutions needed to curb the crisis of scientific consciousness.

For humans to thrive, nature must be cared for. The biosphere is our only home. We're grateful that we get to teach about science in the pristine natural setting here at Leeds Pond Preserve. It is possible for humans to touch the Earth in positive ways. By removing invasives and planting native trees and shrubs, we are certainly not causing harm, but helping the local ecosystem recover. And by conserving this land and preventing overdevelopment, we are supporting the natural landscape in recharging the aquifers below ground. Future generations will benefit from access to drinkable water.

The North Shore Audubon Society maintains pollinator friendly gardens here that are helping "The Little Things That Run the World." As the famous Conservation Biologist and Father of Biodiversity, the late E. O. Wilson (1929-2021), famously stated: "We ourselves are

part of the living world and the only species with the intelligence and thereby the moral responsibility to serve as its caring steward." He founded the Half Earth Project with the aim to protect and conserve half of Earth. True to his entomologist roots Wilson explained that when we feed pollinators and care for the decomposers, we are in turn supporting the foundation of local ecosystem function. This we do by avoiding the use of pesticides, synthetic fertilizers, and other harmful chemicals.

We're excited to be part of the climate solution in so many different ways. We're actively putting carbon back into the ground by planting native trees and restoring healthy native woodlands. We're offering local families an opportunity to compost their food waste, and with that effort we have already diverted several tons of organic "waste" away from incinerators and landfill with associated emissions and instead we create healthy soil amendment.

We are so very thankful for the many grassroots groups, organizations and individual volunteers who are actively involved in stewarding the precious 36 acres of Leeds Pond Preserve. In partnership, we are working to restore the local ecosystem that was overrun by invasives. We hope with our action here that we inspire youth and enhance our community's Eco literacy so that we can leave this land in better shape than when we came here. Members of Transition Town Port Washington help maintain the "Adopt-a-trail" program here at the preserve, where local families are invited to help with stewardship and maintenance of the wonderful trail system. Eagle scouts and multiple scout programs further add to the continuous stewardship on the grounds.

This preserve is a significant piece of the local ecosystem in this bio-region. This land connects woodlands to waterways. We are blessed with outdoor classrooms that include a brackish pond, the Manhasset Bay salt marsh and a small "fresh" water stream. Who knows, perhaps one day we'll have otters visit us at the brook? Wildlife Biologists at the Seatuck Environmental Association have documented that otters are colonizing Long Island. We'd love for them to consider our grounds as their habitat.

To learn more about the animals of Long Island we've joined a study spearheaded by Seatuck wildlife biologists, the Long Island Mammal Survey, and you can visit this website https://seatuck.org/long-island-mammal-survey/ to learn more. You can join us in this study and become a Citizen Scientist by recording your findings with the mobile app iNaturalist here: https://www.inaturalist.org/projects/long-island-mammals.

As part of this effort to map wildlife across the island, we have set up camera traps and will be mounting audio moths at the Preserve. So far we have caught the usual suspects on camera; opossums, racoons and the resident fox family. In collaboration with a team of scientists from multiple organizations, including the American Museum of Natural History, Seatuck Environmental Association and others, we are invested in improving upon our local conservation efforts and repairing the local ecosystem to support wildlife habitats.

We enjoy teaching our students of all ages about how we can improve our relationships with all species and support a healthy ecosystem. When we support biodiversity, we are curing climate change. Adaptation and mitigation are where we begin, and the stormwater management projects we're invested in reflect that understanding.

On a more technical note, the transition to a new operating system hasn't been effortless, but is well underway. Also, a new website will make it easier for eager students to find us and register for programs. The solutions to the practical problems we've encountered this year as an organization have all been found in a growth mindset. We remind ourselves

daily to meet obstacles as opportunities, we make sure we learn from our mistakes, and we enjoy exploring new ways to succeed.

In April 2022 we hosted an iMapInvasives Training Workshop with Cornell Cooperative Extension titled "How to stop the spread: Mapping invasive species with iMapInvasives and iNaturalist." This is a collaboration we're committed to continuing. You can get involved by reporting invasive species sightings by using these mobile applications. If you'd like to learn how to track, report, and identify some high priority invasive species, you can stay tuned for this year's workshop on how to use this mobile app that'll be advertised in our newsletter.

Leeds Pond Preserve highlights the environmental damage that spread of invasive species can create and provides an ideal environment to experiment with invasive species management in action. We are honored to be partners with Cornell Cooperative Extension of Nassau County educators, to report and track the spread of Invasive Species and better understand New York State's approach to eradicating and managing invasive species.

