

NEW YORK HALL OF SCIENCE 2020 ANNUAL REPORT



PRESIDENT'S LETTER

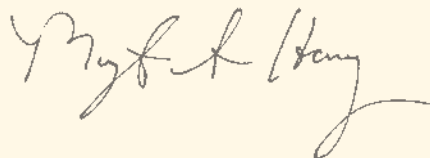
In the wake of COVID-19, institutions worldwide have been called upon to deeply examine and reimagine their work, and NYSCI is no exception.

The crises we have faced during the past year have strengthened our core convictions. Within the museum, among the communities we engage beyond our walls, and through NYSCI's leadership in the global arena of STEM learning, we are focused on creating experiences that enable young people from diverse backgrounds to feel confident and empowered as STEM learners. The COVID-19 pandemic, the resulting public health and economic crises, and the widespread reckoning with systemic racism in America have spurred NYSCI to strengthen our commitment to making STEM accessible to all. We have also joined forces with other locally based non-profits to help our local communities of Corona and Elmhurst recover from the devastating effects of the pandemic.

We are so grateful to all of our supporters for your ongoing commitment to NYSCI.

This report documents the impact of our efforts, which is made possible through the support you provide.

With thanks from all of us at NYSCI,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Margaret Honey". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

Margaret Honey, *President & CEO*



MUSEUM

With NYSCI temporarily closed to the public, we have engaged in an extensive effort to refresh and revitalize the museum, creating new exhibitions and reimagining and improving existing ones. When we re-open our doors we will debut two new exhibitions: *The Happiness Experiment*, and *The Potential of Energy*. A third, *Bubbles*, will be on the way. *Preschool Place* will be significantly refreshed, *Mathematica* enhanced, and the rotunda will have a new and inspiring installation to welcome all our visitors. In addition to the hundreds of smaller repairs to our exhibit infrastructure, our visitors will be utilizing our new wayfinding system to make their way to a brand new demo area. This work is part of a museum-wide effort to align NYSCI's offerings with evidence about how people build a deep understanding of STEM concepts and practices. Using designs that encourage hands-on exploration and invite visitors' unique perspectives, we are creating experiences that help people discover their confidence and embrace their curiosity as STEM learners and doers.



