



2023 ANNUAL REPORT



MISSION AND VISION OF WHITAKER CENTER



Located in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, Whitaker Center for Science and the Arts is the Capital Region's premier center for arts, education, entertainment and cultural enrichment. Whitaker Center is composed of four main venues – Harsco Science Center (now UPMC Science Center), PNC Innovation Zone, Select Medical Digital Cinema, and Sunoco Performance Theater.

OUR MISSION

To serve as the center for scientific, artistic, cultural and educational activities to enhance the region's quality of life and economic vitality.

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MESSAGE FROM OUR CEO

After a nationwide search, the board decided on a local girl with a big smile and a bigger heart to step up and step into the role of President & CEO. Thank you for your confidence in me. I officially joined Whitaker on 11/6/2023 and could not be more excited about this new position as we move Whitaker into the future.

What am I most excited about in this role?

Well, I am unapologetically a girl's girl.

And so the opportunity to be the first hired female President and CEO was incredibly meaningful. Not for my resume or my ego. But for all the young, professional women coming after me. Meaningful for my 20 year old daughter Sofia. Meaningful that those three letters belong on their business cards as well. For those who know me~ I hope you remain confident in what I bring to this role. For those I am just meeting and getting to work with~ I will strive to instill that same trust that my leadership tenure will be one of authenticity, collaboration, strategy, transparency.

And fun!

2024 marks a significant milestone for Whitaker Center and the region as we celebrate our 25th anniversary. Whitaker has been a cornerstone of the Harrisburg region for almost a quarter century, and we look forward to celebrating this milestone with all of you. From the very beginning, Whitaker Center's mission has been to serve as the hub for arts, science, education, entertainment and cultural enrichment in the HBG region. We are excited to collaborate with our board and team, our current and "soon to be" partners, our city, county, and state officials, our members and our community to evolve our mission, increase our impact and reimagine how Whitaker next continues to be the crown jewel of our region.

As for my vision, my plan of what the future of Whitaker looks like?

I have been and will continue to be intentional in conducting a listening tour with all stakeholders and constituents. It is important that we hear from our team, our board, our guests, our members, our private partners and elected officials on what they see as what's next for Whitaker. I am excited to be part of the team that shapes the future. and invite others to be part of the story.



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Rivera'.

President & CEO

Whitaker Center for Science and the Arts

BUILDING UPDATES

Coming into 2023, there were substantial infrastructure projects to Whitaker Center:

New Roof

In summer 2023, Whitaker Center initiated a critical multimillion dollar project to replace its aging roof, which had been in place for 25 years. The existing roof, spanning over 10,000 square feet and divided into 14 sections across the iconic building, was in need of full replacement to ensure the safety and integrity of the structure. Despite the challenges posed by the scale and complexity of the project, it has progressed steadily, aiming for completion by early summer 2024. The replacement of the roof at Whitaker Center signifies a crucial investment in the longevity and functionality of the facility, ensuring its continued service to the community for years to come.

New HVAC

Pennsylvania Commonwealth Financing Authority - Statewide Local Share awarded an \$850,000 grant to Whitaker Center in March 2023. This funding injection enabled Whitaker Center to embark on a crucial project: the replacement and refurbishment of its HVAC system. Given the expansive size of the facility, spanning 130,000 square feet, this project is a substantial undertaking to upgrade and modernize the air conditioning infrastructure. This investment promises to enhance the comfort, efficiency, and sustainability of the center, ensuring a more enjoyable and environmentally friendly experience for its patrons. A special thank you goes out to Harrisburg Regional Chamber and CREDC for their support of this grant award.



Girls in STEAM Workshops

Girls in STEAM programs at Whitaker Center expose students in 3rd to 8th grade to real-world applications of STEAM - Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math. At the beginning and end of the year, January-March and November-December, Girls in STEAM: Winter Workshops were held on weekends. These workshops incorporated professionals working in STEAM who shared their personal experiences and career paths with students. Girls in STEAM Summer Camps, held in July and August, were offered to maximize student exploration into STEAM topics through engaging lessons and topic exploration. In 2023, we changed Girls in STEM to Girls in STEAM to better align with our programs at Whitaker Center. The addition of arts into STEM learning encourages hands-on education and collaboration while promoting creativity, imagination, and curiosity.