With focus on adaptive management, we are especially invested in tree planting aimed at restoring the ecological health of the grounds, supporting wildlife habitats and wetland ecosystem function. We will place special emphasis on improving techniques for invasive species management and introduce new strategies for reducing the prevalence of harmful, non-native and invasive species. We emphasize community service and education as a significant part of our hands-on efforts with the motto: "Our invasives are also your invasives." What happens in our backyard, doesn't stay in our backyard.

Frank Piccininni of Spadefoot Design and Construction has been actively involved in adaptive management at the Preserve and volunteered both his time and talent to give a presentation titled Ecosystem Restoration at the Science Museum of Long Island at the Port Washington Public Library in December 2022. This event was a real highlight in our outreach and community education and was co-sponsored by Transition Town Port Washington. This upcoming year we'll expand on our sustainable growth, outreach strategies and fundraising efforts and we need all hands on deck to be successful. We are especially committed to raising funds for improved habitats for our animal ambassadors. You can help by donating to that specific purpose.

We aim to create an inclusive place for learning here and in 2022 we hosted the first Chris Holmes Memorial Fundraiser aimed at the establishment of scholarships to ensure accessibility and inclusivity for all children in this region to enjoy the nature-based STEM educational opportunities in camp experience at SMLI. This fundraiser is ongoing and 2-part and includes raising funds for the reintroduction of oysters into Manhasset Bay to clean and strengthen our marine ecosystem. The Town of North Hempstead's pilot project released a million oysters into Manhasset Bay this August, but a single oyster can filter up to 50 gallons of water a day and they serve as a vital anchor species to help revitalize ecosystems.

Online you can also find a link to our ongoing Ecosystem Restoration fundraiser with the Donate function. You can invest in the removal of invasives and planting of natives. In 2022 we were supported by Spadefoot Design and Construction and the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation in successful removal of the kudzu infestation at the Preserve, and we re-planted native woodlands. Kudzu is notoriously known as "the vine that ate the South."

For this upcoming year, we are committed to offering staff enrichment opportunities by hosting presentations on various topics by notable scientists and naturalists. This will help

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keep our curriculum current and evolving. Long term future plans involve partnerships with local groups to support marine life in Manhasset Bay, improve coastline health, restore this natural watershed and regenerate the shoreline ecosystem. Replanting natives and supporting marine life along the shoreline will help bind the soil and buffer incoming storm surges and mitigate environmental damage from rising sea levels in changing climate.

Important future includes the establishment of an actual in house and on the ground museum experience, with both professionally guided and audio recorded self-guided tours available to visitors, as well as sensory gardens for nature-based experience and hands on learning outdoors for all ages. The web of life has been dramatically disrupted by fragmentation of ecosystems, extraction, and exploitation. Yes, this is a global problem, but I believe in local solutions to something as enormous as the climate crisis. So where do we begin? We begin here, today, at Leeds Pond Preserve! We begin with teaching our young scientists their role in repairing and sustaining the web of life, or at least not causing more harm. The natural world that surrounds us gives us renewable energy today to tackle tomorrow's problems. When we protect biodiversity, we are addressing climate change.

We thank you for supporting SMLI's work and invite you and your children to become more involved in our future. When we all participate, we have an enormous capacity to affect positive change; little by little we can help regenerate disturbed woodlands and turn them into thriving ecosystems. With proper care and thoughtful stewardship, we can offer a nature sanctuary for future generations to enjoy, where thriving biodiversity is key to climate resiliency in changing times.

Sincerely,

Paledottir

Hildur Palsdottir, PhD President of the SMLI Board of Trustees

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EXECUTIVE REPORT: KRISTEN LAIRD

As we approach our sixtieth year and as SMLI continues to grow and charge ahead into their future, I thought it would be nice to slow down for a bit and look back at where SMLI started. The year was 1962. JFK was president, John Glenn orbited the world in Friendship 7, the Cuban Missile Crisis had brought the world to the brink of nuclear war and the Russians had just surprised us with Sputnik. Americans everywhere started to question the status of science education in America. That same year, an ad was placed in a local newspaper that read, "anyone interested in organizing a Hands-On Science Museum on Long Island is invited to the home of Doris Leonard."

Leonard believed that a greater understanding of scientific principles was essential to meet the challenges of the time and the 22 people who showed up at her house in Sands Point agreed. All of them saw a cultural and educational need for a community wide facility dedicated to science enrichment. That meeting would be the start of the Science Museum of Long Island (then called the North Shore Jr Science Museum). The founders were an energetic, talented, and determined group of people brought together by a common cause. Within a year's time they had formed an organization, became chartered by the New York State Board of Regents, and began to develop what at the time was considered avant-garde concepts for a hands-on Science Museum. They were willing to get their hands dirty and do the hard work, but they would still face many obstacles along the way.

