ANOTHER YEAR OF MAKING HISTORY
BECAUSE OF YOU!

2011-2012 ANNUAL REPORT
Our mission remains a guiding principle of the efforts of our Board of Trustees, volunteers, and professional staff. The Museum is a non-profit charitable corporation designated by Congress as the official nuclear museum resource for our nation. This is accomplished through presentations of exhibitions and quality educational programs conveying the diversity of individuals and events that shape the historical and technical context of our world.

- “Bright, informative, and well worth the time. A real piece of New Mexico history.”

- “Excellent, relatively new museum that really covers all the angles of nuclear science.”
The National Museum of Nuclear Science & History continues to gain popularity as a national education resource and has enjoyed a successful year of celebrating our programs, our partnerships, and most importantly, our mission.

In 2012, as we continued to achieve important milestones in our Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) Education program, the Museum hosted “Tech City,” an innovative and interactive exhibit dedicated to learning the wonders of engineering. Students and families were fascinated and engaged in solving problems and experimenting with such engineering challenges as sound, water, earthquakes, waste treatment, traffic flow, and food safety. Because of our dedicated staff, Board of Trustees, volunteers, and supporters, we were able to touch many lives through exciting STEM education.

This year truly left its mark on Museum history through many great exhibitions and memorable programs. In 2012, we featured “Transforming the Human Spirit,” an exhibit that looked at a world free of nuclear weapons and violence, presenting new points of view and engaging many new visitors. We also hosted a very successful 2012 Einstein Society Gala which marked the 15th National Award of Nuclear Science & History, presented to Dr. Lisa Randall, a leading theoretical physicist reporting from the frontiers of science.

Our progress in working to improve the Museum continued as we restored one of our historic cruise missiles and completed our Titan II exhibit. We were also very honored to host Dr. John Holdren, Chief Science Advisor to President Barrack Obama, as well as celebrate the 20th birthday for the National Atomic Museum Foundation as an organization, a great milestone.

With help from our many members, patrons, volunteers, and donors, we plan to meet the challenge of the coming year. It is because of you that we can make a difference. We invite you to visit the Museum, explore our exhibits, attend our events, and become a member and supporter of this great institution. With your help, we will continue to expand our role in science education and in presenting the history that has shaped our world.

President Dick Peebles

Director Jim Walther
After a wildly successful first two years, National Nuclear Science Week 2012 took place the week of January 23-27. Themes for the week again included Get to know Nuclear, Careers, Safety, Energy Generation, and Nuclear Medicine. In addition to spending a day at the Chicago Institute of Technology, where the Museum participated in a nationally-broadcast webinar sponsored by the National Science Teachers Association, the National Museum of Nuclear Science & History welcomed over 800 students to the Museum during the week. Students were provided learning opportunities about the contributions, innovations, and opportunities that can be found by exploring nuclear science. The Museum contributed to online tools to encourage activities, support celebrations, and provide curriculum, which can be found at www.nuclearscienceweek.org.

ZOOM Into Engineering and Science is an annual event during which families, students, and scouts participate in hands on learning in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM). Over 100 engineers and scientists from across the city helped children and families experience activities that sparked interest in STEM fields. On February 11, 2012, the Museum welcomed nearly 400 guests for activities such as making ice cream with liquid nitrogen, building circuits, watching model aircraft, and experimenting with slime.

The National Museum of Nuclear Science & History had another successful year welcoming students for our “Science is Everywhere” day and week-long Winter, Spring, and Summer camps. Students ages 6-13 participated in exciting camps with topics such as robotics, magic, nanoscience, chemistry, rockets, and more. Students enjoyed

WE WERE LUCKY TO HAVE YOU

During the summer of 2012, the Museum was fortunate to have over forty student volunteers who assisted with Science is Everywhere Summer Camp. Among these student volunteers were Starr and Elijah. Starr and Elijah are twins who attend Rio Grande High School and learned of the summer volunteer opportunity through their school’s counselor. Starr and Elijah served as Camp Counselors for eight of the ten weeks of summer camp. Unlike most of our camp counselors, Starr and Elijah spent an hour every morning and every afternoon on the city bus as they commuted from their home to the Museum. They were committed to their volunteer positions because, as Elijah said, “science is cool.”

