

# MUSEUM

2022-23 ANNUAL REPORT



# MSU Museum

## ANNUAL REPORT 2022-23

The MSU Museum is an innovative and experimental collaboratory that exists to catalyze creativity. Here, people can openly explore, express, and experiment with ideas across disciplines and interests, and indulge their natural curiosity about the world. The Museum is accredited by the American Alliance of Museums and is the state's first Affiliate of the Smithsonian Institution. The MSU Museum is a registered scientific institution with the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) and a member of the International Coalition of Sites of Conscience.

Since its inception in 1857, the Museum has been dedicated to the acquisition of diverse objects and specimens, as well as the creation of exhibitions that intricately capture our shared histories and experiences. These valuable collections and exhibitions serve as catalysts for enriching teaching, learning, and research endeavors, establishing the Museum as a pivotal space essential to the success of both students and faculty members. Administratively, the MSU Museum operates within the University Arts and Collections unit under the auspices of the Office of the Provost at Michigan State University.

 Smithsonian



 International Coalition of  
**SITES of CONSCIENCE**



Spartan statue with memorial items



Memorial signs now preserved in the MSU Museum collection

## Memorial

In the aftermath of the campus tragedy that occurred on February 13, 2023, the MSU Museum emerged as a symbol of support and solace for students, faculty, and staff. In times of tragedy, museums can serve as impactful spaces for healing, and the Museum demonstrated its unwavering dedication to the well-being of the university community. The MSU Museum provided a secure and welcoming environment where individuals could seek refuge, find comfort, and process their emotions.

Recognizing the significance of communal unity, the MSU Museum transformed offices and other administrative rooms into spaces for conducting classes. Overall, the Museum accommodated ten courses that required relocation following the

closure of Berkey Hall. Furthermore, the Museum utilized its resources to assist students in commemorating their personal experiences. Hannah Greenspan and Kirin Krafthefer, sophomores in the Psychology program, collaborated with the staff to curate an exhibit that facilitated fellow students and community members in expressing their emotions, sharing their stories, and discovering support through a collective experience. Additionally, the Museum began working with MSU Archives to ensure the long-term preservation and responsible management of the numerous personal items collected to memorialize the tragedy.

**In loving memory of our fellow Spartans:  
Arielle Anderson, Brian Fraser, and  
Alexandria Verner.**



## FROM THE MSU MUSEUM DIRECTOR

On behalf of Michigan State University Museum, I am pleased to present our annual report, highlighting pivotal developments within our institution over the past year. We are proud to unveil a new strategic plan and brand, an innovative division known as the CoLab Studio that fosters experimentation and innovation, and expanded partnerships that have reinvigorated our institution.

To align with MSU’s academic mission, we have crafted a strategic plan that will guide our activities and growth over the next five years. This plan, consistent with our mission to serve the MSU community by facilitating and creating experiences at the intersection of arts, sciences, cultures, and technologies, outlines ambitious goals, clear objectives, and pragmatic strategies, ensuring our relevance in an evolving landscape.

Alongside the strategic plan, we launched a new brand, symbolizing our renewed vision, values, and aspirations. This represents a significant chapter in our Museum’s journey, setting the stage for future growth and transformation.

Our commitment to timely and relevant programming has been evident this year. We introduced programmatic innovations, including the CoLab Studio, which have captivated visitors and broadened our community outreach, redefining what it means to be a 21st-century interdisciplinary museum.

Moreover, we broadened our partnerships, increasing our impact on student and faculty success, community engagement, and excellence within our field, including strengthening our collaboration as an Affiliate with the Smithsonian.

Reflecting on the past year, we are energized by our progress and the positive feedback from stakeholders and the broader community. The strategic plan, refreshed brand, and programmatic innovations have all contributed to a dynamic and vibrant institution.

We wish to express our sincere gratitude for your continued support. With your partnership, we are confident in our ability to build on our achievements and envision a bright future for the MSU Museum!

Sincerely,

**Devon M. Akmon**  
Director



## FROM THE VICE PROVOST UNIVERSITY ARTS AND COLLECTIONS

The MSU Museum is rooted at the foundation of Michigan State University: its first collections were established in 1857, the same year the university formally opened to its inaugural class of 63 students taught by 5 faculty. Now its collections support new research on areas such as biodiversity and Afrofuturism, transdisciplinary lines of inquiry that characterize a complex research university with a global impact.

Today, the MSU Museum is living and leading in its commitment to, in the words of the MSU 2030 strategic plan, “innovate to meet the evolving needs of learners across their lifespans.” It opened its galleries to experimentation by international teams of scientists and artists exploring climate change, MSU’s top-ranked Games for Entertainment and Learning Lab, faculty and students creating novel data visualizations on *Science On a Sphere*, student researchers exploring WKAR’s 100-year history, faculty and student research teams animating the sounds of religion, and more.

This drive to support exploration and inquiry across disciplines is embodied in the new CoLab Studio and its signature CoLaborators program, highlighted in the student success section of this report. Student CoLaborators bring exhibitions to life, prompting visitors to question and test their assumptions. They transform the visitor experience while in turn their own educational experience is transformed. And the impact of this innovative program on students and visitors is being recognized. This past year, MSUFCU generously created a \$2 million endowment to support the CoLab Studio. The CoLab Studio podcast that accompanied the MSU Museum’s *Tracked & Traced* exhibition also won the Best Use of New Media award by the Michigan Association of Broadcasters.

Excellence, creativity and ingenuity come together again in the innovative technology being developed by cross-disciplinary student teams to accompany the Smithsonian’s *Knowing Nature* exhibition, which launched its national tour at the MSU Museum in April. As the state’s first Smithsonian Affiliate, the MSU Museum has connected campus and community to several exciting Smithsonian national initiatives over the last 18 months, with more to come.

