

Delaware Museum of Natural History 2011 Annual Report





mission: To excite and inform people about the natural world through exploration and discovery.

vision: One where all parents and teachers in the region consider the Delaware Museum of Natural History as an essential element in every child's development.

purpose: To help develop a caring society that respects and values our planet.

The Delaware Museum of Natural History has spent the last 40 years delivering the message of exploration and discovery to a dedicated audience of parents, teachers, scholars, schoolchildren, and knowledge-seekers. That message is conveyed through our detailed exhibits, world-class collections, and renowned educational outreach. And, of course, through the tireless efforts of our trustees, staff, volunteers, donors, and supporters.

Since the Museum opened in 1972, we have endeavored to reach our audience in new and unique ways. The Museum's traveling exhibits complement and often expand on the information contained in our permanent displays. Our education programs support the scientific lessons taking place in the classroom with

real-world examples and hands-on instruction. Researchers visit to study the Museum's vast collections to gain a better understanding of animal species and develop new ways to protect them for future generations. Parents, grandparents, and families visit to improve their knowledge of the natural world and light a spark for the next generation of scientists, naturalists, and stewards of our planet.

The mission of the Museum is to excite and inform people about the natural world through exploration and discovery, and we strive to achieve that goal every day. By giving visitors the opportunity to experience nature and science up-close, the Museum hopes to encourage a sense of wonder about the world outside our doors. Strategic partnerships and the generous support of sponsors, donors, and benefactors

allow the Museum to provide visitors all we have to offer at an affordable price.

The passion our staff and volunteers feel for what we do is echoed in the service to the community we provide on a daily basis. Expanding the public's knowledge of the natural world and instilling a love of science are at the core of that service. The following pages are the highlights from the Museum's efforts to accomplish that goal in 2011.

Nina L.S. Burnaford
President, Board of Trustees

Halsey Spruance
Executive Director

(Cover) Shells from the Museum's mollusk collection. (Above) Specimens from the Museum's collection of egg clutches, the second-largest egg collection in the country. Photos by Meredith Hatzinikola.

education

“I love working with kids, and the Discovery Corps lets you really connect with kids. I would volunteer even if I didn’t need service hours.”

– Bethany Siehl, 12th Grader at Unionville High School, 3rd year Discovery Corps Volunteer



Two- and Three-year-olds in the Museum’s Tiny Trekkers class. The class is part of the *Seeing Science Everywhere* Young Explorers program to encourage scientific discovery from an early age.

The Museum’s Summer Camps provide fun and educational instruction all summer long for children ages 2 through 13.

In 2011, the Museum’s staff of educators extended the reach and depth of programming offered to the local community through engaging classes, seminars, and instructional support.

With generous support from the PNC Foundation’s Grow Up Great with Science Initiative and their pledge of a \$103,480 *Seeing Science Everywhere* grant, the Education Division was able to expand the ways in which the Museum educates and informs the public about nature and science. Additionally, the Museum’s *Seeing*

Science Everywhere program continues to improve science education in local preschools.

Early childhood educators from around the area are learning how to promote the process of scientific inquiry and implement the *Seeing Science Everywhere Resource Book* into their preschool classrooms. The Education Division instructs educators on how to incorporate simple scientific observation and learning skills into various curriculum areas: language, mathematics, creative arts, physical health, and emotional and social

development. Preschools participating in the program serve children from low-to-moderate-income families and include The Ministry of Caring Inc., Newark Day Nursery, New Castle County Head Start, and Latin American Community Center.

As part of their outreach, the Education Division hosted *PNC Free Sunday Mornings* and *Family Fun Nights* to allow families to visit the Museum and access the incredible wealth of information on display at no cost. The opportunity to serve segments of the community that

might not otherwise visit the Museum is integral to developing a curiosity about nature and science for future generations. Our experienced staff are leaders in the way science is taught in the State of Delaware and their efforts are gaining more and more support every year.