They say that the greatest obstacle any organization faces is fear and when I first arrived at SMLI in July of 2019 as the Director of Operations, in many way, we were an organization that was crippled by it. In 2015, the Science Museum had come dangerously close to closing its doors and the memory of that time still haunted our hallways. The pandemic forced us to get rid of past trepidations and to get creative and find different tools as a means of survival. Instead of fear, we approached these new challenges with innovation and a shared enthusiasm for the future.

Instead of catapulting ourselves back into the dark ages we gained the selfconfidence, inspiration and support necessary to forge ahead. We found new and innovative ways to adapt and continued to provide science education that emphasized learning by doing. We developed new programs and expanded some of our core offerings. We rediscovered the value of the preserve as an outdoor classroom setting and safe place for the community to gather. Despite the challenges we faced over this last year, we continued to surpass benchmarks and reach new goals. We put in the hard work and long hours and propelled ourselves into what can only be called a renaissance or rebirth.

New events such as our Live at Five Outdoor Music Concert Series, resulted in the rapid expansion of membership and the renewed interest in the Science Museum within the community resulting in numerous new partnerships and alliances. It has been extremely gratifying to have attracted so many new and different people with so many talents, interests, and capabilities who are excited by our potential. They have brought new life to our organization, enriched our efforts, and have enhanced our growth.

I am also very happy to announce the edition of our new Director of Education, Caitlin Orellana. Caitlin started at the Science Museum in 2010 and worked as an educator here for seven years before she went on to work at Old Westbury Gardens, teaching and assisting the Director of Environmental Education, before moving on to become the Director of Education at Bailey Arboretum. She has been a fantastic new edition to the team and is the perfect person to take us through this transition so we can continue to grow while staying true to our programs which have stood the test of time. And finally, at the very end of 2022, our new Facilities Manager, Adam Polatov joined the team and has moved in to the second floor of the Visitor Center. Finally, these grounds and building are starting to get the attention it so desperately needs.

There are many parallels between our beginning and where we stand today and their have been numerous peaks and valleys on this journey. The pandemic and climate change have reminded the world that our future fate rests in the little hands of our future scientists. Once again, it has become clear that science ignorance is no longer compatible with responsible citizenship. Like our founders, we have an extremely dedicated & talented Board of Trustees who have put in countless hours and often backbreaking work to achieve our goals at a lightning pace. This growth would have not been possible without the time and effort extended by our enthusiastic, resourceful, and hard-working board and our imaginative, friendly, and energetic staff who bring science alive for children each day.

That we were able to cope successfully with these major challenges and still achieve such high levels of performance is remarkable but with success comes new financial, administrative, and professional problems. Growth is hard! It requires more than a dedicates staff, board of trustees and volunteers; it demands cost efficient, quality programs and a creative administrative capable of developing them.

As former trustee Ken Kamler has taught us, when you get closer to the summit, the inclines will only get steeper, and the stakes will only get higher. I believe that if we can continue to stay inspired and progress both cautiously and steadfastly towards our goals that 2023 will show that we are not only growing but also sustaining our success, achievements and resources in a way that allows both our programs and the beautiful land we reside on continues to last for future generations and decades to come.

It is true that it takes a village, and I am extremely honored to lead this village at this moment in time. I want to thank our awesome staff, unusually dedicated Board of Trustees, amazing live at five committee and sponsors, and the many volunteers and friends of the museum for their support, encouragement, and faith in the mission of the Science Museum and in me, as its leader. If our founders could see us now, I believe they would be exhilarated by all the progress we have made and are cheering us on from the sidelines, excited to see the future of SMLI unfold.

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Sincerely,

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Kristen Laird Executive Director

NOTES ON THE HISTORY OF SMLI BY DORIS LEONARD 1980

Read by Kristen Laird

In the early 1960's, around the time the Russians surprised us with their Sputnik, people began to worry about the status of science education in our country. On Long Island, a group of educated women questioned the imbalance of extracurricular activities that the community offered their children. Team sports and lessons in art and music were available, but nothing to nurture a child's interest in science. They considered ways to advance the appreciation of science and decided to think big --- to go for a first rate Science Museum!

The most concerned of these women were accustomed to volunteering their talents to benefit the community, and what better way then to offer an exciting place for the public to enhance its knowledge. This combination of perceived need and available skill resulted in the embryo originally named, "North Shore Junior Science Museum."