This year, girls had the opportunity to learn more about:

- Astronomy
- Media Production and Technology
- Geology
- Medicine
- Artistic Expression
- Environmental Science
- Biology
- Physical Science
- Chemistry
- Engineering
- Coding
- Weather and Meteorology
- Problem Solving & Critical Thinking

SUPPORTED BY:

The Donald B. and Dorothy L. Stabler Foundation & Bayer Fund



SurgeryLive!

This extremely unique program allows students to feel as if they are in the operating room. Robotic hysterectomies, hernia repairs, and gastric sleeves are some of the surgeries that can be seen on the screen in the Select Medical Digital Cinema or virtually through a webinar. Audio and visual connection to the operating room allows students, and their teachers, to ask questions to the surgeon as the surgery is happening, allowing each experience to cater to the aspects of surgery the students would like to learn more about. An optional extension experience after viewing the surgery, gives students hands-on experience with training tools used to prepare one for surgery.

SUPPORTED BY:



PennState Health
Milton S. Hershey Medical Center



Little Learners

In 2023, we were able to increase attendance for the winter and spring programs. Little Learners doubled the number of attendees from Fall 2022 to Fall 2023. We also expanded the number of attendees per session from 20 to 25 with room for extras when we do special Little Learners weeks, such as our Jingle Jams and Jammies featuring Olaf's Frozen Adventure. The combination of a high-level, well-thought-out curriculum and consistent programming with the same weekly structure has resulted in a large group of regular guests who attend the program every week.

This program runs Wednesday mornings in Kids Place between Labor Day and Memorial Day, similar to a school year. Each program has circle time with story, snack, learning stations and time for free play in Kid's Place. The curriculum is theme-based, with different monthly themes and each week in the month concentrating on a specific topic within the theme.

SUPPORTED BY:



PENN NATIONAL
INSURANCE



"During my Tenure as the Lead Educator for this program I have worked to create a welcoming culture that encourages children of all abilities to be able to come and experience the program. The results have been overwhelmingly positive. 95% of our survey feedback has been positive with 86% of survey feedback scoring the program at the highest level possible." - Elyse Rittle

Scout Program

In 2023, the Scout Program was expanded to include workshops for all three of the main scouting organizations: Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, and American Heritage Scouts. Programs take place throughout the school year and can be done as individual scouts or as a troop. Workshop topics have included Robotics, Chemistry, STEAM Exploration, Painting, and Engineering Design Challenges. These programs allow scouts to earn badges by using the resources at Whitaker that might not be accessible during a regular scout meeting, such as iPads, Spheros, the Hurricane Chamber, and Science on a Sphere.



Success of PNC Innovation Zone & Underserved Population

Whitaker Center for Science and the Arts thanks PNC Bank for their continued support of the PNC Innovation Zone.

Opened in May of 2022, this space has the goal of teaching a diverse array of community members 21st century computer skills. 2023 is defined as a year of expansion, bringing in new equipment, new programs, and new partners into the PNC Innovation Zone. We greatly accelerated that pace of expansion in the latter half of 2023, and are excited about the groundwork that has been laid for 2024.

Non Profit Partners

Whitaker Center was able to partner with the following nonprofits in the course of 2023:

- United Way: Nearly 250 students, with dozens of community chaperones visited the PNC Innovation Zone during the during the United Way STSD Whitaker Takeover event
- Big Brothers Big Sisters: Hosted 22 students for a Minecraft Hour of Code Session
- Joshua Group: Held three mini-camps, totaling 22 students
- Nativity School: Brought in 34 students for 8 different Minecraft coding sessions

Whitaker Center also partnered with CASA to offer E-sports in the Innovation Zone. This was a great opportunity for CASA students to engage in purposeful video gaming in STEAM learning.

New Programs

How to Build a PC

How to Build a PC is a program that explains the basic parts and principles of building one's own PC. Attendees can interact with computer-building software as well as get hands-on experience with taking apart and putting together real computer towers. Innovators will be instructed on the basic function of each of the parts of a PC including the CPU, motherboard, RAM, cooling systems, PSU, graphics card, hard drive/SSD, and case. Afterward, innovators will be able to interact with the software PC Building Simulator to digitally create a PC.