The Museum’s Young Explorers program offered bi-weekly classes throughout 2011, including hands-on activities, songs, and stories with nature themes. Children ages two-and-a-half to five-years-old were instructed in a classroom setting with Museum

educators expanding their young minds. The Museum’s camps offered interactive scientific instruction through fun, engaging activities for spring and summer break. Additionally, the Museum’s Scout Program served the local Boy and Girl Scout communities through late nights, overnights, and badge workshops.

Service volunteers like the Museum’s Discovery Corps, made up of high school students with a passion for community service, made many of the events held throughout 2011 a tremendous success. Their willingness

to provide their time, commitment, and passion for science allowed our guests to achieve the full visitor experience.

The Education Division is vital to the Museum’s outreach efforts and on many occasions, they sacrifice their time and energy to bring the wealth of knowledge and information contained within our walls to the greater public. The community is well-served by the dedication of these passionate individuals.

exhibits

The Museum's Ederic Exhibit Hall was bustling in 2011, thanks to a variety of engaging, sometimes spine-tingling, traveling exhibits, sponsored once again through the generous support of the Dupont Company.

The Museum's three special exhibits for 2011 featured hair-raising arachnids, slow-moving turtles, and prehistoric giants that attracted visitors from across the country. This exhibit also showcased the strikingly detailed turtle photographs and sculptures of artist James F. White, Jr., of the Delaware Nature Society, and noted sculptor André Harvey.

Tarantulas: Alive and Up-Close, a traveling exhibit from Outhouse Exhibit Services, featured 13 live tarantulas that gave visitors an up close and personal view of these fascinating creatures. *Turtle Travels*, created by Environmental Exhibit Collaborative, slowed things down and allowed visitors to see the world from the eyes of a turtle with interactive and hands-on activities. Prehistoric beasts of the Sahara, from the sharp-toothed *Afrovenator* to the plant-eating *Jobaria*, arrived as part of *Giants: African Dinosaurs*, a traveling exhibit created by Project Exploration. In conjunction with *Giants: African Dinosaurs*, the Museum also hosted an exhibit of African mammal sculptures from the collection of Sam and Lisa Hobbs.

African American Champions of Nature celebrated Martin Luther King, Jr. Day by highlighting the wealth of accomplishments and achievements African-Americans have contributed to nature and science. *Natural Leaders: Presidents and Nature*, our annual Presidents' Day event, illustrated to visitors the roles U.S. presidents past and present have played in conservation and environmental stewardship.

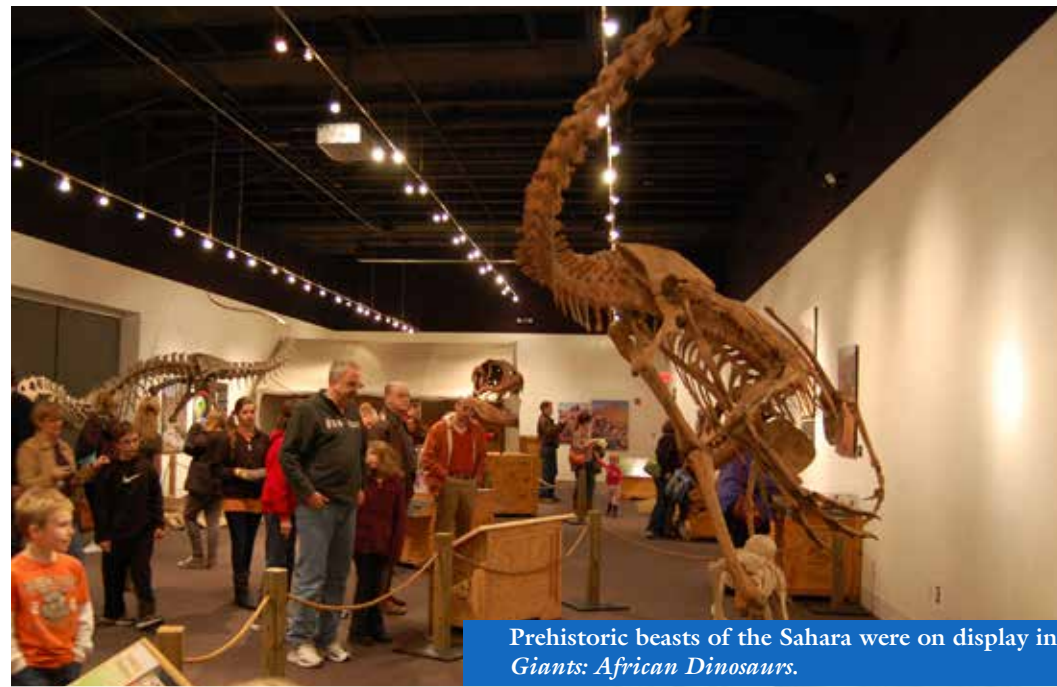
In June, Sesame Street's "One World, One Sky: Big Bird's Adventure," opened to the delight of young visitors and their parents. This traveling planetarium show followed Big Bird and Elmo as they explored the sky and is part of the Grow Up Great with Science program, sponsored by PNC Bank.