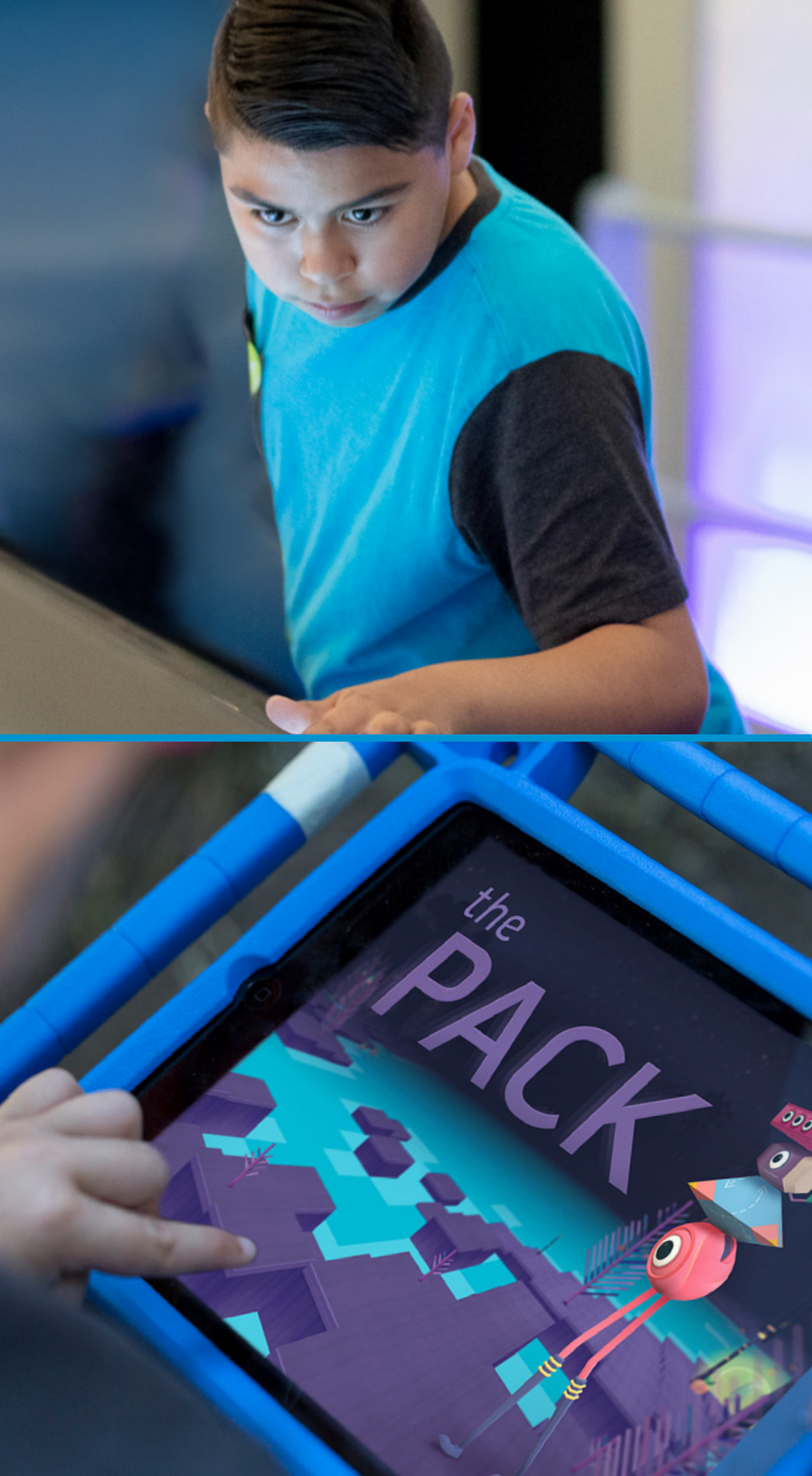
YOUTH

Staying true to our vision to develop generations of curious, confident learners who ask hard questions, reflect on the world around them, and offer creative solutions for tomorrow's biggest challenges, NYSCI has found meaningful ways to connect with young people virtually. The Friedman Center for the Development of Young Scientists transitioned in-person student programming and events to virtual platforms to help youth across New York City deepen their science communication skills and broaden their knowledge and confidence in STEM subject matter. We offered free skill-building workshops in college and career readiness, and connected students with STEM professionals to expand their perspectives on STEM careers. We also created new work experiences that youth could do from home, from creating and producing science videos, to providing their expertise in the museum's exhibit-design process.

COMMUNITY

Our neighborhood of Corona, Queens, was one of the first and hardest-hit communities during the first U.S. wave of the COVID-19 pandemic. NYSCI responded to this crisis by establishing the Elmhurst Corona Recovery Collaborative (see page 9). As part of these efforts, we helped families access technology and know-how to set their children up on remote learning platforms. We engaged many families through bilingual Making at Home videos and live zoom sessions featuring interactive learning activities, and distributed more than 1,000 DIY STEM activity kits to local families in food relief packages. In addition, we helped New York City teachers and school administrators adjust to the challenges presented by remote platforms, providing them with strategies to deliver active, engaging STEM learning to their students. To support creative STEM learning, we also developed a Science Learning Series, consisting of free science videos with facilitation guides for teachers.