Just as the MSU Museum was an early partner in the experiment that became Michigan State University, it continues to be a hub of active, experiential learning and innovation on campus, integral to reaching the transformative vision of MSU 2030.

Sincerely,

**Judith Stoddart**  
Vice Provost  
University Arts and Collections

## Transformative Shift

In September 2022, the MSU Museum embarked on a comprehensive five-year strategic plan designed to chart a path for the institution's future. This strategic plan is closely aligned with the MSU 2030 Strategic Plan and the MSU Arts Strategy, while also considering the dynamic and evolving global museum landscape. Its central focus is to revitalize the MSU Museum, ensuring its vitality and prosperity after facing significant organizational challenges.

With a rich history spanning 165 years, the MSU Museum has been a valuable resource to the MSU community. However, recognizing the potential for greater influence, the Museum is undergoing a transformative shift from being a repository of knowledge to becoming a catalyst for enriched teaching, learning, and research. This metamorphosis positions the Museum as an innovative collaboratory, fostering creativity within the campus community and extending its impact beyond its boundaries.



Community weaving with reused plastic

Your  
**CREATIVE  
COLLABORATION**  
starts here

### OUR WORK

Through the strategic planning process, the MSU Museum refined its vision, mission, and values.

#### MISSION

The MSU Museum serves the Michigan State University community by facilitating and creating experiences at the nexus of the arts, sciences, cultures, and technologies.

#### VISION

We envision an MSU community, inspired and informed by the arts and sciences, working collaboratively, creatively, and equitably to solve problems and pursue a better world for all.

# MUSEUM

## SHARED VALUES

- **Inclusion & Equity.** We believe in inclusive and equitable practices that support the well-being of the communities we serve.
- **Co-creation.** We believe in collaborating with our communities and each other to develop thoughtful and innovative experiences.
- **Innovation & Experimentation.** We believe in approaches that emphasize experimentation, innovation, and dialogue.
- **Access.** We believe our communities should have access to transformative teaching, learning, research, and creative activities.
- **Stewardship & Sustainability.** We believe in stewarding our resources—collections, people, and other assets—to ensure a vibrant and sustainable institution.

## AREAS OF IMPACT

### We seek to drive impact in the following ways:

- **Students:** Inspiring young adults to adopt a fresh perspective when exploring the world, fostering their ability to generate innovative ideas. Through co-curricular, extra-curricular, and experiential learning opportunities, we empower them to become agents of positive change.
- **Faculty:** Collaborating with our academic community to bring research and ideas to life in exciting and relevant ways.
- **Community:** Encouraging collaboration on campus and beyond to create new ways of constructing and solving problems, breaking paradigms, and shifting mindsets.
- **Excellence:** Producing thought-leadership and serving as an example for the innovative new ways an academic museum serves its communities.



### Thank you to the strategic planning committee for leading this mission critical work!

- Devon Akmon, Director, MSU Museum
- Denice Blair, Ph.D., Director of Education, MSU Museum
- Julian Chambliss, Ph.D., Val Berryman Curator of History, MSU Museum
- Sarah Durcan, Director, Science Gallery International
- Teresa Goforth, Director of Exhibitions, MSU Museum
- Kiersten Latham, Ph.D., Former Director of Arts, Cultural Management and Museum Studies
- Natasha Miller, Community Engagement Manager, MSU Museum
- Stephanie Palagyi, Communications Manager, MSU Museum
- Mónica Ramírez-Montagut, Ph.D., Former Director, MSU Broad Art Museum
- Antajuan Scott, Former Head of Programming, MSU Museum CoLab Studio
- Judith Stoddart, D.Phil, Vice Provost for University Arts and Collections
- Mark Sullivan, D.M.A., Creative Director, MSU Museum CoLab Studio
- Stephen Thomas, Ph.D., Assistant Dean for STEM Teaching and Learning
- Caroline White, Education and Learning Manager, MSU Museum CoLab Studio
- Mary Worrall, Director of Collections, MSU Museum
- Jessica Yann, Ph.D., MSU NAGPRA Program Manager

A CoLaborator facilitating a conversation in the *1.5° Celsius* exhibition



Front cover of the zine produced by the CoLaborators

## CoLab Studio

In September 2022, the MSU Museum inaugurated the CoLab Studio as a new department dedicated to innovation and experimentation. Building upon its predecessor, MSU Science Gallery, the CoLab Studio's primary objective is to conceive and implement programs that are timely, relevant, and characterized by novelty, transience, and an experimental ethos. This approach enables our team to explore innovative techniques in program design, implementation, informal learning, and community engagement. The insights derived from the CoLab Studio's work empower the MSU Museum in fulfilling its mission by fostering robust engagement with students, faculty, and researchers. Accordingly, the CoLab Studio endeavors to redefine the boundaries of a 21st-century interdisciplinary museum.

In the past year, the CoLab Studio showcased a wide range of captivating, experimental, and intellectually stimulating programs. One of the notable highlights was the exhibition and programming series titled *1.5° Celsius*. By leveraging a global open call, we received an impressive number of approximately 200 submissions from various corners of the world. The *1.5° Celsius* exhibition, accompanied by a robust lineup of public programs, involved the collaboration of

over fifteen artists, scientists, researchers, and students, both nationally and internationally. Together, they delved into the intricate aspects of the global climate crisis, offering insightful perspectives and innovative approaches to this pressing issue. Additionally, the CoLab Studio's CoLaborators, a team of undergraduate and graduate students that spark thoughtful conversation with Museum visitors, produced a zine with their own creative interpretations of the works.