In October and November, students from the Delaware College of Art and Design presented dramatic works of art for *Natural Attraction: Nature-Inspired Art*. These stunning displays of talent and artistic creativity wowed visitors and staff alike, and served as a learning tool for the students. Having their art displayed and then offered for sale at the end of the exhibit gave them a real-world experience that will benefit them in the future.

Nikon's Small World, a collection of images taken from a photomicrography competition, was on display through December and captured the delicate intersection between science and art. *Dino Days*, the Museum's annual celebration of all things dinosaur sponsored once again by Bank of America, was in full swing in 2011, and attendance continues to surpass expectations year after year.

With the Nature Nook now a year old, children ages two through 10 and their parents are able to see and experience nature and science at the kid-level. With live animals, tactile and hands-on displays, and interactive instruction from our skilled Education staff, docents, and volunteers, the Nature Nook takes our mission of exploration and discovery to a new level.

In addition, the Museum added a new dinosaur to its collection in 2011. A cast of a fossil from an *Argentinosaurus huinculensis* vertebra was created by Don Lessem and donated to the Museum by Teresa Gant.



Prehistoric beasts of the Sahara were on display in *Giants: African Dinosaurs*.



Visitors encountered furry arachnids with *Tarantulas: Alive and Up Close*. (Below) Slow-moving turtles were the centerpiece of *Turtle Travels*.



2011 BY THE NUMBERS:

- 74,494 VISITORS
- 8,384 PARTICIPATED IN OFF-SITE PROGRAMS
- 6,602 TOOK SCHOOL TOURS
- 3,531 STUDENTS BENEFITED FROM THE DMNH EDUCATION FUND



Natural Attraction: Nature-Inspired Art showcased the remarkable talents of DCAD students.

collections and research

Through our Collections and Research Division, the Museum provides access to our vast collections for research and scientific study. Throughout 2011, the division depended on the many hours of volunteer's time to carry out its work. Digitizing and transferring information to online databases, loaning specimens to individuals and scientists around the world, assisting with exhibit interpretation, preparing grant proposals, caring for the Museum's collections, and preparing and cataloging new specimens into the collection were all part of the Collections and Research Division's achievements for 2011.

In 2011, Curator of Mollusks Liz Shea, Ph.D., co-authored a paper on the biodiversity of the continental slope of the Gulf of Maine. Her research was part of the Census of Marine Life, a 10-year international effort undertaken to assess the diversity, distribution, and abundance of marine life. As part of the census, scientists working in the deep-sea region of Eastern North America documented 1,671 species of marine life. Dr. Shea also co-authored a paper titled, *Mollusks: The Great Unanswered Questions*, with Dr. Clyde F. E. Roper, Emeritus Zoologist at the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History for the American Malacological Bulletin.



Dr. Jean Woods clears out the contents of a bird egg for addition to the Museum's collections.



Interns in the Collections and Research Division participate in a bird dissection with Dr. Jean Woods. Hands-on work with the Museum's curators gives the students real-world experience throughout the summer.

