

# FINDING CONNECTION

2021 Recap

CHILDREN'S DISCOVERY MUSEUM



**“When we treat children's play as seriously as it deserves, we are helping them feel the joy that's to be found in the creative spirit. It's the things we play with and the people who help us play that make a great difference in our lives.” — Fred Rogers**

## A LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

*by Amarinda Keys*

As we reflect on the year past, the museum team is so proud of all that we have accomplished and I am grateful to be part of a community that values families and the importance of play in the same way we do. We recognize now, more than ever, the importance of community and connection and are grateful for the chance to run programs that support our families

In 2021, we took advantage of the outdoors with programs including a free outdoor movie series, a summer program, an afterschool program, and a free

community event celebrating the great state of Maine.

We also loved working with like-minded organizations, which allowed our small staff of two to expand our capacity and reach more families in the community.

2022 will be a big year for the museum as we enter our final push before opening. In the meantime, we appreciate your support and look forward to welcoming you to our new space soon!

# PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS- our favorite programs from 2021



## SUMMER PROGRAM AND AFTERSCHOOL

We are so happy to have been able to provide fun, engaging in-person outdoor programs this year. Our summer camp ran with the support of Friends of the Quarry Road, and nearly 1/2 of the campers were provided with scholarships. Campers learned how to ride mountain bikes, hiked throughout the Quarry Road Trail system, collected mushrooms, dipped their toes in the stream, made stomp rockets, and more! We also launched an afterschool program, Einstein Time, right in the museum's backyard where children had an opportunity to explore some of the classic science experiments, including fizzing color-changing cabbage juice, slime, circuits, and egg drops.

## FREE WEEKLY NATURE PROGRAMING

At the end of 2020, we started running a free outdoor program at Viles Arboretum in Augusta which included a walk in the woods paired with a short activity. In November 2021, after one full year at Viles, we decided to move the program up to Waterville's Quarry Road. A dedicated group of families attends each week for favorite activities, including making bird feeders, launching catapults, and exploding fizzing pop rockets! We are proud of the community that is building each week and look forward to continuing to grow this program in the coming year.



## MAINE-FEST

A new partner for us this year was the Maine State Museum. Neither of our organizations has open exhibit halls at this time, so we thought that putting together a pop-up outdoor event was the perfect way for us both to reengage and support our families. Set up in Capital Park, we coordinated vendors and activities for a day filled with hands-on activities that celebrate Maine. There was popcorn, the museum's Mobile Exhibit, calligraphy with handmade ink, and a scavenger hunt created by the Friends of the Cobboossee Watershed.

## IMPACT BY THE NUMBERS



90+ individuals attended our weekly meet up



42,257 people reached on FB



50 free Halloween Bags



250+ video calls with Santa



13 children received a scholarship to camp



87 Discovery Room visits to our play space at Viles

4 free Movies In The Park



19 behind the scenes blog posts