While all of our student volunteers are dedicated to their work at the Museum, Starr and Elijah spent more time volunteering at the Museum than any of our other student volunteers. Because of this, the staff decided to show their appreciation by sending Starr and Elijah back to school with the supplies they needed to succeed in their upcoming classes. It was a joy and a privilege to work with both Starr and Elijah last summer.
I fell in love with atomic history during my favorite class as an undergraduate at Virginia Tech where I became captivated by the effect of the atomic age on American culture and society. I couldn’t get it out of my head and knew I needed to find a place to explore my passion. I decided to enter a Google search which lead to a deep conversation with Director Jim Walther of the National Museum of Nuclear Science & History. I was offered an intern position, and with little hesitation I took the opportunity to travel out West.

Hands down, my favorite experience was working on the Titan II missile. I think what I appreciated the most about my time as an intern was being able to come to work in the morning and leave that night seeing true progress had been made. I took great pride in work that my hands had done, but, more importantly, that brought joy to others.

I have never been anywhere with such a wide variety of nuclear artifacts. Heritage Park is one of the coolest setups I have ever encountered. I had never been so up close and personal with a B-52 and a B-29 before. However, if I had to choose one thing in particular that sets apart this Museum, I think the volunteer staff and tour guides are the best part. They were my greatest insight into the atomic era, and as I watched them interact with other visitors, I found myself in awe of both their personalities and histories. They bring a dimension to the Museum that changes the entire environment.

On October 20, 2012, the Museum celebrated Mole Day to recognize National Chemistry Week. Celebrated annually, Mole Day commemorates Avogadro’s Number (6.02 x 10²³), a basic measuring unit in chemistry. With the help of the American Chemical Society, as well as volunteers from Sandia National Laboratories and the University of New Mexico, the Museum welcomed nearly 300 guests. This exciting day for families gave visitors the opportunity to learn more about chemistry, explore nanoscience, discover liquids that act like magnets, see sand that is “afraid” of water, and learn how elements show their “true colors.”

Hands-on educational Museum outreach activities touch hundreds of people throughout the year at a number of events, including the New Mexico State Fair Science Day, the Albuquerque Public Schools’ Join-A-School Program, New Mexico MESA (Math Engineering Science Achievement) Competitions, various scouting events, and many more.

Kate Pandick, Graduate Student of Secondary Social Studies Education at Radford University and Museum intern, works to restore the Titan II missile.
Because of you, we are able to create memories

During the spring of 2012, the National Museum of Nuclear Science & History welcomed the “Tech City” exhibit. This exhibit provided visitors with an opportunity to spend time in many realms of the world of engineering, participating in activities such as building a structure that would hold up under the force of an earthquake, and producing their own recording using various sound effects.

The Museum was able to exhibit “Tech City” due to the generous underwriting provided by Lockheed Martin/Sandia National Laboratories, Ratheon Ktech, and PNM. The Museum welcomed over 13,636 visitors to the exhibit (an increase of 43.5% for the same time period in 2011). Three thousand school students also experienced “Tech City.” Teachers and students who visited the Museum during this time found the exhibit exciting and fun, as well as a valuable educational experience in STEM.

An important feature of school visitation was an initiative designed to offset the cost of busing and admission. The initiative, called “Tech Bus,” was particularly targeted to low and middle income students attending Title 1 schools in the Albuquerque Public School system. Numerous individuals and seven companies provided funding for “Tech Bus.”
GREEN GLASS MORNING: DAWN OF THE ATOMIC AGE

Considered to be the most important acquisition of the year, the Museum obtained 789 photographs discovered at White Sands Missile Range which had been stored in obscurity for decades. The images tell the story of the establishment of the Trinity base camp in 1944. There are images of the 100-ton test platform tower (a test prior to the main test of the “gadget”), of the Jumbo container (built to contain the explosion, but never used), bunkers built to shield photographic and scientific experiment equipment, and much more.

Eighty of these photographs were chosen for our exhibition Green Glass Morning: Dawn of the Atomic Age. The temporary exhibit included both rarely seen images taken in 1945 as well as images taken in 2012 (by local photographer Glenn Fye) of the same locations. This was truly a fascinating glimpse into a time when no one really knew what would be the outcome of the many months of work in Los Alamos.

TITAN II MISSILE

The Titan II missile has been residing for many years on several temporary metal dollies behind the Museum. In 2008, the Museum requested help from the New Mexico National Guard to go to the Air Force Materiel center near Tucson, Arizona, to pick up and move two large, wide, heavy-missile transport trailers, called “transtainers,” to Albuquerque. The Guard brought these units to the Museum where they were placed on new concrete display pads in Heritage Park.

The Museum received a generous grant from the Association of Air Force Missileers organization to paint the transtainers and lift the big missile bodies from the temporary to the permanent units. The Museum’s interns, volunteers, and staff took on the job of repainting these big units, adding new stencils and assisting in the lift. Help was also received from the generous staff at J. B. Henderson Construction, Inc. JBH came with cranes to move the missiles after preparing slings to lift them safely. The Titan II display is now completed to the delight of our many visitors and thanks to many wonderful sponsors, partners, and volunteers.