The Collections and Research Advisory Committee was formed in 2011 to assist the Trustees in making sure that the Museum's collections are properly cared for. Made up of Trustees, outside museum experts, and our Collections and Research staff, the group makes recommendations to the Board about the care of our collections. Their expertise and breadth of knowledge will be invaluable in the coming years.

Throughout 2011, the Collections and Research Division served as a hub for research conducted by graduate

students and scientists from around the country. Daniel Hanley, Ph.D., a post-doctoral researcher from the University of Guelph in Guelph, Ontario, CA, visited in the summer to study the Museum's Atlantic Puffin specimens to better understand the species' response to global climate change. Alexander Ziegler, Ph.D., of Harvard University in Cambridge, MA, studied the Museum's collection of squids and other cephalopods for a magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) project examining differences in morphology.

The Division continued its summer internship program, giving college students from a variety of institutions a chance to learn about collections careers and gain valuable experience with specimen preparation, cataloging, conservation projects, and digitization. The Division also completed another project with the MIS capstone class from the University of Delaware working on digitization of our library catalog. Also in 2011, the Museum once again played host to the annual Mid-Atlantic Malacology Conference, and both amateur and professional

malacologists had the opportunity to examine the vast mollusk collection as part of the daylong event.

Curator of Birds, Jean Woods, Ph.D., was active in the field throughout May as part of DNREC's Delaware Shorebird Project, an annual study of the shorebirds using Delaware Bay during migration. Dr. Woods was able to send updates on the team's research throughout the project, and images and insight were posted to the Museum's Facebook page for the benefit of our visitors. Dr. Woods continues

to serve on the Shorebird Advisory Panel of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission Horseshoe Crab Management Board. Dr. Woods also served as Regional Co-Coordinator and on the Technical Committee of the Delaware Breeding Bird Atlas, a survey and mapping project of the state's breeding bird fauna. The project completed the fourth year (of five) in 2011.

communications and development

The Communications and Development staff coordinate throughout the year to expand and grow the Museum's foundation of support and inform the general public of activities, events, and programs. It is through this cooperation that a dedicated member base and a robust level of visitors can be cultivated and served more effectively.

Through collaborative efforts like the Brandywine Museums & Gardens Alliance, Association of Science-Technology Centers, in Kids, and through the support of the Greater Wilmington Convention and Visitors Bureau, the Museum was able to reach out to visitors on a broad and varied scale in 2011. From Memorial Day through Labor Day, the Alliance's Treasure Trail Passport offered visitors a unique and affordable way to explore the Brandywine Valley while increasing visitation to the area. Summer events like *PNC Free Sunday Mornings* and *Artisans' Bank Dollar Tuesdays* provided an opportunity for the Museum to reach underserved audiences and give families the chance to experience a trip to the Museum at an affordable price.

For the second year in a row, the Museum gave thanks to our nation's military personnel and their families by participating in the Blue Star Museums Program. With over 1,500 museums across the country taking part, active duty U.S. military and their families were able to enjoy a visit to the Museum at no cost. The Museum also provides complimentary admission for disabled individuals through organizations such as Easter Seals and Community Interactions. Bank of America again partnered with the Museum for the *Museums on Us* Program, providing Bank of America credit, ATM, and check cardholders free access to the Museum on the first full weekend of every month.

The fifth annual *Wine & Dinosaurs presented by Wilmington Trust* took place on September 25 and successfully raised a net of \$48,000 to support the Museum's exhibits and programs. Returning sponsors Wilmington Trust, Proctor Heyman LLP, Weymouth, Swayze, & Corroon Insurance, Inc., NEIL, Cover



Alexander Smith and Anastasia Quinn enjoy the festivities at the fifth annual *Wine & Dinosaurs presented by Wilmington Trust*.

and Rossiter, Moore Brothers Wine Company, Ryan's Wines & Spirits, The Wine & Spirit Company of Wilmington, United Distributors, Standard Distributors, McClafferty Printing Co., and FastSigns provided invaluable financial, logistical, and staff support. Catering sponsors Gallagher & Gallagher, Toscana Catering, The Greenery Caterers, Bixby's Caterers, Montrachet Fine Foods, and Domaine Hudson provided food and other support for the event. More businesses and individuals made contributions to our silent auction than ever before, while the Museum's dedicated volunteers and staff made sure the event was fun and entertaining for the more than 400 attendees.