We found scientists, engineers, teachers, journalists, businessmen, librarians and bank officials who got together to obtain a charter from the NY State Board of Regents, and began working to build a Science Museum on Long Island.

From the first moments, the goal has been and remains, to establish a center with exhibits and devices for the public to enjoy hands-on-experience in science. This idea is so accepted today that it is hard to remember how few hands-on museums existed 25 years ago.

But how to get our Museum started from scratch, to make ourselves visible and generate community support? We hit on the scheme of offering after-school science workshops as our first service to the community. These workshops and later our summer programs proved so popular that they helped pay our bills through those first years....

<u>START OF THE SCIENCE MUSUEM – A PERSONAL MEMOIR BY DORIS</u> <u>LEONARD READ BY TRUSTEE FARRAH BOSTIC</u>







START OF THE SCIENCE MUSEUM - A PERSONAL MEMORY

Little League and dancing lessons, Friday evenings at junior high with boys playing basketball and the girls dancing together==known as the 2Bee Hive"= a community attempt at offering something extra to the children. Great flurries of music lessons and band practice. But where's the intellect in all this suburban organization of children? There are the kidsheajxx in the basement with the chemistry sets, fooling around with dull little mixtures which are said to explode sometimes. Some radio hams. Sputnik has everyone alarmed at the lack of science in children&s lives and the schools are going to beef up their science programs.

1960

I'm an activist; social problems have always claimed my attention, and I'm not Chipping away at enjoying this suburban mother life too much.7 The big problems in the world seem too discouraging- war and poverty and ignorance. Maybe a small attemptsort of a do-it-myself kind of social project can be my personal solution to this old feeling of being my brother's keeper. Mybackground is too ridiculous for this, though. Several years of graduate works study and practice in social case work. Not for me, the hopelessness of welfare work. What I would wish to see/is a kind of egg-headed community. Lots of golf and sailing and baseball and dancing but also lots and lots of good logical thinking activities. My own thinking isn't of the greatest, highest quality. Sort of a shame. I started out life bright enough, and curious and read and read and read . But somehow, along the way, the educational forces didn't really discipline my mind. An enthusiastic dilettante. But-and this is a big but-with a great respect for the potentialities of the human intellect. So, here's a start. I don't see these potentialities developing in the suburbs. Nor in the city-but here's where I find myself. So, let's see A FEW YEARS BACK I HAD BEEN what to do about this microcosm of Port Washington. I are startled to find myself doing work in the PTA, when my son was in elementary school, and suggesting an after-school program of enrichment for the middle class, over-scheduled children.

(1)

My eight year old son was doing well at chess. Once, during a lull in our honeymoon, my husband taught me the game, which I later taught our son. Chess required more of me than I was equipped for, but my son caught on and made it his game. Of course, at the age of eight he was beating me, and required some better I sugges ted a chess club, and soon my Thursday afternoons for the partners. next two years were taken up with running & chess club. I became famous as the more obscure "chess mother", and learned about chess tournaments, and/the unitexperimized rules. I found a local college student to come in and teach chess, and we were soon tending tournament so popular that my thursday evenings were spent recuperating from/chess/ladders, occasional fist fights, and soothing the tearful losers. A rather gratifying job for an almost-social worker with a penchant for things intellectual. Ambition set in. Why not other activities after school? Some public-minded artist-parents soon had a Sat. art program going, but this wasn't the directions I was yearning for. Art was fine, and actually more to my personal taste, but it wasn't what wax our lacked. community, our country mended. We needed rational thinkers citizens, who could look clearly at our troubled world; who hopefully could apply their trained intellects to the solution of markind's world-wide mess.

-2-

This was a good time to involve my husband far electronics engineer. by leading a and he agreed to complement the Sat. art class with a science activity program. Several months experience with the program, and the two of us came to the idea that this was an inadequate activity—that really something bigger was needed; then some sort of community-wide mrximum facility for the encouragnent of leisure time science pursuits. And there the idea rested. We moved to a different community and that was the end of the science and the chess. The art continued, It could have been predicted. The community was immersed in art, it felt familiar with it. It needed no promotion. Science was obscure; few parents felt qualified to help foster their children's interest. Apparently: Nobody was around to give leisure-time science lessons, or advice on the next step in a science hobby.

So, gradually there developed the idea that since nobody else was doing this, why

couldn't I? Long Island housewife becomes science impressario. Kind of anxietx intriguing. Who can tell what paths one will follow? Would it ever have occurred to me, after perpetuating interminable fool's mates, that I would ever brganize a children's chess club? Much more likely to have found myself in a modern dance class, or life drawing, or conversational French. But I'd already tried those, and there wasn't enough in them for more than a casual interest—not a real committment. Nor the possibility of something new, exciting. The kind of challenge that doesn't usually happen to the woman at home.