Gamers & Coders Programs

Gamers and Coders is a twice-a-week program that changes topics from week to week. Themes follow holidays and local events and explore various educational games and programs across many STEAM topics. Topics include learning to code with Scratch, Minecraft for Education's Cyber Fundamentals, Algo Bot, and more!

DeSoto Family Lounge & Additional Equipment

The success of the PNC Innovation Zone has garnered more philanthropic support for the space. In January of 2023, a generous gift from The Carole DeSoto Foundation allowed us to invest in upgraded equipment, greatly expanding the operating capacity. This included 12 new computer workstations, doubling the total capacity from 12 workstations to 24.



WOW- WHITAKER ON WHEELS

Our Whitaker On Wheels program, commonly referred to as WOW, offers preschools, daycare centers, and elementary schools the opportunity to bring interactive STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math) programming directly to the children they look after and teach.

Whitaker on Wheels saw some physical changes with the wrapping of the WOW van with support from the UPMC Pinnacle Foundation. The updates for curriculum were to better align them with PA Early Learning Standards for Older Toddler/Pre-Kindergarten/Kindergarten or Next Generation Science Standards. WOW added two new offerings, as well as update and offer two virtual field trip lessons as Whitaker on Wheels programs. The goals for WOW's going forward is to have offerings that hit many of the major science areas such as Chemistry, Biology, Physics, Ecology/Earth Science, and Engineering. This will be a trend the program will strive for in 2024 as well.

There was also the expanding of existing partnerships and the creation of new partnerships within the program of the 2023 calendar year. WOW expanded its partnership with the United Way to serve all of the Ready for School, Ready for Success programs within Dauphin and Cumberland counties. WOW developed a partnership with the Salvation Army to serve two of their afterschool/summer programs for local elementary schools, including PA STEAM Scholars for PA STEAM Academy and Roller Enrichment Academy for Steelton/Highspire Elementary School.

Besides individual visits, The WOW van made stops to several community outreach events, Farm Show, Baseball in Education at the York Revolution Stadium, and Kipona in Harrisburg.



We did over 63 individual visits for WOWs over the 2023 year. Most visits scheduling more than 1 program or multiple sessions of a program. 100% of our survey feedback has been positive from this program.

SUPPORTED BY:

UPMC PINNACLE FOUNDATION



Featured Top Shows of 2023:

- Fillmore East: The Final Concert
- Chelsey Green & The Green Project
- Studio 22 Holiday Dance Performance
- Glenn Miller Orchestra
- March Madness Comedy Tour Featuring Sommore
- Dave Mason with special guest Orleans
- Dance Revelation: Freedom
- Steve Vai
- A Magical Night with John Westford
- Menopause the Musical 2
- Judy Collins: An Evening of Hits & Holiday Classics
- Solar Federation
- Gov't Mule @ The Forum
- LIVE+ Unplugged @ The Forum

Almost Sold Out Shows:

- Steve Hackett: Genesis Revisited
- The Machine

THANK YOU TO OUR RESIDENT COMPANIES:



THANK YOU TO OUR PRESENTING SPONSOR OF THE SUNOCO PERFORMANCE THEATER:





Whitaker Center was proud to partner with Theatre Harrisburg for the inaugural performance of Annie, Jr. in August 2023.

The Penguin Project is a national organization with numerous theaters throughout the United States. Providing access to community theater for young artists with special needs, the Penguin Project demonstrates that the challenges of special needs should not hinder a child's ability to participate in life's experiences.

A dedicated group of peer mentors— children their same age – volunteered to work side-by-side with them through four months of rehearsals. Culminating in touching performances with penguins and their peer mentors at their side, Whitaker Center was honored to play a part in allowing these students to take to the stage and shine.

2023 SUMMER CAMPS

MUSICAL THEATRE

The Aristocrats Kids

Finding Nemo Jr

Mean Girls Jr

STEAM CAMPS

Science of Sound

Journey to Mars

Magic, Myth, or Science?

