Staff had the opportunity to collaborate with Arnold Grummer for Art in the Park. **Over 500** people came to make handmade paper from toilet paper and turn it into a beautiful flower!

The **Builders Fair** sponsored by Great Northern Corporation was a huge success. Students showed creativity, inspiration and inventiveness to becoming budding engineers.

The **Paper Discovery Center** received a **$10,000 grant** through the **Fox Cities Convention & Visitors Bureau’s Tourism Asset Emergency Grant Program**. This program helped venues impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Menasha Joint School District’s **After School Matters Program** partnered with the PDC to bring science activities to approximately **138 students**.

Fun was had by all at our amazing **Outdoor Science** event! Kids got to paint a cardboard square as part of our community project to build a giant Makedo wind ball, made enormous bubbles, learned to draw with chalk and stomped some rockets!
This past year has seen many changes to the Paper Discovery Center. After being closed down for 15 months, we finally re-opened in June 2021 with a whole new staff and passion for becoming a necessary institution in our community. At the PDC, motivating the community through scientific exploration, engagement and attitude is more than our mission statement, it is what we practice every day. Since June we have built upon this mission by raising student’s own standards in STEAM topics, allowing them to view learning about science, technology, engineering, arts and math as something fun, attainable and applicable to everyday life. This has been achieved by incorporating hands-on learning activities and interactive stage performances to our education programming, while also connecting these lessons to what students have learned in school.

A critical part of program planning at the PDC is setting guidelines and benchmarks for our own success. We have learned that flexibility and pivoting with our exhibition design is key as we keep in mind how we are reaching the community at large. As we design our informal educational and interactive materials, we keep three aims in mind. First, to shift children’s perceptions of STEAM to a positive, self-affirming outlook. Second, to reach new audiences as we grow. Finally, to create a safe, informative learning environment for children and adults to learn, explore and experiment without fear of judgement or failure.

We believe helping children make the leap from “I could never do that” to “I think I can try that” is the most powerful impact we can have as educators. Our programming builds upon this foundation to keep interest and engagement in STEAM strong throughout middle school years and beyond. This past year has been full of obstacles, but we continue to move forward with help from our sponsors, visitors, staff and collaborating organizations.

We are excited to continue this enthusiasm through 2022 as we move toward becoming the Atlas Science Center. We want to encourage our guests to get excited about STEAM through life-long learning and discovery. Together we can make certain that kids are not discouraged from whatever they want to be, but are inspired and challenged to reach their fullest potential!

Carol Couillard  
Executive Director

Dave Kuchenbecker  
Board Chair

Stage Performances this Summer

52 performances this Summer

temporary exhibits

- Paper on the River
- Picturing Women Inventors
- Nanotechnology
- Let it Ghoul!
- Let it Glow
- Community Art Project: Windball

133 NEW “Likes” on Facebook

145 NEW “Followers” on Facebook

1.3K Followers

Engagement on Instagram

↑ 280%

Audience reach on Instagram

↑ 134.6%
COLLABORATIONS

- Menasha School District
- Boys & Girls Club of Menasha
- Great Northern Corporation: Cardboard Outside the Box Exhibit
- Arnold Grummer’s Papermaking
- Pollenablers

PROGRAM GRANTS & SPONSORS

GRANTS

† Fox Cities Convention and Visitors Bureau
† Wisconsin Arts Board
† Small Business Association
† Bright Idea Fund, Community Foundation Fox Valley Region
† Outagamie County Rescue Grant
† Mielke Family Foundation through the Community Foundation for the Fox Valley Region

CORPORATE SPONSORS

† Arnold Grummer’s Papermaking, LLC
† Great Northern Corporation
† CR Meyer
† Ahlstrom-Munksjö

Visitors came from 20 States 5 Countries

The Builders Fair sponsored by Great Northern Corporation was a huge success. We can’t believe the creativity, inspiration and inventiveness that all these budding engineers built.

Artists from across the country featured artwork of handmade paper at the Paper on the River Exhibit hosted for the first time at the PDC.
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$15,000-$29,999
Great Northern Corporation
Purdy Legacy Foundation

$10,000-$14,999
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$5,000-$9,999
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$1,000-$4,999
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Paula Scholz
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Jessica Strand
Stevey and Sue Taylor (In honor/memory of Tom Grace)
Kat Vanden Heuvel (In honor/memory of Yates Vanden Heuve)
Linda Werner

In-Kind
Arnold Grummer Papermaking, LLC
Miron Construction
Volunteers, Board & Staff

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Roger Thiel
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