-3-

Would a science museum be a good idea? There was not one even in NYC-nothing like what Boston or Philadelphia had. Whete does one start action that ends up with a science museum in one's community? Especially if one isn't a community leader or joiner or very rich. Are there any books on how to? Yesyxheisxefx I was sure books would only discourage me. I began to speak to one and all about how I planned to get a science museum started, and somehow, from little bits and pieces of leads, I discovered someone who knew someone who--- And about this time, an article about children's museums appeared in the NYTimes, and Eureka-I had ita children's science museum. The leads began to come in. I soon found myself conferring with a group who wanted maximum to help me acquire some land and set up a conservation and nature study project. It's so easy to get off the track! This really appealed to me. I'm a nature lover, a conservationist; very ignorant of the subject. Nature has an aesthetic appeal to kern me. I know that's with myself the mature people naughty; I knew it then, and I was very stern with it's not enough to breathe deeply, sigh, admire the contour of trees, the flash of color ofbrirds, the blue to know/why of the water---no, no, no. One must question, wonder, want wix and the how of nature; to see natural whenex history as science. Too late for me. I wasn't going to go back to school and junk my BA for a BS/ But a new generation should add knowldedge to my kind of/nature. I'd like to help them do it.

This contact with the nature people broadened the scope of the science museum I had envisioned. Now, it would be on a tract of beatuiful virgin kand, and we would study the outdoors as well as enjoy it. We would relate all the branches of science

I sat down one night and wrote up a prospectus. I wasn't sure what I'd do with it, but I stayed up all night polishing it. A science activity center-museum: astronomy, meteorology, electronics, physics, xixingy, the natural history of our immediate region. In the morning it looked quite elegant to me, and my encouraging husband took it in to his plant to have it duplicated. "Proposal for a North Shore Museum of Physical and Natural Sciences". I had hundreds of them. but now-what to do with them? In subsequent years, I tore them up for making grocery lists, but then they looked pretty elegant to me. I almost felt like I had my museum. I could see it, fising modestly, but of good contemporary design in architecture, a highly civilized center, fine scientific research equipment. happy, bright-eyed boys and girls (oh yes, especially girls; I wanted girls to be scientists, not housewives dreaming of science museums to make others scientists) getting the heck stimulated out of them, a community of scientific workers giving help and encouragment to budding scientists who gave up the movies on Sat. and TV on Thursday nights to come into the science museum to work. To discover the analogies in bats wings and airplanes, the relationships between stars and pebbles. I'm afraid I said some of these things in the material that began to leap off my typewriter.

-4-

It was all so glorious. Nobody but me and my husband and his secretary to read about the museum. Now, apparently,I had to give the idea to the world. I told in a few years a friend, a bitter sort of woman, that when xix reaction a science museum. Her disparaging look kept me going, even until now. I almost have it, Idat Well, who to give it to? I started at the top, like they say you should. Dear Mr. Town Supervisor, Dear Mr. Chairman of the School Board, I have a great idea, as the enclosed proposal will show you, and I would like you to help.

PLAN FOR LONG TERM AND SUSTAINABLE SUCCESS

SMLI Sustained Growth Investment Proposals.pdf



SMLI has made tremendous strides over the past few years, but to reach our growth potential it is imperative that we are both strategic and smart about the ways in which we reinvest both our time and money. Our current modes of operation are no longer sustainable and if we plan to continue down this path of growth and continued, stabilized success we must start reinvesting some of our recent gains.

The Science Museum had another record-breaking year and over the course of the summer was able to start thinking about the best ways in which to invest this money in a way that would continue to see the Museum grow and flourish. Even as we enter our lower-revenue months, we continue to see significant gains. As a result, at the end of this fiscal year, SMLI found itself in the position to start thinking about the best ways to invest this money to continue to see the Museum grow and flourish.

Below are the first steps taken by the Trustees and ED to ensure the Museum continues to be a stable and thriving institution for years to come. We believe these investments will help us support our efforts to drive growth, increase income, and in the end, we believe these investments will pay for themselves.

- 1. Facilities Utilization and Improvement Plan:
 - a. I think we can all agree that the building is in critical condition. If the Board of Trustees is serious about repair and repurposing of the buildings and grounds, a professional and strategic plan is critical. If we cannot agree to move forward with a strategic plan that creates a clear cohesive vision and outlines the path and steps necessary to get us there. If we try to spin our wheels on things beyond our wheelhouse, we will certainly get stuck in the mud. In my mind, we either invest in creating this strategic plan or we stop all together. After sending out an RFP to nine firms the committee received back two proposals and selected Cameron Engineering based on a grading system.



