



MT PLEASANT  
**DISCOVERY**  
MUSEUM

Annual Report 2022



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# 2022

## ANNUAL REPORT

The year of 2022 was an important year for the Mt. Pleasant Discovery Museum and the surrounding community. Being the tail-end of the global pandemic, the year was about the comeback. We brought back the Bowties & Bourbon Gala fundraiser at Buck's Run, hosted our first Halloween Carnival, and introduced new protocols inspired by the pandemic for regular sanitization to help parents feel reassured in a world that's much more aware of germs and how they spread. And as we entered this new era that is "Post-Covid," we worked to try and provide parents, especially new ones, a place to give their children space to grow and develop in unrestricted ways. Our team's dedication and compassion was the foundation of our future-oriented strategies in the year of 2022.

We came to understand that places like children's museums would be a vital community resource to make up for "lost time" and assist parents with key developmental and social benchmarks. Looking forward, our goal is to bring in new exhibits that allow for more hands-on learning and play. We strived to increase the visibility of the museum on social platforms and to partner with other organizations and stakeholders to forge a stronger bond between community organizations that seek to invest in the children of Isabella & surrounding counties. What we learned in this transitional year will help our trajectory into becoming a leader in the development and well-being of this region's children.





# Meet the Board of Directors

"As my first year as Executive Director of the Mt. Pleasant Discovery Museum comes to a close, I am humbled by the profound impact we have made on the lives of families in our community. In 2022, we welcomed new exhibits, brought on talented staff members, and created exciting programming aimed at fostering a love for exploration and learning. Our inclusive environment celebrates diversity and embraces each child's unique spirit. I am immensely proud of our dedicated team, whose hard work has brought joy, unforgettable memories, and a lifelong passion for discovery to countless visitors. I extend my deepest gratitude to our supporters and partners whose belief in our mission has been instrumental in our success. As we enter a new decade as an organization, we remain committed to empowering children, nurturing their curiosity, and building a brighter future together."

**Lizzie Dilg**  
Executive Director

"Thank you for another great year at the Mt. Pleasant Discovery Museum! This year, we celebrated our 10th birthday!! On behalf of the board of directors, I cannot thank you enough for your support, visits, and contributions that have helped keep us a success. 2022 has been an exciting year for the museum.

We were very excited to welcome our director, **Lizzie Dilg**, in March. We installed our amazing new **3-2-1 Blast Off!** rocket climber exhibit! This exhibit is the final of the original planned exhibits to be installed, making it especially exciting.

Thanks to our amazing staff, we have seen new programming, camps, community partnerships, and educational opportunities. Additionally, we were able to bring back our successful **Bowties and Bourbon Gala** fundraiser, as well as host the popular annual event, **Glow Night**, and a new **Halloween Carnival** fundraiser at the museum.

Again, thank you for your support in keeping the Mt. Pleasant Discovery Museum a place to explore, learn, create, and grow!"

- Shelly Smith, Board Chair



**SETH BLACKEY**  
Secretary



**SHELLY SMITH**  
Board Chair



**NICOLE WISNEY**  
Treasurer



**ANDREW RHODE**  
Director



**ANGIE WHITE**  
Director



**DANAE HUNTER**  
Director



**DAVID BARBERI**  
Director



**JENNIFER COTTER**  
Director



**JENNIFER MCGUIRK**  
Director



**JAKE ROWLEY**  
Outgoing Director



**TIM OTTERMAN**  
Outgoing Director



**JUDY FRENCH-SMITH**  
Director

*Thank you to our outgoing Board Members!*



# Meet the ADMINISTRATION TEAM



LINDSAY STARK  
Operations Director



LIZZIE DILG  
Executive Director



AMY MAST  
HR & Floor Manager



LAURIE YOST  
Education Coordinator



DEV WASLUSKY  
Marketing & Communications  
Coordinator

MYA BERGER  
Outgoing Education  
& Field Trip Coordinator



MADISON BAZZETT  
Outgoing Events &  
Marketing Director

# Meet the FLOOR TEAM



Tom



Hope



Allison



Jaya



Elizabeth



Nathan



Lily



Dana



Lauren



Kayla





# About MPDM

## MISSION

To enhance the community by inspiring creativity, learning, and curiosity.