All About Animals

Archeology

INNOVATION ZONE

Innovation Camp

Film Production basics

GIRLS IN STEM

EMERGING HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONALS: SCIENCE OF SURGERY CAMP

ART - *NEW CAMP*

Messterpieces - Let's Upcycle!

Think Like an Artist!

Having Fun with Fibers!

Total Summer Camps
Participants:

614

THANK YOU!



Increased summer camp offerings by
almost 33%



"My kids have been attending the Whitaker summer camp for the last 3 years. They love the variety of STEAM related fun activities they are exposed to with each weekly camp. Each one is unique. The best part is they are learning while having fun. We can't wait to rejoin this summer again!" - Omaima Ali

SCIENCE CENTER TRAVELING EXHIBITS

The Questioneers

Be an engineer like Rosie Revere, an architect like Iggy Peck, a scientist like Ada Twist, a leader like Sofia Valdez, and an artist like Aaron Slater in Whitaker Center's first bi-lingual traveling exhibit. The exhibit features more than 50 different experiences where children can build and launch airplanes, build suspension bridges, and create interactive plans and city diagrams. Architecture discussions, career advancement, and leadership engineering workshops are also included.

The Questioneers book series, written by Andrea Beaty and illustrated by David Roberts, celebrates Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, Math, perseverance, and passion. Like the characters, Iggy Peck, Rosie Revere, Ada Twist, Sofia Valdez, and Aaron Slater, every budding architect, engineer, scientist, mathematician, leader, and artist will find inspiration to solve everyday mysteries and to think more critically about their world. Most importantly, they will learn that despite inevitable challenges, they should always continue to “Read. Question. Think.” – and never give up on their dreams.

PRESENTED BY:

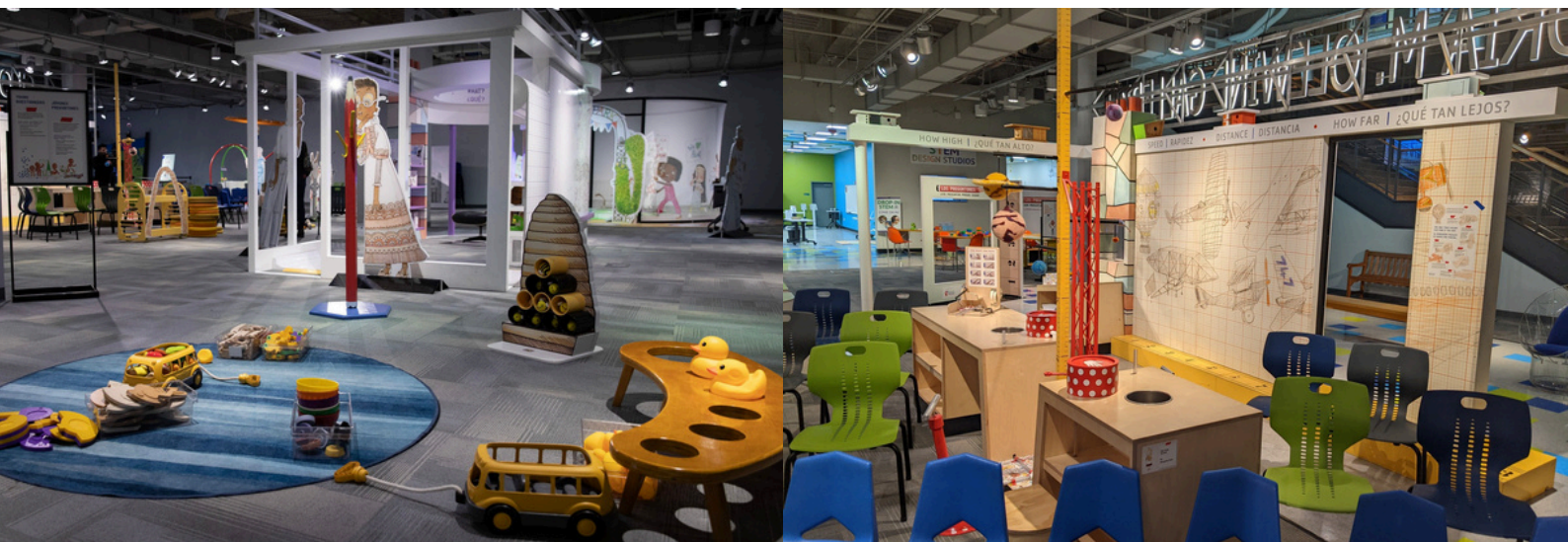
GIANT®

THANK YOU FOR THE ADDITIONAL

LOCAL SUPPORT BY:

UGI Utilities

Meron & Renee Yemane



SCIENCE CENTER TRAVELING EXHIBITS (CONT.)