Museum membership grew substantially in 2011, as did the number of contributions to the Museum's Annual Fund. This year, as a way to engage our supporters and illustrate how much fun learning about the natural world can be, we incorporated an object or specimen from the Museum's collections right into our appeal letter. The amazingly large *Argentinosaurus* and the Little Spotted Kiwi were both featured. We hope everyone will have fun collecting, assembling and sharing these stand-up conversation starters, which we plan to continue in the years to come. While we cannot include every gift, the following pages list the names of those who made Annual Fund gifts at the \$100 level and above, or provided sponsorships, awarded grants, or supported special initiatives in 2011. We are deeply grateful.

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 The Mushroom Cap
 Mr. Edward T. Novak
 Ms. Sally O'Byrne
 Ms. Bridget O'Neill
 Oranges & Lemons
 Out & About
 P2 Ware
 Mr. Kenneth Pesta
 Philadelphia Union
 Pizza by Elizabeths
 Please Touch Museum
 Mr. Richard Poole

Rasta Imposta Inc.
 Mr. Tucker Robbins
 Mr. Bill Rowe
 Mr. Matthew J. Sarver
 Scentsations 'Greenville'
 Mr. & Mrs. Stuart Schenk
 Ms. Virginia F. Schiavelli
 Second Nature Landscape Management
 Sherri Ciancutti Portraits
 Ms. Leslie Skibinski
 Mr. Patrick Skibinski
 SpecialTeas Tea Room
 Mr. & Mrs. William H. Spence
 Mr. Bob Strahorn
 Ms. Lauren Sweeney
 Mr. Harry Tiebout
 Ms. Rena Tobey
 Torelli's Custom Shop
 Toscana Catering
 Tri-State Bird Rescue & Research
 Twin Lakes Brewing Company

Ms. Sadie Ulman
 University of Delaware, Management Information Systems capstone class (Prof. Diane Wright)
 Victory Brewing Company
 Videll's Day Spa
 Waste Management
 The Whip Tavern
 Wild Birds Unlimited, Hockessin
 Dr. Chris Williams
 Judi Wilson and Muddyruys Farm
 World Cafe Live at the Queen
 WSTW – Delmarva Broadcasting Company
 WXP
 Ms. Victoria Wyeth
 Mr. Gary Yanacek
 Your Dino-Source
 Ms. Karen Zeitler

Museum Volunteers as of December 31, 2011

Delores Albright
 Freida Berry
 Kathryn Boris
 Katie Bowman
 Alison K. Bradford
 Caitlin Brett
 Dehryl Brown
 Melanie Butler
 Anna Calaceto
 Jessica Carmine
 Monifa Carter
 Ken Case
 Kevin Cecala
 Betsy Chou
 Anna Mae Cimperman
 Betty Crary
 Anita Dauphin
 Caitlin Duer
 Rebecca Dunne
 Brett Durkin
 Elizabeth Evans
 Sharon Farr
 Kate Geiger
 Rosemary Ginzberg
 Les Gross
 David Gunyuzlu
 Elizabeth Harrington
 Sophie Haskell
 Meredith Hatzinikola
 Lucille Herber
 Mary Herkes
 Levin Holloway
 Katie Huegel
 Stacey Hunting

Kyle Irwin
 Dale Kaukeinen
 Martha Kaukeinen
 David Klimowicz
 Lowell Konyk
 Florina Kraiter
 Iulia Kraiter
 Sarah Lewis
 Kara Lynch
 James Maikweki
 Jack Massih
 Walt McKee
 Molly McPeck
 Sam Medon
 Gretchen Mercer
 Terri Monsaert
 Alicia Moore
 Sarah Murray
 Karen O'Donnell
 Linda Orr
 Samuel Rachear
 Lily Ribaya
 Abigail Riley
 Celia Ross
 Ginny Schiavelli
 Sara Lu Schwartz
 Leslie Skibinski
 Rachel Snijders
 Leota Terry
 Laurie Thackrah
 Annie Thomas
 Bobbee Vernon
 Lindsay Voltz
 Linda Vorhees