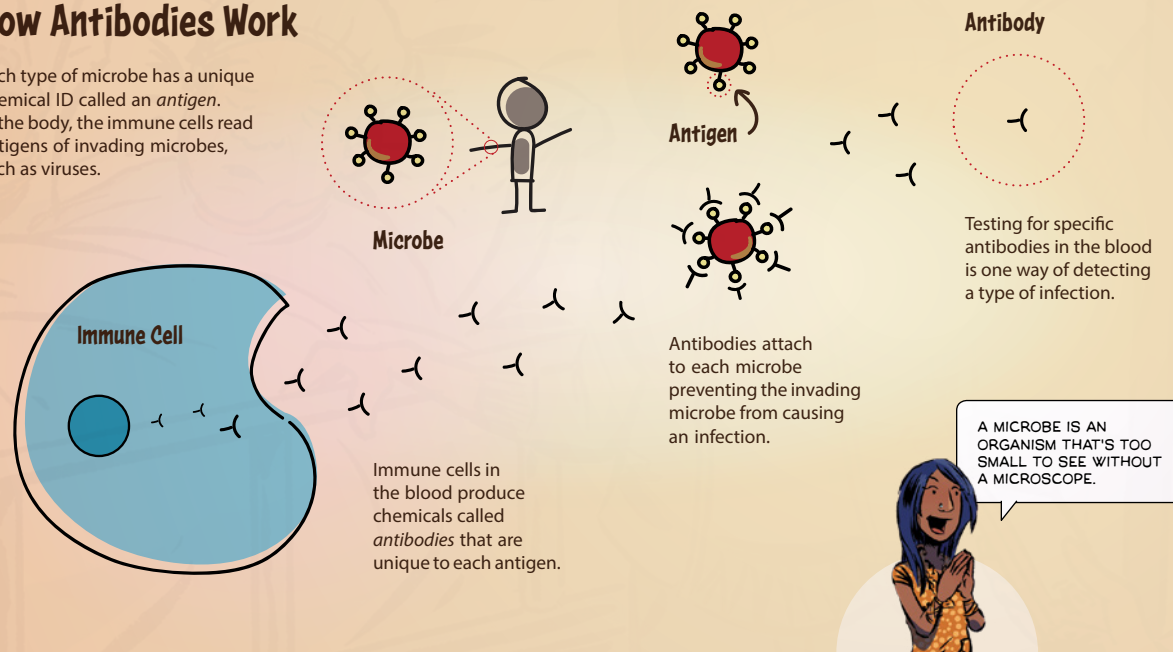


RESEARCH

As schools went virtual in the spring NYSCI was able to continue much of our educational research, developing new approaches to science teaching and learning, and studying the impact of our programs and resources on learners. Through the Innovation Institute, a project supported by the National Science Foundation, NYSCI works with cohorts of high school students to develop coding and design skills, and put those skills to work to respond to opportunities they identify in their communities. After shifting the program online, one cohort developed a prototype for learning platform that addressed the challenges that they, and their teachers, had encountered as schools switched to all-remote learning. NYSCI researchers also continued to work with teachers across New York State to study their use of *Playground Physics* and *The Pack*, two digital tools created by NYSCI to help students explore difficult concepts in physics and computer science. These studies are supported by the US Department of Education.

How Antibodies Work

Each type of microbe has a unique chemical ID called an *antigen*. In the body, the immune cells read antigens of invading microbes, such as viruses.



RESPONDING TO A CRISIS

As a leading provider of education resources, families and schools looked to NYSCI this year for ways to activate creative STEM learning at home. We delivered, developed and curated an array of resources on our website and social media channels, bringing STEM activities into families' homes:

- > **Transmissions: Gone Viral** is a digital interactive comic book that follows a group of kids who investigate a mysterious virus plaguing animals and humans.
- > **The Pack** is an open-world video game where players learn computational thinking as they help restore the world to an ecologically balanced state.

DIGITAL RESOURCES BRINGING NYSCI TO YOU

- > **Design Squad Maker** introduces children and their caregivers to the engineering design process, a partnership with WGBH Boston.
- > **DIY Science Tutorials** bring NYSCI's Maker Space workshops into homes, with activities like acrylic paint marbling, book binding and DIY lightsabers.
- > **Interactive digital tools**, like *Playground Physics*, help students discover and explore the physics in their own movements.
- > **STEM Career Videos** showcase interviews between Explainers and STEM professionals, to expand the ways young people think about careers in STEM.



RESPONDING TO A CRISIS

ECRC ELMHURST CORONA RECOVERY COLLABORATIVE

NYSCI has made a strong commitment to help our neighboring communities of Corona and Elmhurst heal and recover from the devastating effects of the pandemic. NYSCI established the Elmhurst Corona Recovery Collaborative, a group of 20 nonprofits that are working to ensure that families have access to food, health and healing programs, and educational and cultural experiences designed to build resilience. Participating organizations have distributed over 50,000 meals, provided access to COVID testing and flu shots, and are now working to help residents understand the importance of vaccinations.