## PILLARS

Explore. Learn. Create. Grow.

## VISION

To contribute to a world where educational discovery enhances the life of every child.

## VALUES

Child-focused. Inclusive. Innovative. Stewardship.

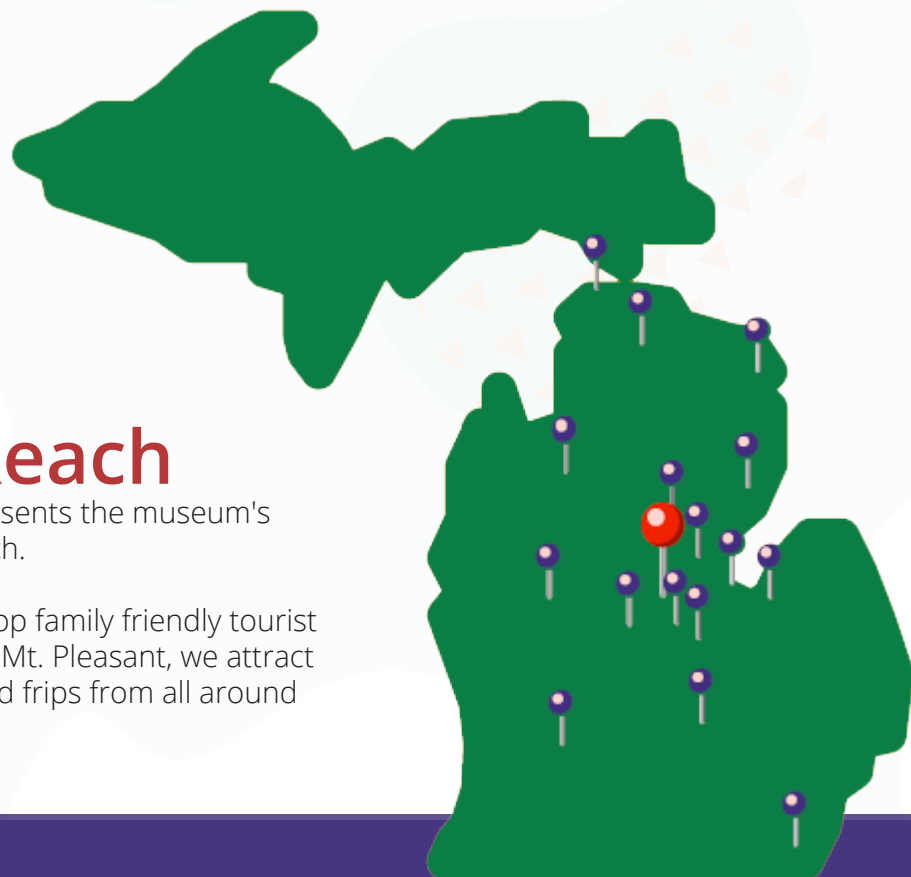


**43,405 VISITORS**

**732 MEMBERS**

**87 FIELD TRIPS**

**81 BIRTHDAY PARTIES**



**Our Reach**

This map represents the museum's state-wide reach.

As one of the top family friendly tourist destinations in Mt. Pleasant, we attract visitors and field trips from all around Michigan.

**2022 REVENUE**

Admissions .....	185,535.00
Memberships .....	61,764.00
Parties & Programs .....	39,995.00
Retail .....	18,169.00
Grants.....	54,862.00
Fundraisers .....	29,333.00
Investments .....	(8,846.00)
Cash Donations .....	60,063.00
In-Kind Donations .....	1,050.00
Miscellaneous .....	72.00
<b>TOTAL .....</b>	<b>441,997.00</b>

Special Admissions





# United Way Matching Challenge



In 2022, our team fundraised a significant sum of funding that was then matched dollar-for-dollar by the United Way of Gratiot & Isabella Counties. In this picture is Lizzie, our Executive Director, standing with Annie Sanders, the President of this region's United Way. Funds went to supporting day-to-day operations and overhead, programming, and staff salaries.



