We believe in the power of play. 2020 has been an incredibly stressful and challenging time. Amongst all the uncertainty, we hope that you and your family found moments of play. Play can be a powerful tool for healing and coping, learning and growing, supporting physical, emotional, and mental health. Remember the feeling of becoming completely emersed in an imaginative world? Or the release of anxiety and stress while climbing a tree or running through the sprinkler? When children and adults find moments of joy, positivity, and laughter during difficult times, it helps everyone feel connected and supported.

2020 was a challenging year for the children’s museum as well, as we were forced to close our beloved Augusta location earlier than planned and dramatically reduce our program offerings. We soon turned our focus to the future and are working tirelessly to prepare our new beautiful location in Waterville.

No matter what happens in 2021, you can be sure to find us playing.

Onward

Amarinda Keys, Executive Director

2020 HIGHLIGHTS

VIRTUAL PROGRAMMING
Created social media videos and graphics with simple play-based activity ideas

PARTNERSHIPS
Collaborated with organizations including Viles Arboretum, Augusta Downtown Alliance and the Western Play Museum

SCHEMATIC DESIGN
Finalized exhibit concepts, themes and floor plan in the design of the new exhibit hall

7 EUSTIS PARKWAY
Purchased our new location in Waterville
Programs:

**STEM Time with CDM**- After closing, we got to work creating a month of online programming encouraging families to experiment & create with typical household items. Videos continued throughout the spring and summer.

**Movies in the Park(ing Lot)**- Our outdoor movie series shifted to a drive-in version presenting 5 feature-length films for families to enjoy from the safety of their vehicles.

**Fairies and Gnomes Festival**- We partnered with Viles Arboretum, combining fairy activities (including house-making, rock painting, and portraits), with their new BBQ lunch.

**Viles Meet Ups**- We organized weekly walks through the arboretum coupled with a simple hands-on activity.

**Kringleville and Light Up The Town**- We organized a city-wide holiday light celebration in addition to coordinating private video calls between families and the North Pole.

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**By The Numbers**

- $134K funds raised
- 57 STEM Time with CDM videos
- 10 socially distanced nature walks
- 346 Private video calls with Santa
- 50 Free STEM Exploration Bags
- $32K COVID Relief Funds