Casey Wakai
 Carol Welch
 Dan Welch
 Florence Williams
 Alex Wolfe
 Jean Woods
 Sueann Yang
 Stephanie Zhang
 John Zysk

Intern, Exhibits Mai-Lien Fruge

Summer Interns, Collections & Research
 Rebecca Biek
 David Klimowicz
 Megan Murphy
 Ann Schrandt
 Jeremy Smith
 Meg Trau

MIS Student Volunteers, Collections & Research
 Eric Botshon
 Stephanie Chen
 Joseph Daigle
 Matthew Driscoll
 Tara Garcia

Discovery Corps
 Alexander Arvanitis
 Morgan Austin
 Mark Barbera
 Kaitlin Bonner

Shombit Chaudhuri
 Mee Choe
 Eli duPont
 Everitt duPont
 Ta'sey Harmon
 Jason Hipkins
 Kathy Huang
 Sarah Kelso
 Laura Klein
 Daniel Kraiter
 Nina Krauss
 Eliza Mamikonyan
 Chelsea Martin
 Kristen Nunn
 Megan Rise
 Shawnice Shields
 Bethany Siehl
 Ashish Streatfield
 Nyrie Watson

Wine & Dinosaurs Event Volunteers
 Cathy Dearlove
 Cal Driscoll
 Kurt Heyman
 William LaFond
 Mary Laskaris
 Beth Peck
 Wayne Rutman
 Kelly Sakiewicz
 Denise Spence
 Marisa Terranova
 Judi Wilson

Museum Volunteers as of December 31, 2011 (continued)

Delaware College of Art and Design Volunteers	Brianna Douglas Adelyn Duchala Jamison Baker Paige Baldwin Tyler Banez Brittany Bobo Tyler Boma Brittany Buchkowski Mary Dahling Victoria Dawson Desiree Diaz Nick DiClaro	Ginelle Joseph Charlotte Joseph Amanda Kilpatrick Yura Kim Carol Lambert Jaime Laning Mollyrose Lyons Dan McShane James Meloro Aaron Mincey Anthony Mize Catherine Muldowney	Johnnie Mull Alicia Munk Indigo Nelson Mackenzie Nicholson Caitlin O'Donnell Alex Onufrowan Jasmine Pryor Tabitha Rogers Jenna Rupp Sam Skaliba Alex Stefanowicz Emily Steffy	Alex Streets Guadalupe Torrez Alex Toto Matt Valcorrel Mikela Vandevander Erik Walker Brandon Whitford Troy Wickware Brittany Wolfe Matthew Young
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Trustees and Staff as of December 31, 2011

President Nina L.S. Burnaford	Scott R. Inglis, CFA William T. LaFond, JD Meagan Nace Edward T. Novak Beth Peck Maria Pfeffer Denise Spence Timothy B. Weymouth Judi Wilson
Vice President William D. Zantzinger	
Treasurer Cindy Bertrando, CPA	
Secretary Gregory A. Inskip, Esq.	
Trustees Richard F. Cairns Catherine Dearlove, Esq. Paige C. Draper Kurt M. Heyman, Esq.	Life Trustee Philip B. Weymouth, Jr., CPCU
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--

Administration Halsey Spruance, Executive Director Susan Kifer, Administrative Assistant Terri Reed, Director of Human Resources and Visitor Services Judy Julis, Contoller
Collections and Research Liz Shea, Ph.D., Curator of Mollusks Leslie Skibinski, Collections Manager of Mollusks Jean Woods, Ph.D., Director of Collections/Curator of Birds
Communications Teresa Messmore, Director of Communications
Development Suzanne Moussa, Membership and Development Manager* Dawn Swartout, Director of Development