# DONORS

## HONORED DONORS

Thank you to all the busy bees who donated in 2022!

### Pollen, \$2,500-\$9,999

Shelly & Mark Smith

Fisher Companies

Modern Woodman of America

Lance Ferden

Mt. Pleasant School of Dance, LLC.

Jay Fields

Mock Foundation

Janice Cotter Endowment Fund

### Flowers, \$10,000-24,999

Mt. Pleasant Area Community Foundation

Rollin M. Gerstacker Foundation

Charles J. Strosacker Foundation

United Way of Gratiot & Isabella Counties

### Honey, \$25,000-49,999

Michigan Arts & Culture Council

Dorsay Foundation

### Special thanks to our *Bowties & Bourbon* sponsors!

#### PAPPY VAN WINKLES FAMILY RESERVE SPONSOR

Krapohl Ford & Lincoln  
Bucks Run Golf Club

#### EAGLE RARE SINGLE BARREL SPONSORS

Isabella Community Credit Union  
The Morey Foundation

#### JIM BEAN BLACK SPONSORS

Barberi Law  
Green Tree Co-Op Market  
McConnell Farm Supply  
Owens Plumbing  
Sleepy Dog Books  
Total Investment Planners, Inc.

#### LIDI UK GOLD SPONSORS

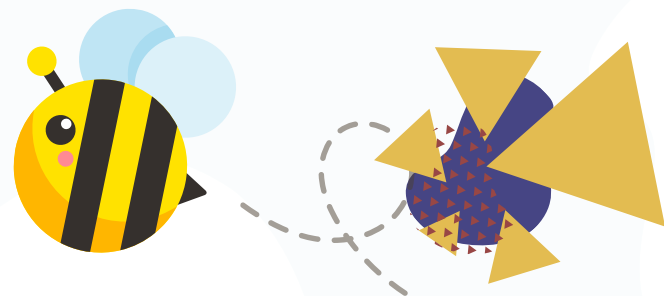
Boge, Wybenga, & Bradley, P.C.  
Central Michigan Orthopaedics  
Cox Sports Medicine & Orthopedic  
Surgery

Lee & Jim Fabiano  
McGuirk Families  
Modern Woodmen of America  
Mt. Pleasant Jaycees  
Southwind Restaurants  
The Eyesite

#### HUDSON BAY SPONSORS

Coyne Oil & Propane  
Danae & John Hunter  
Dr. Michelle & Mr. Stephen Sanders  
E&S Graphics

Fox Pediatrics, PLC.  
Headliners Salon  
Judy & Sid Smith  
Jennifer, Joseph, & Kevin Cotter  
Konwinski Construction  
Labelle Management  
Mr. Electric of Central Michigan  
Mt. Pleasant School of Dance  
Northwestern Mutual  
Pohl Cat  
RFM Group  
Trillium Fine Clothing for Women





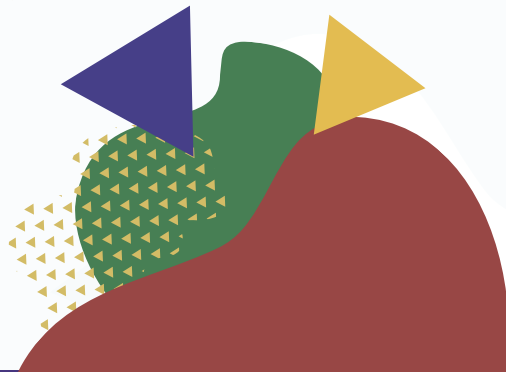
## 1,758 VOLUNTEER HOURS

MPDM had over 100 volunteers help throughout 2022, donating their time and energy to change the lives of children through meaningful play and engagement.