A coronavirus has distinctive crown-like spikes covering its surface. COVID-19 is a new or novel coronavirus which was identified in 2019. This illustration shows crown-like spikes that adorn the outer surface of all coronaviruses.

Credit: Created for COVID by Anne E. Hsieh, PhD, David Higgins, MEd



Science Behind the News: Viruses

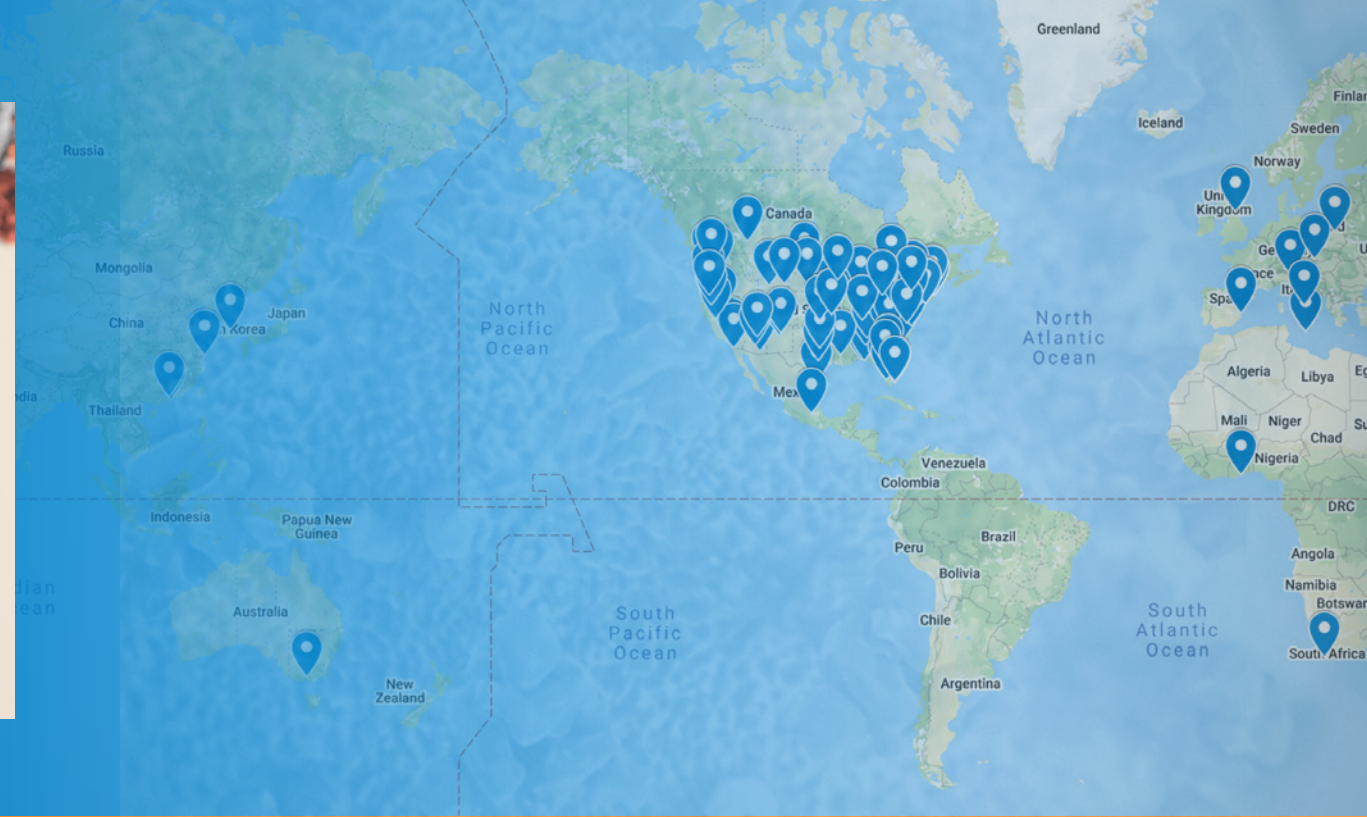
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Every day, there is new information about new viruses. This can be confusing and a little scary when you don't have all the facts. Below is some of the science behind viruses to help you better make sense of what's going on.