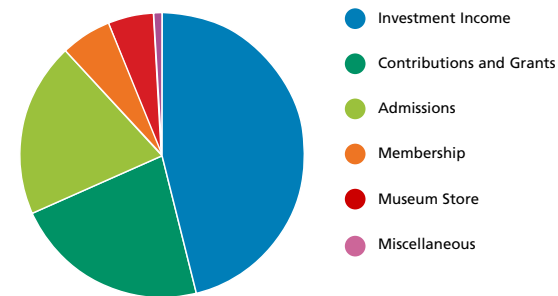
Education and Public Programming Paula Holloway, Director of Education and Public Programming Mariah Romaninsky, Tour and Outreach Coordinator Valerie Long, Programs Coordinator Julie Steinhauer, Education Programs Facilitator* Andre Brown, Tour Guide* Ann Perry, Tour Guide* Carrie Putscher, Tour Guide* Denise Johnson, Tour Guide* Diane Danzeisen, Tour Guide* Donna Schrader, Tour Guide* Eleonore Thomas, Tour Guide* Gina Peirce, Tour Guide* Jennifer Reynolds, Tour Guide* Lois Lamont, Tour Guide* Lori McIntyre, Tour Guide* Maureen Lanshe, Tour Guide* Meredith Redford, Tour Guide* Nicole Geiser, Tour Guide*
--

Rebecca Holloway, Tour Guide* Sam Holloway, Tour Guide* Sarah Burroughs, Tour Guide* Sarah Stapley, Tour Guide*
Exhibits Elspeth Kursh, Exhibits Manager
Facility Operations Chris Hayden, Facilities Manager Gary Green, Maintenance Assistant
Visitor Services Carol Burris, Visitor Services Assistant* James Chiappardi, Visitor Services Assistant* Ron Dawson, Visitor Services Assistant* Elizabeth Green, Visitor Services Assistant* Robert Rainey, Visitor Services Assistant* Ted Reese, Lead Visitor Services Assistant* Sharon Reitz, Assistant Store Manager
*Part-time employees

finances

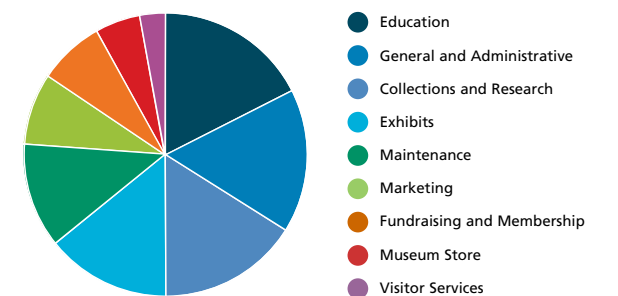
Statement of financial position for years ended December 31, 2011 and 2010

	2011	2010
	\$	\$
Assets		
Cash and Cash Equivalents	40,442	34,751
Accounts Receivable	12,870	9,793
Contributions Receivable Net	16,304	11,470
Inventories	16,609	14,408
Prepaid Expenses	93,548	90,855
Investments	16,631,295	17,257,170
Cash Designated for Specific Purposes	391,267	280,527
Property and Equipment Net	6,582,108	6,979,693
Total Assets	23,784,443	24,678,667
Liabilities and Net Assets		
Liabilities		
Accounts Payable	420	41,992
Accrued Expenses and Other Liabilities	98,941	81,374
Total Liabilities	99,361	123,366
Net Assets		
Unrestricted	23,446,985	24,414,955
Temporarily Restricted	238,097	140,346
Total Net Assets	23,685,082	24,555,301
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	23,784,443	24,678,667



2011 Total Revenue and Support: \$2,155,364

Net Assets at Beginning of Year: \$24,555,301



2011 Total Operating Expenses: \$2,302,133

Net Assets at End of Year: \$23,685,082

The Delaware Museum of Natural History, Inc. is a tax-exempt charitable organization as defined by Sections 501 (c)(3) and 170 (b) (1)(A) (vi) of the Internal Revenue Code. Copies of this Annual Report are available to the public free of charge upon request to the Communications Manager. Complete financial statements and independent auditor's report may be obtained from the Controller.



Delaware Museum of Natural History
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