In the spring 2023 semester, the CoLab successfully orchestrated a timely and responsive exhibition and program series focusing on the societal ramifications of artificial intelligence (AI) generative models. Titled *Prompt Response: Exploring Generative Artificial Intelligence*, this initiative delved into the cutting-edge advancements within emergent AI technology, notably highlighting OpenAI's DALL-E 2 and ChatGPT. These innovative AI models have stirred significant discourse surrounding the ethical and professional considerations associated with generative models in creative domains. By examining these latest developments, the CoLab shed light on the intricate implications and challenges posed by AI generative models on society.

# Smithsonian Affiliations

The MSU Museum attained the honor of becoming Michigan's inaugural Affiliate of the esteemed Smithsonian Institution in September 2001. Since then, we have collaborated on numerous joint initiatives aimed at advancing research, generating new knowledge, and enhancing public engagement. Our Affiliate status bestows upon the Museum the invaluable opportunity to engage in collaborative endeavors with the Smithsonian and fellow Affiliates, fostering a multitude of mutually advantageous initiatives. Throughout the 2022-2023 academic year, the MSU Museum forged robust partnerships with the Smithsonian, encompassing a diverse array of exhibitions, public programs, capacity-building initiatives, and research efforts.

The Museum served as the premier venue for two new exhibitions from

the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Services (SITES). These included *Sounds of Religion* and *Knowing Nature: Stories of the Boreal Forest*. Regarding the latter, the Museum inaugurated the national tour of *Knowing Nature* by hosting a reception on April 19. The event featured elected officials, leaders from across MSU, sponsors such as MSUFCU and the National Audubon Society, as well as leadership and advisory board members from Smithsonian Affiliations and SITES.

Commencing in June 2023, the Museum provided an opportunity for two undergraduate interns to participate in the prestigious Leadership for Change Internship program. This initiative, coordinated by the Smithsonian in partnership with Emerson Collective and George Washington University,

offered unique avenues for professional development and leadership training through meaningful work at the MSU Museum.

Notably, the MSU Museum was selected as one of only nine organizations to join a cohort in the *Fostering Critical Conversations with Our Communities* program. This year-long initiative, spearheaded by the Smithsonian Institution in collaboration with the International Coalition of Sites of Conscience, aimed to engage communities and facilitate important, yet sometimes challenging or overlooked, conversations within the local context.

Furthermore, the MSU Museum hosted a range of captivating programs in collaboration with the Smithsonian. These included a discussion with Dr. Margaret Weitekamp, Chair of

the Space History Department at the Smithsonian's National Air and Space Museum, on her new book *Space Craze: America's Enduring Fascination with Real and Imagined Spaceflight*. Additionally, the Museum partnered with the National Air and Space Museum to celebrate *Sally's Night*, a nationwide event honoring women in STEM while paying tribute to Sally Ride's legacy. In Addition, the Museum showcased the *Observing with NASA* kiosk, engaging visitors in the captivating art and science of NASA imagery.

LEFT: U.S. Senator Gary Peters visiting the *Knowing Nature: Stories of the Boreal Forest* exhibition

CENTER: *Sounds of Religion* exhibition

RIGHT: Interim President Teresa Woodruff giving remarks at the opening reception for *Knowing Nature: Stories of the Boreal Forest*



# Student Success

The MSU Museum plays a pivotal role in enhancing student success by providing a wide range of resources and opportunities that enrich students' educational and social endeavors. These offerings encompass curricular, co-curricular, and extra-curricular experiences.

In the past year, the Museum has directly engaged approximately 6,000 MSU students with its collections and exhibitions through formal classroom instruction. Notably, more than 13 classes were taught within the Museum's premises, with faculty curators and staff serving as instructors of record. These classes cover various subjects, including Vertebrate Paleontology, Marine Biology, Biology of Birds, Biology of Mammals, Introduction to Arts and Cultural Management, Advocating for Arts and Cultural Organizations, and Foundations of Museum Studies, among others.

For certain students, the Museum serves as a laboratory for experiential learning. A notable example is the spring 2023 semester, during which the Arts, Cultural Management & Museum Studies (MUSM 488): Curatorial Practices in Museums and Cultural Organizations class utilized the Museum's space and resources to curate and present an exhibition in the Sandbox Gallery, commemorating WKAR's Century of Service to mid-Michigan.

Moreover, the Museum provides opportunities for students to develop professional skills. In the past academic year, over fifty students were actively employed at the Museum. The Museum's

staff designs these employment opportunities as valuable learning experiences to foster critical skills that will facilitate students' meaningful employment in their respective fields of study.

One exemplary model for high-touch intensive learning through employment is our CoLaborators program. Comprising undergraduate and graduate students, the CoLaborators team facilitates thoughtful discussions, generates ideas, and infuses learning and creativity into MSU Museum exhibitions and outreach efforts. The program is intentionally designed to cultivate transdisciplinary mindsets and develop skills such as science communication, critical thinking, project management, and problem-solving. Students who have worked with the MSU Museum CoLab Studio often describe their experiences as transformative, expanding their curiosity about global challenges and fostering their confidence as effective communicators.

Additionally, the Museum serves as a vital "third place" for students to express their creativity and indulge their curiosity through extra-curricular activities. In the past year alone, the Museum organized over seventy-five timely and relevant public programs. Notably, our inaugural First Fridays program series for college students attracted an average of 150 attendees per event, successfully providing students with a space to build and foster social connections while engaging with the Museum's offerings.



