2017 Highlights

What a great year for the Fairbanks Museum. The Museum saw visitation grow to over 40,000 as we used the new campus to expand our programs, and exhibits, and, ultimately, impact.

Native butterflies thrilled in our Shippene Family Eyecare Butterfly House delighting thousands of guests.

The observation beehive offered a glimpse into the complex workings of a colony.

"Creepy Crawlies" invited us into subtly seen spaces where nocturnal Arthropods rule.

"Aliens and Invaders," as part of the Eddy Lecture Series, offered a fresh approach to familiar and foreign insects led by forestry experts and Dartmouth professors.

Seam Wegrzyn's Eddy Lecture presented an uplifting message of innovation amidst adversity, inviting us to reimagine agriculture and education.

Our 2017 Franklin Fairbanks Award honored artist and author David Mrazek for his transcendental books that make the mysterious mechanisms of today’s world easier to understand.

School programs at the Museum and in the fields, forests, and wetlands in St. Johnsbury, Danville, and beyond reached nearly 10,000 students.

The Great American Eclipse brought over 1000 people to our front lawn for an incredible block party!

More than 5,000 people of all ages took a journey to the cosmos in our Lynman Spicer Jr. Planetarium.

The Mouse, Hummingbird and Woodpecker exhibits were refreshed, and we installed a timeline that details our history and pays tribute to the spirits of teachers, curators, directors and others whose presence is still felt in our halls.

New interactive science displays were added to the Sooty Family Exploration Station.

Rich audio tours, including one in Quebeccois French, were developed to accompany your museum visit.

Our existing 25kW of solar power was boosted with the purchase of 650kW in the SolarMax Fairbanks Solar Park. We now create as much electricity as we use!

We’re able to engage and inspire because 750 people made gifts to the Museum and 27 businesses sponsored programs or exhibits with contributions or in-kind support to the Museum in 2017.

Campus Vision becomes Reality

Over the past three years, opportunities to rework our administrative, teaching, exhibit, and collecting spaces opened, and we jumped. We now own a block in St. Johnsbury that includes four buildings (totaling 35,000 square feet) giving us the infrastructure to increase our impact and efficiency … and have some fun. All the while, we stay true to the timeless legacy of Franklin and Frances Fairbanks and their vision of a grand museum that inspires awe and fosters curiosity about our natural world.

Here’s a story to celebrate!

To create the Fairbanks Museum campus, we raised $937,459 and invested $846,596.

$48,146 – Lead Donors led the way with investments that are already paying off. We’re deeply grateful for major gifts from William D. McGuire, Phil and Peg Soucy, Dover Ford and family, Ed and Mary Vilandre, and Anne and Art Brooks.

$351,178 – Specific projects were accomplished with Federal and State grants and tax credits from the US Department of Agriculture, Northern Borders Regional Commission, and Vermont Division for Historic Preservation.

$48,510 – Gifts from individuals made the dream come true.

$49,625 – Bay & Paul Foundations and the A.D. Henderson Foundation awarded essential grants.

You bring the Fairbanks Museum to life. Your membership keeps us going. Thank you.