Viruses: What Are They?

Viruses are tiny microscopic organisms found almost everywhere on Earth. A virus cannot reproduce on its own; it needs a host. A host can be a plant, animal or even bacteria. Once the virus infects a host, it multiplies. This causes an infection.



RESPONDING TO A CRISIS

NYSCI'S CORONAVIRUS EXHIBIT

NYSCI developed *The Science Behind the News: COVID-19* in February 2020, to play a role in disseminating trusted information on COVID-19. In Fall 2020 we updated and expanded the exhibit with information about vaccines, enabling museum audiences to understand the science behind what they hear on the news. It is available in both English and Spanish. We provided the exhibit, free of charge, to science museums around the world. To date, 92 institutions across 17 countries, including China, Ghana, Italy, Poland and South Africa, have recreated the original exhibit in person or online.



RESPONDING TO A CRISIS

QUEENS DRIVE-IN

To bring a bit of joy to the people of Queens during quarantine, we partnered with Rooftop Films and the Museum of the Moving Image to launch the Queens Drive-In on our campus. With a goal of bringing film, culture and togetherness to New Yorkers, the Drive-In featured 77 screenings, 22 of which were free to the public, from family-friendly blockbusters to premiere independent films. Through this project, we donated a portion of every ticket sale to Elmcó, a long-standing community-based organization that serves the communities in Queens hit hardest by the pandemic.

NYSCI's President's Council events showcase diverse perspectives from top experts at the cutting edge of STEM and education. In Fall 2019, we hosted a series of events focusing on resilient cities, including a green roof tour and a panel, Women Power the Future, featuring four innovators in the energy industry. During the pandemic, we launched a series of webinars and virtual panels with expert speakers discussing timely and relevant STEM topics.



NYSCI was proud to honor Dr. Lisa Su, President & CEO, Advanced Micro Devices, and Osagie Imasogie, Senior Managing Partner & Co-Founder, PIPV Capital at our Evening of Science and Inspiration in November 2019. This annual fundraising gala celebrates STEM leaders and drives critical funds to support our exhibits, research and programs.



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Thank you to all who support NYSCI.

Fiscal Year 2020 (July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020) grants and gifts including multi-year awards:

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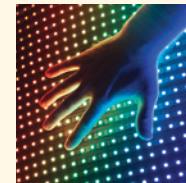
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NYSCI's President's Council is a diverse and dynamic group of individuals who are passionate about STEM. Our members provide crucial support, which sustains the core work of the institution and enables NYSCI to deliver transformative educational programs, develop groundbreaking exhibitions and experiences, and provide youth programming and mentoring that inspires the next generation to be STEM leaders.

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Statement of Activities

Year Ended June 30, 2020 (with summarized totals for the year ended June 30, 2019)