Studio Art class drawing in Habitat Hall



Interim President Teresa Woodruff touring the WKAR exhibition with a student curator



Professor Suzanne Fischer and students from the spring 2023 Curatorial Practices in Museums and Cultural Organization class



## Student Success Stats

5,983

students engaged with exhibitions and collections as part of MSU courses

866

First Friday student visitors (664 individual students)

280+

students participated in programs/events

1,149+

students attended as general visitors

## Faculty Success

The MSU Museum actively champions faculty success by nurturing research collaborations, fortifying teaching and learning endeavors, facilitating professional advancement, and offering opportunities for exhibitions and programming that effectively communicate research to wider audiences. Through these initiatives, the Museum amplifies faculty members' scholarly pursuits, encourages interdisciplinary collaboration, and robustly contributes to the university's academic mission.

Proudly housing an extensive collection of over a million artifacts and specimens, the MSU Museum's holdings span a diverse range of disciplines including anthropology, archaeology, natural science, cultural heritage, and beyond. These meticulously curated collections serve as invaluable resources for research, education, and public engagement. Over the past academic year, the Museum's collections facilitated

the production of over 110 scholarly articles, with the vast majority being peer-reviewed.

In addition, the Museum staff collaborates intimately with faculty members to extend the impact of new research through carefully designed exhibitions and educational programming. This commitment includes supporting Broader Impacts — the potential societal benefits emanating from a research project — in relation to grants awarded by the National Science Foundation. Furthermore, the Museum staff work directly with faculty to generate and distribute geophysical, environmental, and cultural data visualizations through the innovative *Science On a Sphere* (SOS) platform, which features a six-foot diameter immersive visualization display. Additionally, the SOS system was utilized for teaching, with over 500 students creating custom content for the system during classes.



Science On a Sphere

“The famously silent robins – the actual birds – of Rachel Carson’s “Silent Spring” are key elements of my environmental journalism class. So, too, are data projected on a 6-foot globe and that reveal the intersection of Gross Domestic Product, severe weather, city lights and carbon emissions. These educational assets illustrate the MSU Museum’s evolution as an incredible teaching tool. The static birds from the 1960s are the foundation of MSU scientific studies cited by Carson and that launched the environmental movement. They are artifacts that preserve important scientific history. The dynamic data projections of *Science On a Sphere* show the disproportionate harm that climate change brings to low-income countries. They are more recent history, and a warning of what lies ahead. These and other museum exhibits and tools make me a better MSU teacher. My students learn the issues while learning diverse storytelling techniques linked by a goal of explaining the world to the rest of us.”

— David Poulson, Senior Associate Director of the MSU Knight Center for Environmental Journalism



David Poulson, Senior Associate Director of the MSU Knight Center for Environmental Journalism, with his class at the Museum



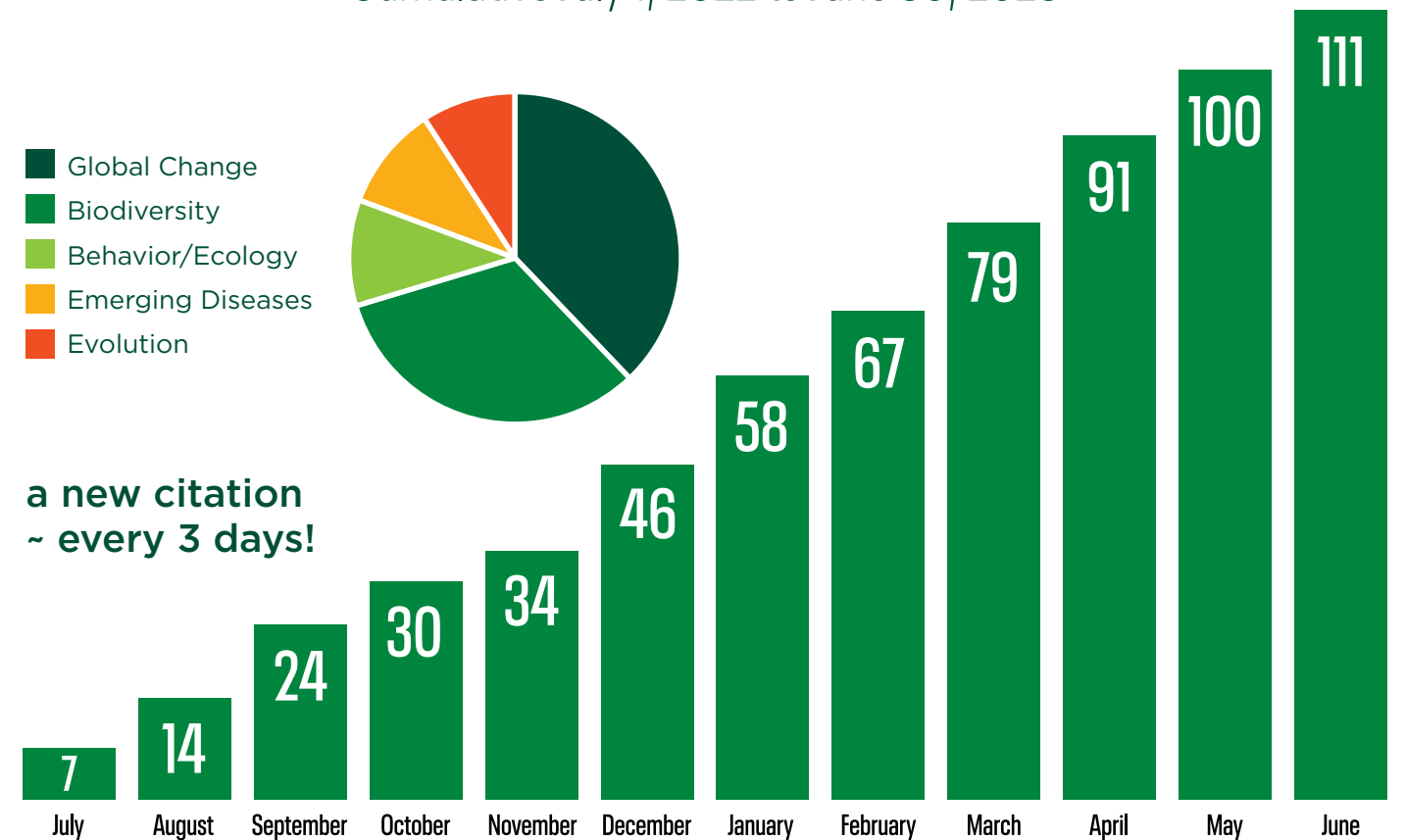
MSU Religious Studies Professor Dr. Amy DeRogatis and Dr. Isaac Weiner (The Ohio State University)