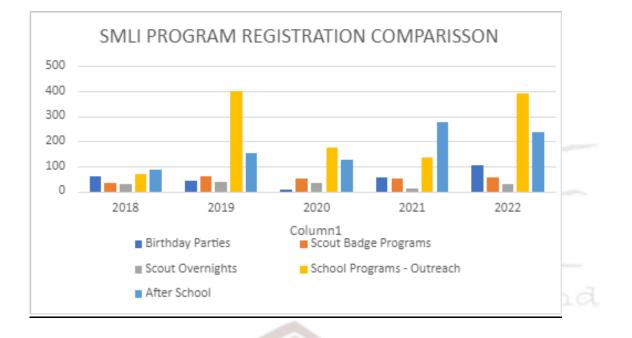
- b. Proposed Scope of Work: Cameron Engineering:
 - Non-invasive site visits (visual observations) to verify and document existing conditions and key built and natural resources.
 - Examine existing zoning code provisions applicable to the SMLI property to identify use, dimensional, and parking provisions. Research state and local building codes and provide code compliance requirements for each proposed use.

- Meet with the Department of Buildings plans examiner/inspector to discuss code compliance and related items. Prepare 2D color floor plans for each structure identifying the proposed uses.
- Prepare a conceptual Landscape Plan for the Leeds Pond Preserve one that considers sensitive natural features, existing vegetation and water resources, and the Preserve's 'place' within the larger SMLI Campus Master Plan. Our approach will facilitate seamless integration and sustainable 'dialogue' between the SMLI structures and Leeds Pond Preserve.
- Provide a report that will indicate the most efficient uses and functions for each structure; identify potential upgrades and issues associated with each.
- 2. Launching a Breakthrough Fundraising Program: Heller Fundraising Consulting:
 - a. Heller Fundraising Consultants will first help us get our own fundraising to a sustainable level and then help us in our search for the right development manager or director to lead the charge on the exceptionally large capital improvement fundraising campaign. Grants will also play a major role in this funding and so this person must also be well versed in the world of grant writing.
- 3. Salesforce for non-profits:
 - a. Once we have tapped into those hidden resources, we then need the appropriate software to help manage the new donors, grant expenses, memberships, and demographics of our programs. This will allow for better communication with existing members and families of camp & workshop students, as well as for initiating e-mail-based fundraising and membership drives, promoting events or other developments at the Museum, and reminding members to renew and families to register, as well as communicating needed information relevant to program registrations.
 - b. It will also enable some automation of systems and marketing, which is currently a huge burden on staff time.

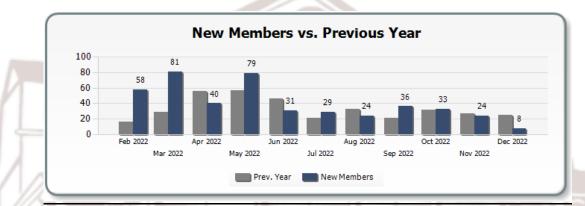
4. New Booking/Registration/Facilities & Resource Management tool

An additional area for upgrading our systems is in the booking and registration system, as well as in facilities & staffing management systems. We have identified a system (Amilia) that integrates with Salesforce for better program registration, event booking, and resource management. This will improve the overall experience, both for members, schools, troops, and families, and for the Museum staff. One area we have struggled with is staff and room scheduling and tracking students against teaching modules. To increase schedule efficiency and visibility, track teacher time for on- and off-site programs, and to help teachers plan modules for their workshops, the combination of this system and Salesforce should significantly improve our effectiveness and help teachers deliver a great experience for our students and families. This software will also be useful for facilities management as we reimagine the way we use the available spaces in our existing structures, and as we see the capital improvement plan come to fruition.