Space: An Out-of-Gravity Experience

Using hands-on and large-scale interactive exhibits and multimedia components, Space: An Out-of-Gravity Experience explores the solutions that will shape our future in space. This touring exhibition gives you a glimpse of the challenges and triumphs of space journeys, and the extraordinary conditions of human space travel.

Witness the innovation that makes life possible in the unforgiving vacuum of space. Explore conditions that make space travel dangerous. Experience what it's like to be on board the International Space Station. Try out some of the engineering technology that makes life and research possible in space. Unlike many traditional space exhibitions that focus on the history of space travel, Space: An Out-of-Gravity Experience looks into current and future exploration. Discover what is possible, and what awaits in orbit and beyond.

SPONSORED BY:



SPACE DAY

Whitaker Center hosted a Space Day celebration on October 21, 2023. This year's theme was Space & Entrepreneurship. Whitaker Center was proud to host Bob Hines, NASA Astronaut, as the keynote speaker for the event. He shared his journey and accomplishments from his spaceflight experience and his current role as an active NASA astronaut. Astronaut Hines recently returned from NASA's SpaceX Crew-4 mission where he served as flight engineer of Expedition 67 and 68 aboard the International Space Station. Hines logged a total of 170 days in space during the mission.

Space Day Activities Included:

- Presentation and Meet & Greet with Astronaut Bob Hines
- Science Center exploration including our newest traveling exhibit, Space: An Out-of-Gravity Experience
- Space activities: Kids participated in space-themed crafts, educational games, and interactive learning experiences tailored to their age group throughout the UPMC Science Center. The Eberly College of Science outreach team facilitated hands-on activities and demonstrations on electromagnetic waves in space, designing your own comets and meteors, exploding supernovas, black holes, and colored flames and gases
- Shows in the StarLab Mobile Planetarium
- Talks with Darren Williams, Eberly College of Science alumnus and Penn State Behrend professor of astronomy and astrophysics and physics
- Showtimes for Astronaut: Ocean to Orbit
- Space-themed Gaming in the PNC Innovation Zone
- Virtual Reality Tours of the International Space Station

THANK YOU TO OUR PRESENTING SPONSOR:



THANK YOU TO OUR EDUCATIONAL PARTNER:



PennState
Eberly College of Science

SPECIAL THANKS TO:

R. Timothy & Mary Webber Weston
Marsha Everton & Jack Stover
Barry & Barbara Carbaugh

IRELAND

Follow Irish writer Manchán Magan, violinist Patricia Treacy and four Irish teens on a cross-country adventure as they explore the island of Ireland's fascinating history and wild, natural beauty, and reconnect with their Irish heritage. Experience the cultural wonders of Dublin and Belfast and discover Ireland's spectacular natural landmarks such as the giant Cliffs of Moher, the volcanic wonder of Giant's Causeway and the rugged Skellig Islands, where scientists are studying the Atlantic puffin population. At each stop along the way, be immersed in the vibrant traditions, fascinating stories and sacred customs of this ancient land seen as never before on the world's largest screens.