“As a faculty member, I am very grateful to have the MSU Museum as a partner in teaching. My research and teaching explore non-linear narrative and community-based performance. The rotating and permanent exhibits available in the MSU Museum provide a wonderful access point for students to explore key learning goals in my courses: exploring ways of knowing, reflecting on mechanisms of change, and examining audience as author.”

— Alison Dobbins, Associate Professor of Integrated Performance Media Design / Department of Theatre

## Publications citing use of MSU Museum Vertebrate Collections

Cumulative July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023



**2,482,815**

MSU Museum specimen records downloaded, July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023

# Community

The MSU Museum excels in the development and delivery of educational programs tailored to its diverse communities. It offers captivating exhibitions, workshops, lectures, performances, and hands-on activities that ignite a passion for learning and curiosity. The Museum's unwavering commitment to fostering educational experiences cultivates critical thinking, cultural understanding, and an appreciation for interdisciplinary learning.

In the past year alone, the Museum successfully organized approximately seventy-five engaging public programs, with many reaching maximum capacity attendance. Moreover, numerous programs were implemented beyond the Museum's walls, strategically embedded within the communities it serves. One exemplary instance was the *Field of View: An Art x Science Film Series*, conducted in collaboration with the City of East Lansing at Valley Court Park. This free, weekly series featured eight thought-provoking documentaries, produced by the esteemed Sandbox Films, delving into humanity's understanding of the world. Another notable example was the *Knowing Nature* programming, which included *The Trees Connect Us: A Nature Experience*, a collaborative presentation with W. J. Beal Botanical Garden, and multiple nature-themed story hours held in partnership with the East Lansing Public Library.

Additionally, the Museum formed partnerships with a diverse range of units across the campus, including Abrams Planetarium, MSU Broad Art

Museum, W. J. Beal Botanical Garden, and various academic divisions, colleges, and departments. These collaborations resulted in the creation of several learning opportunities. One prominent example is the annual Immersive Visualization Institute (IVI), hosted by the Museum in conjunction with Abrams Planetarium and MSU Libraries, and sponsored by The Graduate School. The IVI aims to foster use of Michigan State University's immersive visualization technologies for teaching, learning, and research. Held during the summer, the IVI brought together graduate students and faculty from diverse backgrounds to explore innovative and interdisciplinary ideas for leveraging the ecosystem's platforms, resulting in the production of impactful outcomes using these technologies.

Furthermore, through a Catalyst Innovation Programs award received jointly by the MSU Libraries and the MSU Museum, staff actively worked to enhance collaboration by providing technology resources to staff, faculty, and students across campus. This award facilitated the Museum's provision of technology solutions and instruction, enabling student engagement in creating 3D scans and prints, particularly within the field of museum studies and other relevant disciplines. The initiative included granting students access to necessary equipment and training, empowering them to utilize these resources effectively for their coursework and professional development.

Film screening of *WALL-E* in the W.J. Beal Botanical Garden



19th annual Darwin Discovery Day



First Friday for college students - silent disco theme



Community Bee Clinic



Community weaving with reused plastic





## Excellence

The MSU Museum exemplifies excellence and intellectual leadership in a variety of ways, advancing its reputation as a pioneering interdisciplinary institution within the multifaceted world of museums.

The Museum's dedication to advancing research bolsters its credibility as a hub for scholarly exploration. It champions and fosters academic investigations in myriad ways. The staff, which includes adept faculty curators and researchers, undertake cutting-edge research endeavors, propelling new knowledge in their respective domains and within the museum industry. Noteworthy is an exploratory study conducted in collaboration with the Smithsonian Institution on a novel digital concierge service for visitors with visual impairments. This service utilizes radio-frequency identification (RFID) technology to empower guests to select their desired accessibility options within an exhibition space. Moreover, another research initiative comprised of a cross-disciplinary team of students focused on the creation of an exhibition-oriented game to enhance interaction and achievement of learning objectives within the Smithsonian's *Knowing Nature* exhibition.

Manifesting its commitment to enriching the museum sector, the

Drs. Kurt Dewhurst and Marsha MacDowell receiving the MSU Lifetime Achievement Award for Excellence in Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

In October 2022 the MSUFCU committed \$5.5M to support the arts at MSU with \$2M supporting the MSU Museum's CoLab Studio

MSU Museum actively participates in the professional community in meaningful ways. Staff members are active on national grant review panels for prominent federal agencies such as the National Endowment for the Arts and the Institute of Museum and Library Services. They also deliver presentations on their innovative and experimental methodologies at high-profile conferences, including those hosted by the American Alliance of Museums, Smithsonian Institution, and the Society for the Preservation of Natural History Collections, to name a few. Furthermore, staff contribute to scholarly and professional publications by authoring articles and book chapters. Additionally, they serve on influential advisory and governing boards that shape the trajectory of the museum industry, including holding positions on the executive committee of the governing board for the American Alliance of Museum, the preeminent professional organization for museums within the United States.