5. Website and Date Migration



PROGRAM & MEMBER COMPARISSON CHARTS:



GROWTH STATISTICS:

FY 2020-2021 vs FY 2019-2020 Membership Revenue: Increased 500% Fundraising Revenue: Increased 2,500% Program Revenue: Increased 70% Grant Revenue: Increased 780%

Total Revenue: Increased 115%

FY 2021-2022 vs FY 2020-2021 Membership Revenue: Increased an additional 10% Venue Rentals: Increased 14% Gift Shop Sales: Increased Fundraising Revenue: Decreased 37% Program Revenue: Increased 35% Grant Revenue: Increased 40%

Total Revenue: Increased 27

GRANT AWARDS 2022:

FOUNDATION:	GRANT TITLE	<u>AWARD</u>	<u>MATCH</u>
Peter and Jeri Dejana Family Foundation	To go towards the repairs of the covered front porch	\$10,000	
Community Chest of Port Washington	SMLI Scholarship Program for Port Washington Children	\$15,000	
Preservation League of NYS (TAG)	Accessibility Survey of Norwood House by John Sorrenti & JRS Architects	\$4,000	\$1,000
Manhasset Community Fund	Refurbishment of the Norwood House Front Porch as an Outdoor Classroom	\$5,000	
Greentree Foundation- Good Neighbors Fund	Manhasset Great Neck Economic Opportunity Council Education Partnership Fund	\$10,000	d.
NYSED Special Legislative Project Grant	Portable Environmental Testing Kits	\$20,000	
Nassau County Soil & Water Conservation District	Removal and Revegetation of a Kudzu Infestation Site on Leeds Pond Preserve	10,000	\$8,000
	<u>Hitting</u>		
	GRANTS AWARDED FOR 2023		
Community Chest of Port Washington	SMLI Scholarship Program for Port Washington Children	\$14,740	
National Fish & Wildlife Foundation / Long Island Sound Futures Fund	Planning Proposal to Retrofit - Replace Parking Lot & Driveway Surfaces of Leeds Pond Preserve with Water Permeable Alternatives	\$78,771.64	\$35,000

LIST OF CORPORATE SPONSORS:

Alana Benjamin Group BeFit Therapy Douglas Elliman Real Estate Flatiron Pediatrics North Shore University Hospital - Northwell Health Shop Manhasset

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT: ANGIE NG

The Nomination Committee's objective is to establish a transparent and clear procedure for the nomination of board members. The Committee ensures that the board is sufficiently diverse as regards to its capabilities, experience, and professional knowledge. We also help in developing policies and submitting them for board recommendation.

The current members of the Nomination Committee are Matthew Ricciardi, Esq, Patricia Valente, Beth Horn, Honorary Board trustee Carlo Manganillo, Esq, and Angie Ng. For the past four years, we have successfully recruited many talents that form the current board. Nominating Committee has identified the following areas of focus in search of new candidates as the museum continues to grow:

- Financial/accounting expertise
- Attorney
- Tech savvy/information technology/data management
- Fundraising
- Landscape architect/ecology
- Educational connections
- Experience in recruiting and organizing volunteers

We are in the process and evaluating four qualified candidates that are interested in joining the board. We are happy to present our newly recruited member Beth Horn for her confirmation to the board.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE REPORT: TONY CONETTA

• Nassau County repaired/replaced major portions of the Main Building porch roof including the railing and associated drainage features.

• Replacement of interior electrical outlets in the Main Building were made by the County.

• As needed repairs/adjustments were made by the County to the new boiler in the Main Building

• Interior repairs were made to floors and other parts of the Visitor Center were made by the County as a result of a major pipe freezing and associated water damage/flooding due to a failure in the heating system during cold weather

• An underground water line leak was corrected and repaired by the County in front of the Visitor Center

• Interior improvements have been made to the Visitors Center to accommodate the newly hired onsite personnel's lodging in a portion of the Center.

- An engineering firm was retained to prepare a Facilities Utilization and Improvement Plan for the SMLI buildings, parking areas, driveways and associated grounds.
- The stormwater runoff control exhibits were routinely serviced and maintained, and other stormwater runoff controls and features were installed.

• Conducted a series of educational tours of the stormwater for local residents, professionals and officials.

• Grant applications were prepared and filed for various improvements to the buildings and grounds.

• Funds were included in SMLI's budget earmarked for capital improvements and/or repairs to the buildings and grounds.