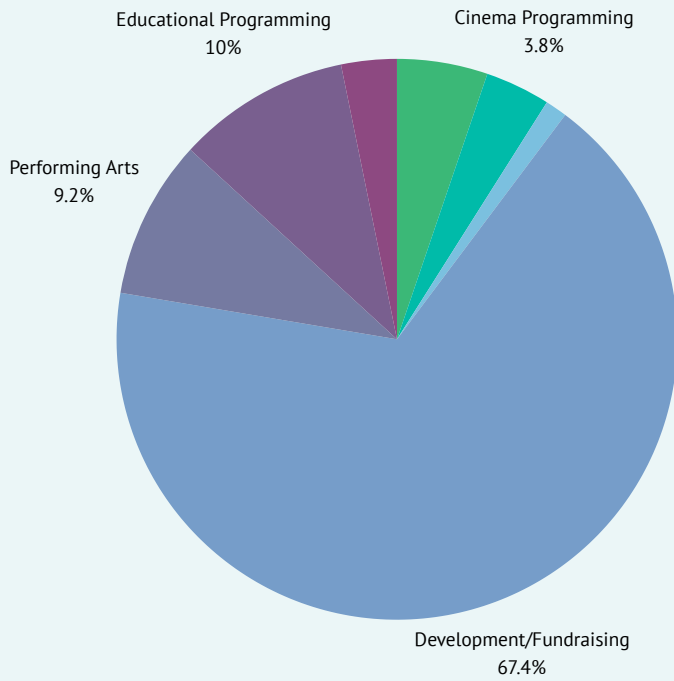


ASTRONAUT: OCEANS TO ORBIT



In 2013, a critical life-support system on the International Space Station failed, requiring an immediate spacewalk to fix it. NASA astronaut Chris Cassidy made the repair and saved the space station. As an astronaut, he was trained extensively for space walks. But how do astronauts train here on Earth to work in the microgravity of space? Astronaut: Ocean to Orbit explores the ways in which NASA uses underwater environments to simulate life and work in space, offering a fascinating look into the high-tech world of astronauts. Join astronaut Chris Cassidy (current ISS Commander) as he trains in his space suit alongside a full-sized mock-up the International Space Station in a giant underwater facility in Houston. Dive to the sea floor with NASA astronaut Jeanette Epps as she lives underwater with fellow astronauts for ten continuous days at Aquarius Reef Base in Florida. Find out what it takes to live and work in space.

GROSS REVENUE SOURCES



GENERAL SCIENCE CENTER ADMISSION	\$149,340.00
CINEMA PROGRAMMING	\$107,269.75
TICKETING	\$36,114.92
DEVELOPMENT/FUNDRAISING	\$1,927,012.30
PERFORMING ARTS	\$261,930.28
EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMING	\$285,273.70
FACILITIES RENTALS	\$91,559.09

OPERATING EXPENSES

Program Services

HARSCO SCIENCE CENTER	\$1,157,030
SUNOCO PERFORMANCE THEATER	\$861,894
SELECT MEDICAL DIGITAL CINEMA	\$303,010
PNC INNOVATION ZONE	\$206,511

Management & General

GENERAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE	\$1,629,649
WONDERS MUSEUM STORE	\$199
CAFE	\$7,321

TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES

\$4,625,307

Fundraising

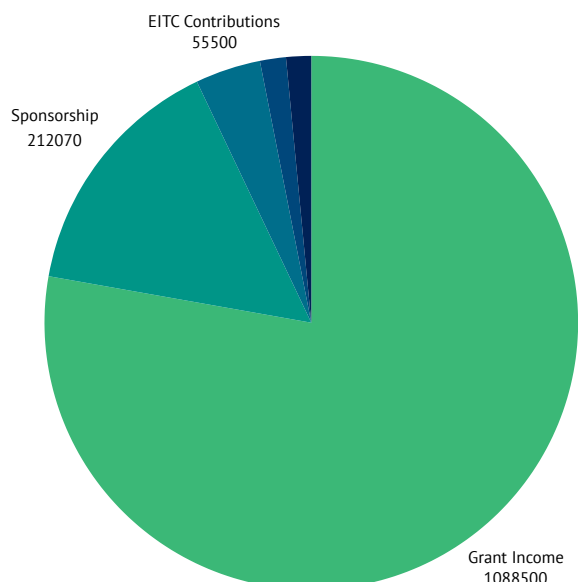
DEVELOPMENT & MEMBERSHIP	\$346,014
SALES & MARKETING	\$113,679

Fiscal Year: October 1st, 2022 - September 30th, 2023

FIXED ASSET ADDITIONS

	FY 2022	Disposals	Additions	FY 2023
BUILDING & IMPROVEMENTS	32,850,973	-	55,547	32,906,520
EXHIBITS	2,355,848	-	27,350	2,383,198
FURNITURE & EQUIPMENT	2,587,650	-	99,569	2,687,219
ACCUMULATED DEPRECIATION	(22,221,004)	-	(1,064,189)	(23,285,193)
TOTAL FIXED ASSETS	15,573,467	-	(881,723)	14,691,744