The Museum has been the esteemed recipient of an increasing number of competitive grants from a broad spectrum of funding bodies. These awards represent significant endorsements of the Museum's unique and imaginative approach to fostering informal learning and community engagement at the intersection of the arts and sciences. A case in point is a generous \$2 million gift from the Michigan State Federal Credit Union, which is poised to propel the CoLab Studio's endeavor to redefine the contours of what constitutes a 21st-century museum.



The Michigan Association of Broadcasters named the *Tracked & Traced* podcast the winner of the 2022 Best Use of New Media award for Public Radio Group 2. The *Tracked & Traced* podcast is a collaboration between WDET-FM, Detroit's NPR Station, and MSU Museum CoLab Studio. The Broadcast Excellence Awards program recognizes outstanding achievement in broadcasting by commercial and public television and radio stations in Michigan each year.

**“It’s an honor for our team to be recognized for their reporting, editing and producing on *Tracked and Traced*. Surveillance technology is everywhere, and we worked hard to bring its impacts on society to light with this podcast.”**

— David Leins, podcast producer at WDET



# MSU Museum Staff

The MSU Museum's true effectiveness and impact lie in the hands of its talented and dedicated staff. They are the driving force behind the institution, breathing life into its collections and creating memorable experiences for students, faculty, researchers, and our public audiences. With their expertise, passion, and commitment, they curate exhibitions and programs that educate, inspire, and provoke thought. These individuals possess a deep understanding of the arts, sciences, cultures, and technologies, and their ability to convey complex concepts in accessible ways is what makes our Museum truly exceptional.

From researchers and curators to educators and administrative staff, every member of the team contributes to the Museum's success, fostering an environment where knowledge is shared, stories are told, and connections are made. Their unwavering dedication ensures that the Museum becomes a transformative collaboratory, where people can openly explore, express, and experiment with ideas across disciplines and interests and indulge their natural curiosity about the world.

## THE TEAM

- Devon Akmon, Director
- Laura Abraczinskas, Vertebrate Collections Manager
- Denice Blair, Ph.D., Director of Education
- Julian Chambliss, Ph.D., Val Berryman Curator of History
- C. Kurt Dewhurst, Ph.D., Curator of Folklife and Cultural Heritage
- Teresa Goforth, Director of Exhibitions
- Michael Gottfried, Ph.D., Curator of Vertebrate Paleontology
- Jeff Lambert, Fiscal Officer and HR Administrator
- Barbara Lundrigan, Ph.D., Curator of Mammalogy and Ornithology
- Marsha MacDowell, Ph.D., Curator of Folk Arts and Quilt Studies
- Lynn Mande, Administrative Associate II/S
- Natasha Miller, Community Engagement Manager
- Jodie O'Gorman, Ph.D., Curator of Archaeology
- Julie Orler, Administrative and Operational Support
- Stephanie Palagyi, Communications Manager
- Pamela Rasmussen, Ph.D., Assistant Curator of Mammalogy and Ornithology
- Abbie Stevens, Ph.D., CoLab Studio Public Programming Manager
- Mark Sullivan, D.M.A., CoLab Studio Creative Director
- Lynne Swanson, Cultural Collections Manager
- Sunny Wang, Academic Information Technologist
- Caroline White, CoLab Studio Education and Learning Manager
- Barb Whitney, Associate Director of Development
- Carrie Wicker, Education Assistant and *Science On a Sphere* Coordinator
- Mary Worrall, Director of Collections