### Thank you to all of our volunteers, including:

Courtney Aldrich  
Alpha Sigma Alpha  
Americorps  
Andrea  
Miriam Apostol  
Michelle Azar  
Hannah Bazzett  
Nehemiah Blazek  
Randi Boland  
Clara C.  
Clare Mid Michigan Industries  
CMU Public Service Residential  
College  
Erin Craig  
Olyvia Darling  
Kaleigh Doyle  
Alisa DuVal  
Kylee Edmonds  
Logan F.  
Kaitlin Fisher  
Aleeya G.  
Jacob Heartshorne  
Taylor Hunt  
Katie Keener

Krista King  
Merlin Kochunilathil  
Hunter Li  
Andrew Lotsinger  
Katherine McCollum  
Md Imran Hassain  
Mt. Pleasant Mid-Michigan Industries  
Lisa Mun  
Ellie Nguyen  
Elizabeth Poirier  
Jonah Popp  
Joe Likavec  
Kailin Potter  
Sydney Pauls  
Elijah R.  
Kayla Reed  
Thomas Sepian  
Elvie Shattuck  
Hayden Smith  
Andrew Stevens  
Annabelle Tice  
Andrew Weaver  
Kaylee Wagester  
Molly Yonker



## OUR COMMUNITY PARTNERS

MPDM would like to thank all of our partners for their time, services, and volunteering efforts to help make the Discovery Museum more amazing each and ever day!





# OUR NEW EXHIBIT IS OUT OF THIS WORLD!

In November 2022, we installed the two-story **3, 2, 1 Blast Off!** exhibit, and it quickly became a favorite for our visitors.

### Thank you to the sponsors that helped launch this exhibit:

- |                            |   |  |
|----------------------------|---|--|
| Michael Hoff               | Shelly, Mark, Alec, Sam, & Harden Smith | Steve & Lindsey Schunk & Family        |
| Heather Prout              | Mercantile Bank                         | Dr. Bryon & Ruby Benchley              |
| Annette Messinger          | James & Amy Irvin                       | Sheets Family & Their Future Astronaut |
| Barbara K. Brickner        | Michael & Donna Hackett                 | Isabella Community Credit Union        |
| Dennis & Sandra Olson      | Ward & Jean Forquer                     | Modern Woodmen of America              |
| Dr. Ryan & Amy Lilly       | Sara Watts                              | Chambers Enterprises                   |
| Jarel Konwinski            | Dr. Michael & Elizabeth Conway          | Dow Great Lakes Bay Invitational       |
| Robert & Nancy Wheeler     | Gowdon W. & Marilyn Fosburg             | Fabiano Foundation                     |
| Mark & Terrie Zitzelberger | Janice Cotter Endowment Fund            | Krapohl Ford & Lincoln                 |
| Alan & Kathy Jones         | Kevin & Melissa Langlois                | Lake Trust Credit Union                |

### With special thanks to:

- |                                  |   |
|----------------------------------|---|
| Charles J. Strosacker Foundation | Mt. Pleasant Area Community Foundation        |
| The McGuirk Families             | Roll M. Gersacker Foundation                  |
| Lance & Lisa Ferden              | The Harry A. & Margaret D. Towsley Foundation |
| Down Corning Foundation          | Midland Area Community Foundation             |





# EVENTS

## SNOWSHOE SATURDAYS

PRESENTED BY THE MT. PLEASANT DISCOVERY MUSEUM AND THE CHIPPEWA WATERSHED CONSERVANCY

FEBRUARY 3RD - SYLVAN SOLACE  
FEBRUARY 10TH - AUDUBON WOODS

Grades 2-3 10am-11am  
Grades 4-5 11:30am-12:30pm

JOIN US FOR A DAY FILLED WITH EXPLORATION, SNOWSHOEING, ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION, AND HOT COCOA!