| | | Without Donor Restrictions | | | With Donor Restrictions | 2020 Total | 2019 Total |
|---------------------------------|---|----------------------------|------------------|--------------------|-------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| | | Undesignated | Board Designated | Total | | | |
| OPERATING INCOME | | | | | | | |
| | Contributions and grants | \$ 9,130,243 | \$ 166,981 | \$ 9,297,224 | \$ 4,170,186 | \$ 13,467,410 | \$ 11,676,988 |
| | In-kind contributions | 1,200,763 | — | 1,200,763 | — | 1,200,763 | 1,141,298 |
| | Appropriations from the City of New York | 1,538,891 | — | 1,538,891 | — | 1,538,891 | 1,450,970 |
| | Admissions, workshops, memberships and exhibit fees | 2,856,877 | — | 2,856,877 | — | 2,856,877 | 3,961,437 |
| | Use of facilities and other income | 663,651 | — | 663,651 | — | 663,651 | 735,906 |
| | Investment return | 202,005 | — | 202,005 | 45,689 | 247,694 | 376,983 |
| | Auxiliary activities | 306,086 | — | 306,086 | — | 306,086 | 346,885 |
| | Subtotal | 15,898,516 | 166,981 | 16,065,497 | 4,215,875 | 20,281,372 | 19,690,467 |
| | Use of designated funds | 540,847 | (540,847) | — | — | — | — |
| | Net assets released from restrictions | 4,003,076 | — | 4,003,076 | (4,003,076) | — | — |
| | Total Operating Income | 20,442,439 | (373,866) | 20,068,573 | 212,799 | 20,281,372 | 19,690,467 |
| OPERATING EXPENSES | | | | | | | |
| | Program Services | | | | | | |
| | Museum experiences | 6,051,589 | — | 6,051,589 | — | 6,051,589 | 6,522,529 |
| | Education | 3,624,031 | — | 3,624,031 | — | 3,624,031 | 2,631,410 |
| | Research and development | 4,725,159 | — | 4,725,159 | — | 4,725,159 | 4,002,934 |
| | Youth development | 1,679,476 | — | 1,679,476 | — | 1,679,476 | 2,401,105 |
| | Total Program Services | 16,080,255 | — | 16,080,255 | — | 16,080,255 | 15,557,978 |
| | Supporting Services | | | | | | |
| | Management and general | 2,075,890 | — | 2,075,890 | — | 2,075,890 | 2,623,830 |
| | Fundraising | 1,677,186 | — | 1,677,186 | — | 1,677,186 | 1,486,320 |
| | Marketing and communications | 208,712 | — | 208,712 | — | 208,712 | 261,061 |
| | Total Supporting Services | 3,961,788 | — | 3,961,788 | — | 3,961,788 | 4,371,211 |
| | Total Operating Expenses | 20,042,043 | — | 20,042,043 | — | 20,042,043 | 19,929,189 |
| | Excess (Deficiency) of Operating Income Over Operating Expenses | 400,396 | (373,866) | 26,530 | 212,799 | 239,329 | (238,722) |
| NON-OPERATING ACTIVITIES | | | | | | | |
| | Investment return | — | 12,653 | 12,653 | (1,507) | 11,146 | 171,456 |
| | Contributions for property and equipment—appropriations from the City of New York | — | — | — | 1,510,584 | 1,510,584 | 920,557 |
| | Net assets released from restrictions for capital expenditures | 621,031 | — | 621,031 | (621,031) | — | — |
| | Use of designated funds for capital | 164,455 | (164,455) | — | — | — | — |
| | Depreciation expense | (5,113,006) | — | (5,113,006) | — | (5,113,006) | (5,089,190) |
| | Change in Net Assets | (3,927,124) | (525,668) | (4,452,792) | 1,100,845 | (3,351,947) | (4,235,899) |
| NET ASSETS | | | | | | | |
| | Beginning of year | 43,371,694 | 3,351,833 | 46,723,527 | 7,080,858 | 53,804,385 | 58,040,284 |
| | End of year | \$ 39,444,570 | \$ 2,826,165 | \$ 42,270,735 | \$ 8,181,703 | \$ 50,452,438 | \$ 53,804,385 |

Statement of Financial Position

June 30, 2020 (with comparative amounts at June 30, 2019)

| | 2020 | 2019 |
|---|-------------------|-------------------|
| ASSETS | | |
| Cash and cash equivalents | \$ 2,250,426 | \$ 971,155 |
| Grants, contributions and pledges receivable, net | 3,943,597 | 4,430,578 |
| Prepaid expenses and other assets | 263,120 | 561,516 |
| Investments | 8,648,603 | 6,451,569 |
| Property and equipment, net | 39,808,925 | 43,023,897 |
| Total Assets | 54,914,671 | 55,438,715 |
| LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS | | |
| <i>Liabilities</i> | | |
| Accounts payable and accrued expenses | 1,101,513 | 1,365,970 |
| Deferred revenue | 201,874 | 268,360 |
| Long-term debt | 3,158,846 | — |
| Total Liabilities | 4,462,233 | 1,634,330 |
| <i>Net Assets</i> | | |
| Without donor restrictions | 42,270,735 | 46,723,527 |
| With donor restrictions | 8,181,703 | 7,080,858 |



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