GROUNDS COMMITTEE REPORT: TOM LANG

- Frank Piccininni and his Spadefoot crew will be back on the property to collect the young Black Locust trees we intend to remove from the driveways edge, before the spring.
- Ricci Lawrence and his crew from Hefferin are back on the property, removing fallen trees and chipping up the many piles of branches that have accumulated over the past few seasons.....
- Matt Ricciardi is managing the overgrowth, investing his time daily, to keep the weeds and invasive's at bay. Matt also spent some time cutting up fallen trees in the woods to the north of the lawn, especially those across and adjacent to walking paths. This improves access and sight lines in the woods. He hopes to do the same in other parts of the woods over the course of the winter.
- Ivy has been cleared of the stone walls along Plandome Road and Rock hollow Road. In some case's the ivy was covering deterioration and damage to the stonework caused by trees growing too close to the walls. Repairs are needed, but fortunately there is no imminent danger of collapse. We intend to keep the ivy from re-establishing itself on the walls during the growing season through regular trimming, in conjunction with the ivy removal along Rock Hollow, Matt also cut up fallen trees and dead limbs that had fallen in the adjacent woods and began removing ivy from tree trunks as well. We had a couple of dead trees blow over in recent windstorms. Adam took care of some of them, and Matt did the others.
- Peggy Maslow and her volunteers have been diligently weeding the grounds and the Audubon Garden to maintain a well-cared for appearance. Peggy Maslow has put Matt Ricciardi in touch with several people who are interested in volunteering to cut English ivy off tree trunks on the grounds. Matt is hoping to set up some introductory meetings in the next few weeks, to get them started. The ivy problem is most evident in the woods adjacent to Plandome Road and Matt hopes to tackle that area first.
- Adam Polatov, our Property & Facilities Manager, has hit the ground running and his presence is obvious to everyone. He is currently coordinating projects with Matt and prioritizing grounds and facilities projects. I'm hoping to back in the game very shortly, at which point Adam and I will begin to tackle the accumulated clutter in the Carriage House and Shed. Adam and staff are currently evaluating our tools and machines as parts for our trimmers and tillers have been ordered under our property maintenance programs. A new trimmer is on back order with Bayles and we expect delivery before the spring.
- Tony Conetta continues to work his magic with regards to storm water-runoff, identifying programs to be augmented and finding inexpensive solutions to phase 2-3 challenges.
- Transition Towns Composting

COMMUNITY COMPOST CENTER AT SMLI

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Two years ago, a community compost center was launched at SMLI in collaboration with Transition Town Port Washington. This regenerative effort to reduce emissions and create soil from food scraps has been a huge success and membership has doubled since it started. NYS Assemblywoman Gina Sillitti is even a proud member! It continues to draw attention for Transition Towns community efforts to redirect food scraps into compost bins and keep it out of our landfills.

2022 ANNUAL REPORT - SCIENCE MUSEUM OF LONG ISLAND

VOLUNTEERS:

Without our volunteers we would have no Museum. They are an essential part of our activities and help keep us vibrant and alive. We depend on these volunteers with their broad abilities, talents, and interests. They are loyal workers who give countless hours of their time to help with many things on and around the grounds.

2022 EAGLE SCOUT PROJECTS:

1. Weather Station Eagle Scout Project: Peter Dimopoulos will be completing his eagle scout project on Saturday, March 26th. He and his troop will be removing the old weather station fencing, clearing the area of weeds, and installing the weather station in the area behind the western rain garden/swales. They will be placing the station on a small, raised platform and cementing it in the ground, making it secure and much more accessible to visitors.

2. Outdoor Enclosure Eagle Scout Project: Will Buckley's eagle project (pending approval) will be an outdoor enclosure for Rudy, our sulcata tortoise. is proposed to be built in the back corner of the courtyard, where the blue bins for our Imagination Playground supplies are currently held. This allows Will to utilize the current fencing for two sides of the enclosure. The remaining two sides will have a couple of feet of cement underground (to prevent burrowing) and a roughly 2ft fence. Rudy will be in the enclosure during warmer months, a boon to his wellbeing as it will provide much needed sunlight and grazing opportunities.

3. Brian Bernic, from Plandome Troop 761, completed his Eagle Scout Project at SMLI on Sunday, May 22nd, 2022. His project accomplished two tasks:

- 1. Designing and installing custom informational signs that identify plant species around Leeds Pond Preserve
- 1. Clearing, expanding, and mulching the beginning section of our "stream trail," which begins at the exit driveway.

For the signs, Brian gathered the materials, cut, and stained the wood, and burned the plant names on. For the plaques that are affixed to the signs, Brian worked with a sign company which only had artwork for some of our flora; for the remaining nineteen species, Brian drew the designs himself.

4. Alessandro Reda, also from Plandome Troop 71, completed his Eagle Scout Project at SMLI on Sunday, June 12th, 2022, Alessandro addressed a pressing need for SMLI: safe, outdoor classroom spaces for children to learn in nature. He chose a clearing within the Preserve that had previously been utilized for outdoor activities but had since been neglected. It was littered with debris, rotten platforms, and overgrown weeds. Alessandro organized his troop and completely cleared out the area. He then installed four wooden tables that he had built from scratch, cutting and staining them himself before assembly. The result is a beautiful outdoor classroom that is safe, naturally shaded, and can seat 20 children!

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