

Fiscal Year 2020 Direct Appropriations

Note: For FY20 Direct Appropriations, non-profit organizations should make their request for funding to the Director of Finance by February 8, 2019.

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Director of Finance
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Please copy the following individuals in your request.

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At a minimum, please provide the following information:

1. What services does your organization provide to the residents of Davidson County?

Adventure Science Center continues our service to Davidson County residents with the purpose to change lives through extraordinary experiences in science and innovation. At our core, we provide informal STEAM (science, technology, engineering, art, and math) learning experiences to families, students, teachers, and individuals through 44,000+ square feet of interactive exhibits, an ever-evolving portfolio of immersive, hands-on activities, and awe-inspiring shows in the Sudekum Planetarium. Adventure Science Center strives to offer schools a diverse array of programming, including labs, workshops, after-school outreach, and youth leadership development experiences. All learning experiences are designed to meet state core curriculum and national education standards through collaborations with local educational institutions seeking to promote science literacy and experiences beyond the classroom environment.

2. How many residents are you currently serving and how do they benefit?

In total, Adventure Science Center serves 115,000 Davidson County residents annually, including more than 23,000 Davidson County students on school trips at no charge (non-Metro schools pay \$6 per student on a field trip), 10,500 Davidson County youth and families through camps and outreach, and 50 teachers with professional development and appreciation events.

Creative learning outside of the classroom at informal science education institutions, like science centers and museums, is critical to a child's academic development and perception of science careers. The science center is committed to supporting Davidson County students and teachers. As noted previously, free admission is extended to all MNPS students visiting on school trips (all other school districts are charged \$5 per student). Teachers receive multi-disciplinary pre-visit materials to help prepare students in addition to follow-up materials to extend the field trip experience and learning back into the classroom.

Annually, the science center engages teachers with professional development to bring hands-on learning techniques back to the classroom, and hosts

Teachers Night Out, an event celebrating educators and promoting school trips. Tennessee Pre-K through 12th grade teachers also receive free general admission and a monthly newsletter keeping them up to date with the science center's programs and offerings.

The science center connects female high school students with careers in science and technology at TWISTER (Tennessee Women in Science, Technology, Engineering and Research), an annual conference providing hands-on science workshops led by professional women from Middle Tennessee. Annually, TWISTER serves 120 young women, the majority from Metro schools. This year we are piloting four small group conferences at Cane Ridge, Maplewood, McGavock, and Hillwood high schools, offering an event in each quadrant, to reach students unable to visit the science center.

The residents we serve also benefit through the partnerships Adventure Science Center maintains with the community. The science center has been a Pencil Partner with Rose Park Math and Science Magnet Middle School for the past 15 years. The annual "HCA Day" at Rose Park serves more than 500 students with hands-on science learning and engages 40 HCA volunteers annually. The science center also leads an afterschool program focused on using computers at Rose Park. The science center is also an active Pencil Partner with Stratford STEM Magnet High School with the director of education & community engagement serving on the school's STEM Business Partners Advisory Committee supporting special learning experiences for their students. She also facilitates job-shadowing opportunities to experience the behind-the-scenes building and exhibit design process.

3. How much funding are you requesting from Metro?

\$200,000 for operating support

4. If funding is awarded, how many additional residents will be served and how will they benefit?

If full funding is awarded, Adventure Science Center anticipates the number of Davidson County residents to grow by 50,000 over last. We project to serve an additional 45,000 onsite and 5,000 offsite. Area residents will benefit from the new sound & music (soundBox) exhibition, the learning lab for biology and chemistry experiments, the expansion of our maker space, hands-on physics activities, and through expanded outreach initiatives serving a greater number of MNPS students. The annual TWISTER conference will continue its expansion to serve through offsite mini-conferences in each of the four MNPS quadrants. Similar to our partnerships with Rose Park Middle, Stratford High and Stratford Lower School, the science center plans to add Whitsitt Elementary as a partner school. Teacher professional development opportunities tying science to literacy programming will also be expanded for elementary teachers.

5. In addition to serving more residents, are there other community benefits Metro funding would help you achieve?

Adventure Science Center is dedicated to supporting and enhancing the cultural landscape of Nashville, particularly as we look to strengthen relationships and build partnerships with other organizations, like Nashville Zoo, The Frist Art Museum, OZ Arts, Nashville Symphony, Nashville Ballet, and Country Music Hall of Fame. We seek to engage in two-way conversation with underrepresented groups through organizations that serve them, like Conexion and Empower Nashville, to ensure their needs are met at the science center and we are providing learning experiences that are beneficial to them. We are also working with social service agencies like Second Harvest Food Bank, Salama Urban Ministries and Boys & Girls Clubs to provide free admission and educational opportunities in the neighborhoods they serve. Finally, as a cultural attraction and the primary family-friendly venue within the downtown core for area visitors, we play a part in helping raise city tax revenues through tourism opportunities.

6. How would you use this funding to help create a more equitable Nashville, where all residents have an opportunity to participate in the city's success?

Adventure Science Center is committed to changing lives through extraordinary experiences in science and innovation. We strive to increase access to science, technology, engineering, art, and math (STEAM), ensuring students gain a strong foundation for both technical and professional careers. A strong workforce and knowledgeable community affects the economic vitality and standard of living of our city and surrounding areas throughout Middle Tennessee. Funding from Metro helps offset operating expenses allowing us to shift dollars to exhibition and building improvements. This funding directly supports our work and the individuals we serve in the Nashville community, guaranteeing Adventure Science Center continues to be the hub for science and technology learning in the region for all residents.