Museums for All
We are committed to ensuring that everyone has access to our incredible collection. Through Museums for All, those receiving food assistance (SNAP benefits) can visit the Putnam for $1 and access free or reduced admission at more than 700 museums throughout the United States simply by presenting their EBT card. We are thrilled to be able to serve the greater Quad Cities in this way!
In the year 2020 the world changed. As a museum of history, culture, and science, the Putnam approached these challenges as an opportunity to reflect, to serve, and to grow as an institution. Over the past year we took time to reimagine the Putnam experience for our visitors and to reexamine the impact that we have on our community. A structured self-assessment and peer review through the Institute of Museum and Library Services provided a deep audit of our community engagement practices and set a course for our future. New strategies included ongoing visitor surveying to better understand our consumer and the visitor experience, broadening community partnerships, and expanding representation and access. This reflection also brought the refined mission above that is guiding our work and our path into the future.

We began the year with new safety protocols and a new facility layout that tailors the visitor experience to individual interests. We've expanded virtual offerings and redesigned the Science Center around key science concepts and learning standards in our partner school districts. We've welcomed new audiences from across the community and in our west-end neighborhood with virtual offerings, supportive programs, translations, and discounted admissions to assure access and impact. A Day Camp partnership with Monroe Elementary School met the needs of students and families struggling with remote learning and scheduling challenges from a hybrid school year calendar. Growing community partnerships bring new engagement, inclusion, and representation in our offerings, including filling gaps in our regional history, renewed focus on contemporary collecting, and a new World Culture Gallery celebrating our international community.

In July, we hit our one-year mark since reopening. We emerge from 2020 an even stronger organization through the support of our community and aggressive outreach for emergency relief funding. As a charitable organization, we rely heavily on the generosity of grantors, donors, members, and volunteers to continue our mission. We're grateful for and moved by the dedication of our trustees, staff, city partners, and supporters, who together make the Putnam Museum and Science Center a leading cultural institution in our community.

This annual report comes to you full of excitement to share with you how the Putnam has adapted and responded to ignite human potential and inspire our community...and how we continue to learn from every visitor that comes through our doors.

With sincere gratitude,

Rachael Mullins
President

Dave Johnston
Board Chair
Even in the midst of a lingering global pandemic, our staff was as busy as ever shaping new ways that the Putnam could better serve our community. With great hope and hard work, we carefully reconfigured our floor plan for an even better Putnam experience.

MORE ACCESSIBLE AND WELCOMING

We are working towards an even more welcoming and accessible entrance for visitors, with a dedicated group entrance for school trips, group tours, and special events, keeping separate traffic patterns for individuals and groups.

EXPANDED AND INTEGRATED SCIENCE LEARNING

We are redesigning and expanding the Science Center to divide the high-energy, high-interest interactives between the natural sciences and mechanical innovations. Gateway Galleries explore weather, space, and the science of the arts. A new Technology Timeline depicts the history of innovation and scientific discovery while bringing higher purpose to previously underutilized space in the museum.

NEW WORLD CULTURE GALLERY

The generosity and concern of our community brought many gifts this year, including a significant donation from long-time Putnam supporters to move forward with an inspired update: a new entrance between the theater lobby and the lower-level of the historic museum. This new two-tiered gallery provides access between the buildings and a more formal entrance to our popular Unearthing Ancient Egypt gallery. With the Putnam’s historic ethnographic collection and the Quad Cities’ growing international community, the space was dedicated on May 21st as the Putnam’s new World Culture Gallery.

The Colors of Culture exhibit focuses on color symbolism and was developed with some of our area’s newest residents—refugees and immigrants served by World Relief Quad Cities. Among the most involved was Abe Mbanzamihigo, an immigrant from Burundi. He served on the exhibit planning group, helped select images accurately and holistically portraying daily life in other countries, and secured loaned items from World Relief clients to help showcase their cultures.

At the exhibit opening, he spoke about what it meant to him saying:

“When I was coming to America, one of my biggest fears was that, being in a foreign place, I would have no recollection of where I came from. Seeing this exhibit at the Putnam represents not just a piece of where I come from but also (includes) other artifacts that resonate with other refugees. We refugees come from rich, beautiful cultures. Our stories are beautiful, and we’re more than just refugees. The artifacts...here today are so important because they’re more than just artifacts...they’re a reminder of home. Yes, we’re refugees, but we live next to you as neighbors in the same town, city and state...I hope that by viewing this exhibit you’re open to diversity in the Quad Cities and enjoy hearing the stories about your neighbors.”