REGISTRATION IS LIMITED. TO REGISTER YOUR CHILD PLEASE EMAIL MPDM EVENT AND MARKETING DIRECTOR ALEXIS STRAUB AT ALEXIS@MPDISCOVERYMUSEUM.ORG

DISCOVERY MUSEUM  
CWC CHIPPEWA WATERSHED CONSERVANCY  
Protecting Central Michigan's Incredible Natural Resources

## Bowties & Bourbon Gala

4.29.2022 Doors Open at 7:00  
Courtyard Marriott  
at Central Michigan University  
2400 East Campus Drive

Bourbon Inspired Culinary Competition

### Bowtie Contest

10:00 PM Judged by MPDM Board Members

Prize: Backbone Uncut Straight Bourbon Whiskey

## Family Fun Night

### SOLAR SYSTEM DIORAMA

artreachcenter.org | mpdiscoverymuseum.org

## Painting with Pups

July 14 | 11:30-1

DISCOVERY MUSEUM

MT. PLEASANT DISCOVERY MUSEUM

## Fall Frolic

Tuesday, November 5  
1:00-2:00PM  
All Ages Welcome

Learn why leaves change color!  
Arts and Crafts  
Science Experiment  
Book Reading

## DATE NIGHT

September 9  
5:30-8:00 PM

REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED

\$15 / CHILD

children must be 4 years or older

## TURNING THE PAGE: Using children's books to talk about race

### Let's talk about it

Starting conversations with kids about race

Parents and caregivers of young children (ages 2-6) are invited to join members of the CMU community for a discussion about using children's books to open conversations about race.

**Event details:**  
Thursday, April 28  
5 - 6:30 p.m.  
Mt. Pleasant Discovery Museum  
Children and light snacks will be provided!

**Questions:**  
Contact Jack Day at jack.day@cmu.edu  
Assistant Professor  
Department of Human Development and Family Studies, Central Michigan University

**REGISTER TO ATTEND**  
Register soon, space is limited.

COLLEGE OF EDUCATION & HUMAN SERVICES  
FAMILY STUDIES  
CENTRAL MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY

## Glow Night

Friday March 10  
7:00-8:30

FACE PAINTING  
PHOTO BOOTH  
BLACK LIT PLAY

Members: \$3  
Nonmembers: \$8

## MPDM'S HALLOWEEN CARNIVAL

OCTOBER 21  
5:00-8:00 PM

\$8/NONMEMBERS \$6/MEMBERS  
MT. PLEASANT DISCOVERY MUSEUM  
5093 E REMUS RD MT. PLEASANT, MI

BOUNCY HOUSE  
COSTUME PARTY  
FOOD TRUCKS  
CARNIVAL GAMES

DATE: APRIL 16, 2022

### This Could Be You Book Launch

Mount Pleasant

You like Mt. Pleasant Discovery Museum

Interested

## TIE DYE DAYZE

JUNE 30 11:00-1:00

purchase a pair of socks for \$2 at the front desk!

NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL ARTS  
DISCOVERY MUSEUM

## BYO Bird Feeder

August 5 | 11-12

Included with Admission

BACK TO SCHOOL

## Ice Cream Social

AUGUST 25 | 4:00-5:00 PM | MT. PLEASANT DISCOVERY MUSEUM

## FREAKY FRIDAYS

FRIDAY OCTOBER 14 3 PM -- GHOST BALLOONS  
FRIDAY OCTOBER 28 3 PM -- SPECIMEN JARS

DISCOVERY MUSEUM

## NEW YEARS BALLOON DROP

OPEN UNTIL 7:30 PM  
BALLOON DROP AT 7:00 PM  
PHOTOBOOTH FROM 6:00-7:30 PM

MT. PLEASANT AREA COMMUNITY FOUNDATION  
DISCOVERY MUSEUM  
MICHIGAN ARTS & CULTURE COUNCIL

## BYO fairy house

SEPTEMBER 28 | 4:00-5:00 PM

DISCOVERY MUSEUM

## Women In Aviation!

Free to the Public  
3/16/22  
4:00pm-5:30pm

CRAFTS GAMES

## KIDS & CULTURE

TAKE A PEAK INTO MEXICAN CULTURE

Saturday, August 10  
10am-Noon  
Mt. Pleasant Discovery Museum  
This is a FREE Community Event

PRESENTED BY:  
DISCOVERY MUSEUM ART REACH  
of Mt. Pleasant

## Teen Night CMU Football Game

Time and meeting place will be emailed to parents the week of the event.  
All teens will receive a ticket and a meal at the game!