DEVELOPMENT & REVENUE



FUNDRAISING EVENTS	\$21,220.20
BOARD & INDIVIDUAL CONTRIBUTIONS	\$21,999.03
EITC CONTRIBUTIONS	\$55,500.00
SPONSORSHIP	\$212,070.00
GRANT INCOME	\$1,088,500.00

GIVING TO WHITAKER CENTER

INDIVIDUAL DONORS

\$50,000+

Carole DeSoto
Marsha Everton & Jack Stover

\$25,000 - \$49,999

\$10,000 - \$24,999

Jim & Jean Grandon

\$5,000 - \$9,999

Lynette Chappell-Williams
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Richard Willey
Jodi Woleslagle

\$2,500 - \$4,999

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Jeshanah & Matthew Fox
William Warren, Jr.
Meron & Renée Yemane
Don Coffee

\$1,000 - \$2,499

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THANK YOU TO OUR SUPPORTERS!

GIVING TO WHITAKER CENTER (CONT.)

\$500 - \$999

Stephanie & Marino Acri

Marion C. Alexander

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Nora Habig

Steven Neiman

Debra Yates

\$200 - \$499

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Todd Shamash

UPMC Pinnacle Anonymous Employees

Jill Walmer

Steve Yurich

THANK YOU TO OUR SUPPORTERS!

CORPORATE, FOUNDATION, CIVIC, AND GOVERNMENT GIVING

\$100,000+

Dauphin County
Penn National Insurance
PNC Bank
The Donald B. and Dorothy L. Stabler Foundation

\$50,000 - \$99,999

Avalon Insurance Company
Bayer
Comcast
Highmark
Josiah W. and Bessie H. Kline Foundation, Inc.
TE Connectivity
UPMC

\$25,000 - \$49,999

The Foundation for Enhancing Communities
Giant
John Crain Kunkel Foundation
M&T Charitable Foundation
Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission

*The Foundation For Enhancing Communities

CORPORATE, FOUNDATION, CIVIC, AND GOVERNMENT GIVING

\$10,000 - \$24,999

Anne & Philip Glatfelter Foundation
The Boyd Foundation
The Cleveland-Cliffs Foundation
Community Foundation of Collier County
Donna and David Schankweiler Charitable Fund
M&T Bank
Mid Penn Bank
Ned Smith Center for Nature and Art
Très Bonne Année
Pennsylvania Council on the Arts
Pennsylvania Game Commission
PPL Electric Utilities
Rice Family Foundation
UGI Utilities, Inc.
Whitaker Center for Science and the Arts Fund - TFEC

\$5,000 - \$9,999

Bobby Rahal Lexus
Brody Science Fund for Youth
Capital Blue Cross
Fulton Bank
Lexus Matching Gift
McCormick Family Foundation
Morefield Communications, Inc.
Orrstown Bank
PA Department of Education
PA Department of Natural Resources

\$2,500 - \$4,999

Bill and Beverlee Lehr Fund for Whitaker Center for Advancing Performance Arts Endowment
First National Bank
The Hershey Company
PA Parks and Forests Foundation
S&T Bank
Traditions Bank
Tröegs Independent Brewing

CORPORATE, FOUNDATION, CIVIC, AND GOVERNMENT GIVING

\$1,000 - \$2,499

The AIMSights Group
A.P Williams Construction
Barley Snyder
Bill and Beverlee Lehr Fund for Whitaker Center for Science and the Arts
Brown Plus
Carol L. Mickelsen Fund
Iron Valley of Central PA - The Wendell Hoover Team
Joan S. and Joseph K. Goldsmith Fund #2
LIVIC Civil
PNC Matching Gift
Vartan Group, Inc.
Walmart

Under \$1,000

Amazon Smile
Appalachian Audubon Society
Charities Aid Foundation America
Crabtree Rohrbaugh & Associates Architects
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WHITAKER CENTER FOR SCIENCE AND THE

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