The support and vision of our community has inspired us. We are excited for the future with many more facility updates under development as we continue to reimagine the Putnam Museum and Science Center!
Covid-19 impacted our flagship IMMERSE program in which teachers integrate our resources into their curricula and then bring their students to the Putnam for a week of high-impact, in-person learning. Instead of meeting in person, we created virtual IMMERSE—five free, curriculum-aligned outreach units on high-interest science topics like space featured in our new Gateway Galleries. Used with 2nd–6th graders in Rock Island, East Moline, and Davenport schools, each unit featured a booklet with written activities, a list of related books for kids who wanted to delve deeper, a 20-minute video on the topic with content provided by our staff, and materials and activity cards so kids could complete the videoed activities themselves. 730 low-income youth benefited from the five-unit kits that also included a Putnam family pass. Beyond using them at high-need schools, we also posted kit components to the web for public use.

**SUMMER CAMPS**

To the joy of local families, our popular summer camps went on with attendance caps to assure safe social distancing and cleaning protocols for students.

**MONROE DAY CAMP PARTNERSHIP**

To address the scheduling challenges and safety protocols that our schools and families were facing this past year, we began a new partnership with Monroe Elementary. This Day Camp ran from October – February for students on the hybrid learning schedule to support remote learning in an immersive environment.

**STEM COLLABORATION**

Our work exploring science, technology, engineering, and math skills and careers continued in spite of the challenges of the year with a virtual version of our Battle of the Bridges. The competition, a partnership with the QC Engineering and Science Council, live-streamed the load testing of these popsicle-stick feats of engineering across the country this year.

With the optimism of Spring we did fit in an in-person interstellar event, Gateway to Space, where community members were treated to virtual reality by the ISU FLEX mobile learning program, 3D printing, augmented reality, expert speakers, the Popular Astronomy Club Mobile Observatory (PACMO), activities from Putnam educators and community partners, and space-themed films in the GIANT Screen Theater!
We are strong, we are growing, and we’ve got our eyes on the future.

This year required continued reflection on how to connect with our community in new and creative ways. We further developed online platforms to encourage learning, connection, and celebration and used a hybrid of innovative virtual curriculum, behind-the-scenes deep-dives into our cherished collection, and new tools to gather and celebrate! We’re grateful to all of those who adapted along with us and supported our exhibits, events, and films over the year of change and growth!

EXHIBITS

**Play: The Story of Toys**
A Putnam-original exhibit about the role of toys and play in society.

**Birds and You**
A look at the role we all can play in protecting and preserving the birds we see every day in our backyards and fields.

**Faces of the Past**
An exploration of portraiture around the world and across time in partnership with For America at the Figge Art Museum.

**The Colors of Culture**
In partnership with World Relief Quad Cities, this exhibit examines the symbolism of color.

**OMG! Elements of Surprise**
This exhibit brings to life the weird and wonderful periodic table.

**Liberated Voices: Changed Lives**
The Quad Cities’ unique suffrage story 100 years after the 19th Amendment recognized women’s right to vote.

108,000 **PEOPLE SERVED**

73,220 **PEOPLE SERVED VIRTUALLY**

VISITORS FROM 43 STATES
The Show Must Go On!

Thanks to the support of the Putnam Museum Guild, our Giant Screen Theater got a big upgrade this year with a new lighting system and updated server! When we reopened it in May, we also introduced eight new 20-minute films into our schedule along with the visually stunning 45-minute *Into America’s Wild 3D*.

**MOVIES**

*Into America’s Wild 3D*
A visually stunning cross-country adventure into the hidden wonders of the natural world.

*Also playing:*
- *Superpower Dogs 3D*
- *Jerusalem*
- *Back from the Brink: Saved from Extinction 3D*

Thanks to federal and state grants and forgivable loans; generous support from grantors, trusts, sponsors, businesses, and individuals; major cost-cutting efforts; and the full implementation of a fixed-cost budget model, we’re pleased to report that we ended FY21 in the black. We thank our many donors, patrons, and staff members for making this work possible!

**Financial Highlights**

- **$373,803** in monetary gifts
- **$244,978** in earned revenue
- **$1,675,483** in government funding, grants, and trusts
- **$89,564** in in-kind donations

“All of your employees who greeted us were very knowledgeable and friendly! The incredible variety from species and environment to the periodic tables...all having hands on and some audio displays! And then a lot of fun and learning all mixed together for kids as well as adults! Thank you for a mind stimulating and pleasurable experience!”

~ Feedback from our ongoing visitor experiences study
Thank you to our Contributors!

**GRANTORS, TRUSTS, AND GOVERNMENTAL FUNDERS**

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Iowa Arts Council/National Endowment for the Humanities
IA Arts Council/IA Department of Cultural Affairs Arts & Culture Recovery Program (Federal CARES Act)
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