OCTOBER 22

REGISTRATION IS FREE AND REQUIRED!

ISABELLA BANK  
DISCOVERY MUSEUM  
MT. PLEASANT AREA COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

## TEEN NIGHT

Ice Cream Social  
1/28 5:30-7:30

MT. PLEASANT AREA COMMUNITY FOUNDATION  
DISCOVERY MUSEUM  
ISABELLA BANK

## HAPPY 10TH BIRTHDAY MPDM

10:00-5:00 PM  
FREE ADMISSION ALL DAY LONG!

MT. PLEASANT AREA COMMUNITY FOUNDATION  
DISCOVERY MUSEUM  
MICHIGAN ARTS & CULTURE COUNCIL

## HOW WE BREATHE

4:30-6:00 | FREE WITH ADMISSION

DISCOVERY MUSEUM  
MT. PLEASANT AREA COMMUNITY FOUNDATION  
MICHIGAN ARTS & CULTURE COUNCIL

## YOU & YOUR BRAIN

4:30-6:00 | FREE WITH ADMISSION

DISCOVERY MUSEUM  
MT. PLEASANT AREA COMMUNITY FOUNDATION  
MICHIGAN ARTS & CULTURE COUNCIL



## KIDS AT ART

Thursdays 4:00-4:30  
Join us for arts & craft activities!  
Included with admission

Little Sprouts Yoga

## Book of the Month

### DROP

An Adventure through the Water Cycle  
Emily Kate Moon

Purchase at the Discovery store for \$17.99

5093 E Remus Rd Mt. Pleasant, MI | mpdiscoverymuseum.org | (989)-317-3221

## LEGO LEAGUE

Tuesdays 4-5pm

## Future Leaders Institute

October Meeting 10/18  
@ MPDM 5:30-6:30

## STORY TIME

Mondays & Wednesdays | 10:30 AM  
INCLUDED WITH ADMISSION

## READ-A-LONG AND CRAFT

SEPTEMBER 21 | 4:00 PM  
EVEN THE SMALL CAN BE BRAVE.

**Knight Owl**  
Christopher Denise  
Purchase at the Discovery Store for \$17.99

## Little STEMmers

December 6 & January 10  
10-11:30am  
Ages 3-8  
No pre-registration is required  
Included in daily admission or membership

## KIDS AT HISTORY!

Join us to learn about history through activities and crafts!

MONDAYS 4:00-5:00PM  
INCLUDED WITH ADMISSION

- 1/31 Earth History
- 2/7 Dinosaurs!
- 2/14 Valentine's Day
- 2/21 Black History Month
- 2/28 Ancient Greek Democracy
- 3/7 The Boston Tea Party
- 3/14 The Silk Road
- 3/21 Women's History Month

## HOLIDAY SCAVENGER HUNT

December 12 - January 13

Explore STEM activities in the Great Lakes Bay Region for a chance to win! Learn more at [www.stempipeline.com](http://www.stempipeline.com)

To enter, take a picture at any STEM Passport location and tag us on Facebook at eSTEMPipeline

**Prizes**

- 1st Place: \$100
- 2nd Place: \$75
- 3rd Place: \$50
- \*Meijer Gift Cards

Scan to go to the STEM Pipeline Calendar



## WHAT'S NEXT FOR 2023?

We have a new exhibit coming to help children get some early experience with the trades called Mid-Michigan Mechanics! Check it out below.

### Mid-Michigan Mechanics

#### Features include:

- A kid-sized car on a lift and a photographic mural of a real service center to set the scene.
- Tool chest, pretend wrenches and lug nuts, mufflers to replace (and a creeper to take you under the chassis), containers for oil, washer fluid and coolant, tires to change and a pneumatic drill with realistic sound effects!
- A diagnostic activity with sensors lets visitors check under the hood to see if the alternator, starter or spark plugs are the problem.
- A Service Desk and computer, complete with work orders and a realistic parts inventory activity, make it a busy workplace every day.







**Follow us on Socials!**



*EXPLORE · LEARN · CREATE · GROW*