MSU Museum Staff at the *Knowing Nature* opening reception



Community Engagement Manager Natasha Miller at the *S.T.E.A.M. Poetry Slam*



MSU Museum staff at the American Alliance of Museums annual conference

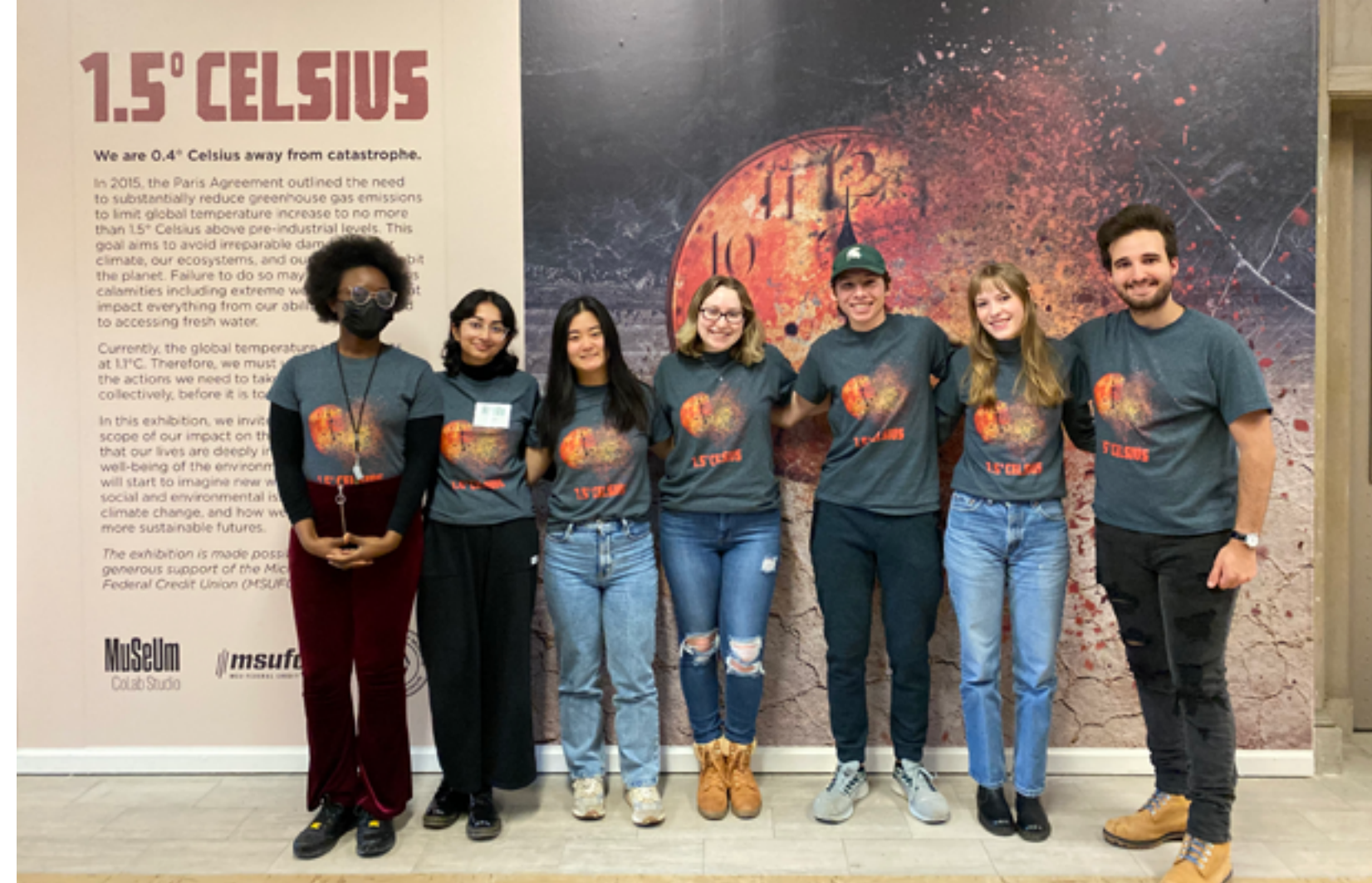
# Student Employees

Student employees and interns play a crucial role in shaping and supporting the MSU Museum. Through their involvement, they have the opportunity to develop essential skills that propel their learning and future careers. By engaging in hands-on experiences, collaborating with experts, and exploring diverse disciplines, they expand their knowledge and capabilities in areas such as research, curation, collections stewardship, exhibition development, marketing, and

communications. This growth not only benefits the students themselves but also leaves a lasting impact on the work and mission of the Museum. Their fresh perspectives, innovative ideas, and deep understanding of their generation's interests infuse vitality into our programs and help push the boundaries of what the MSU Museum can achieve. We thank them for their great work and dedication to the mission of the Museum!



Jeff Wells, Vice President for Boreal Conservation at the National Audubon Society, with MSU students who worked on an exhibition-oriented game for *Knowing Nature*



Student CoLaborators for the *1.5° Celsius* exhibition

## GRADUATE STUDENTS

- Ittaty Aguilar-Guzman, Global Health
- Maileen Bugnaski, Arts, Cultural Management, & Museum Studies
- Olivia Furman, Curriculum, Instruction and Teacher Education
- Emily Greeson, Microbiology and Molecular Genetics
- Ani E. Hristova, Integrative Biology and Ecology, Evolution, and Behavior
- Sean Huberty, Construction Management
- Caitlin Mack, Integrative Biology and Ecology, Evolution, and Behavior
- Ryan McKeeby, Earth and Environmental Sciences
- Andrea Morrow, Integrative Biology and Ecology, Evolution, and Behavior
- Emily Nisch Terrell, Anthropology
- Jamily Ramos De Lima, Integrative Biology
- Berkley Sorrells, Arts, Cultural Management, & Museum Studies
- Kailey Wracan, Arts, Cultural Management, & Museum Studies

## UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS

- Benjamin Adams, Biosystems Engineering
- Harrison Adams, Statistics
- Munachimso Akwali, Criminal Justice and Psychology
- Emily Arne, Zoology
- Alihelmael Avilés Sánchez, Electrical Engineering
- Nadia Azam, Biomedical Laboratory Science

## UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS (CONTINUED)

- Rebecca Susan Bullard, Zoology
- Karter Burgdorf, Environmental Biology/Zoology
- Caroline Burns, Anthropology
- Sarah Cavanaugh, Business
- James Chippewa, Studio Art
- Emily Clark, Art History and Visual Culture
- Thomas Crain, History
- Matthew Cruz, Business
- Jaden Dehate, Teacher Education
- Maddie Dibley, Studio Art
- Jeneia Sherein Dinglasan, Psychology
- Jason Fagan, Experience Architecture
- Mary Fogg-Liedel, Arts and Humanities
- Harmant Grewal, Biology
- Annie Hamaty, Comparative Cultures & Politics
- Kyleigh Haren, Zoology
- Delaney Henderson, Arts and Humanities
- Madi Imperio, Studio Art
- Maegan Jankowski, Anthropology and Arts and Humanities
- Joe Jones, Apparel & Textile Design
- Vanshika Kadian, Computer Science Preference
- Tyler Klein, Genomics and Molecular Genetics
- Carlos Lopez-Resendiz, Actuarial Science
- Sandhya Manivasagam, Biochemistry and Molecular Biology/Biotechnology
- Kathleen Mayer, Arts and Humanities
- Preston Meeker, Environmental Biology and Zoology
- Katie Mielens, Arts, Cultural Management, & Museum Studies
- Maya Murray, Teacher Education
- Lauren O'Connor, Music
- Emily Paterson, Professional and Public Writing and Experience Architecture
- Nicole Stocks, Games and Interactive Media
- Ahnna Swanson, Anthropology
- Kelsey Swanson, Biomedical Laboratory Diagnostics & Neuroscience
- Rachel Tiv, Games and Interactive Media
- Sydney Urbaniak, Philosophy
- Dorothy Zhao, Neuroscience, Psychology & Human Biology

## With Gratitude

We are profoundly grateful to our generous donors for their steadfast support over the past year. Your contributions have played a pivotal role in advancing our mission and making a tangible impact on lives. It is your firm belief in our mission-driven work that propels the Museum's progress. From the depths of our hearts, we extend our sincere thanks for your invaluable partnership and for catalyzing positive change through your generosity.

### \$1,000,000 +

- MSU Federal Credit Union

### \$100,000-\$999,000

- Ann E. Liston
- Institute of Museum and Library Services

### \$1,000-\$99,000

- Devon M. and Dharma R. Akmon
- Arts Council of Greater Lansing (Ingham County Hotel/Motel Funds for Arts & Tourism)
- Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan
- Edwin H. and Wanda Hayes Eichler
- Hari Kern and Ralph R. Edminster
- Greater Lansing Destination Development Foundation
- William G. and Yvonne R. Lockwood
- Michigan Council for Arts and Culture
- Michigan Humanities
- MSU Center for Teaching and Learning Innovation (Catalyst Innovation Program)
- MSU Office for Institutional Diversity and Inclusion (Creating Inclusive Excellence)
- John and Liz Schweitzer
- Judith Stoddart and A. C. Goodson
- Mark Sullivan
- Scott and Lanette VanWagenen

### \$100-\$999

- Virginia B. Anderson
- Sharon and Bruce Ashley
- Thomas C. Beachum
- George V. and Jeri L. Benberry
- Jeff and Cindy Berner
- Morley Biesman
- Coralene A. and Basil B. Bloss
- Joseph G. and Beth A. Bonsall
- Norris C. and Carol C. Bryson
- Allan C. Carmichael
- John P. Cavanaugh
- Julian C. Chambliss
- Norman S. Charles
- Peter L. and Barbara K. Dalby
- John D. and Roberta A. Davis
- Nancy C. DeJoy
- Rudy A. and Kathleen A. Erdmann
- Shelagh M. Ferguson-Miller and Robert J. Miller
- Kathy Fowler
- Sharon A. Glendening Bozman
- Great Lakes Heritage Quilters
- James C. and Darcy Greene
- David C. Halfmann and Donna L. Bracher
- Christine M. and Thomas H. Hammond
- Maryann and Joe E. Herrera
- Bunny M. Hodas
- Elinor M. Holbrook
- David D. and Iris O. Horner
- Edward M. and Alene Keller
- James H. Kent
- Judith A. Kleeves
- Joseph M. and Paula J. La Lopa
- Kiersten F. Latham
- John H. and Lisa M. Lawitzke

- Carolyn S. Loeb and Richard T. Peterson
- Patricia R. and Laird C. Longan
- Sylvia Lupa
- Lawrence E. Mawby and Lois A. Bahle
- Ula M. Miller
- Lyle G. and Jeanne I. Montgomery
- MSU College of Natural Science
- MSU Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences
- MSU Department of Entomology
- MSU Department of Fisheries and Wildlife
- MSU Department of History
- MSU Graduate School
- MSU Integrative Studies in General Science
- MSU Lyman Briggs College
- MSU Office of Research and Innovation
- MSU Program in Ecology, Evolution, & Behavior
- Michael and Julia O'Connor
- Marcella J. Paduch
- Thomas M. and Linda L. Peet
- John T. and Karen T. Pence
- Kathleen M. Phelps
- Deborah S. Pollard
- Bonnie A. Pratt
- David J. and Siri C. Rainone
- Rae Ramsdell and George Orban
- The Reed Family
- Wayne Repko
- Margaret S. Roach
- Javier and Rosa Rodriguez
- Michael J. Rodriguez and Stephanie J. Palagyi
- Karel L. Rogers
- Richard J. and Kathleen D. Sawicki
- Meena Schaldenbrand
- Jane E. Schneider
- Allyn R. Shaw
- James S. Smith
- Josephine A. Smolcich
- Cheryl K. Snay and Patrick Weber
- Scott C. and Donna J. Sowulewski
- Anne K. and Kevin W. Stus
- Bing Tai and Catherine Allen
- Winifred A. Tate
- Michael J. Tate
- Linda Beth and James M. Tiedje
- Pamela L. Timmons and James N. Wolnoski
- Justin C. Tokarski and Katrina Robinson
- William Charles and Linda Stock Trevarthen
- Richard L. and Margaret A. Trimble
- Patricia G. Voss
- John W. Weiler
- Barb L. and Jon Whitney
- Robert L. and Charlotte M. Wilks
- Joanne M. Wood

**PHOTO CREDITS:** Devon Akmon, Doug Coombe, Matthew Cruz, Dane Robison, Harley Seeley, Hollyann Stewart, Mark Sullivan, Dave Trumpie, Caroline White, Aaron Word





# MUSEUM

409 West Circle Drive  
East Lansing, Michigan 48824

[museum.msu.edu](http://museum.msu.edu)  
517-355-2370