COLLECTIONS

The Museum cataloged 1,274 new items into the collection. Highlights of the new items taken into the collection include a Child’s Reversible Jacket from Eniwetok Atoll and Photographs of Eniwetok, as well as 1954 and Nevada Test Site photos, maps, certificates, and patches.

NANO

IMAGINE AND DISCOVER A WORLD YOU CAN’T SEE

“Nano,” an exhibit about big ideas that come from the small world of nanoscience, opened in the summer of 2012 as a permanent exhibition.

The exhibit was designed by the Nanoscale Informal Science Education Network (NISE Network). The Museum was one of many sites around the United States to receive the exhibition after completing a competitive application process. The exhibition award is based on the Museum’s ability to provide the educational experiences that are the mission of the NISE Network.

The exhibit is comprised of several stations with hands-on activities that include Build a Giant Carbon Nanotube; Static vs. Gravity; I Spy Nano; and Small, Smaller, Nano.

Nanotechnology is already having a huge impact on our world and families can now learn about it at the Museum.
OUR VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers assist the Museum in almost all areas of its operations. On any given day, volunteers can be found researching items in the Museum’s collection, teaching students about nanotechnology in one of the classrooms, helping with exhibit maintenance and landscaping, assisting with fundraising efforts, greeting and chatting with Museum visitors, and more. The summer months also introduce student volunteers who serve as Camp Counselors for our Science is Everywhere Summer Camp.

MAYDEW-JEBLICK AWARD

The Maydew-Jeblick Award is given each year to an adult volunteer for their commitment and service to the Museum. In 2011, the Museum was pleased to honor Milo Myers as the twelfth recipient of the award. Milo has been a volunteer at the Museum since 2002. He is active in many areas of the Museum, but serves primarily as a Docent and as a guide for the Museum’s semi-annual Trinity Tour trips.

“Working as a volunteer has been most rewarding as well as educational. I have learned a considerable amount about the history of nuclear weapons development and nuclear power. Plus I am able to meet and greet visitors to the Museum from all over the world. And it gives me a chance to recommend where to get the City’s best “Green Chili Cheeseburger.” - Milo Myers

IMPACT FROM VOLUNTEERS

- 50 Ambassadors, Docents, and Greeters worked 7,254.5 hours
- 42 Collections, Development, and Exhibit Volunteers donated 2,107 hours
- 47 Students and Interns volunteered 3,698 hours
- 31 Retired Senior Volunteers donated 189 hours
- The Board of Trustees gave 672.5 hours
- Volunteers donated a TOTAL OF 13,921 HOURS
More than 2,200 people - the biggest crowd the Museum has ever hosted - showed up on Sunday, May 20, 2012, for a very rare annular eclipse when the Museum hosted “Solar Eclipse: A Nuclear View.” The evening included observing the skies with astronomers from The Albuquerque Astronomical Society, hands-on activities for children, and food vendors. The biggest draw to visitors, other than the annular eclipse itself, was the free pair of sun-safe glasses with their admission.

“Asian Pacific Islander American Heritage Day” is another successful Museum event that drew 587 guests to the Museum in May during Asian Heritage Month. The Museum, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and Sandia National Laboratories Asian Leadership Outreach Committee partnered together for the sixteenth year to bring an enlightening and entertaining event to our community regarding cultural traditions among ethnic groups from Asia and the Pacific.

**PUBLIC EVENTS**

**IMPACT FROM FACILITY RENTALS AND GROUP TOURS**

- The Museum hosted 72 facility rental events
- 3,474 guests attended the facility rentals at the Museum
- Approximately 892 Boy Scouts experienced the Museum within a group tour, while 7,538 other guests toured the Museum with a docent or on a self-guided tour
Because of you, we can make a difference

Park Promises is a joint fundraising initiative launched in 2012 designed to provide direct financial support for two non-profit 501(c)(3) organizations: the National Museum of Nuclear Science & History and the New Mexico School for the Blind and Visually Impaired. Both organizations are charitable educational entities and tenants in the Sandia Science & Technology Park, and combined they represent more than 150 years of operational service history to our community meeting the needs of others.

Park Promises provides opportunities for all Sandia Science & Technology Park tenants to donate easily to both non-profits and increases the impact of giving. Approximately 86 cents out of every dollar donated through Park Promises goes directly toward supporting program delivery.

SUPPORTING THE MUSEUM

Three hundred and fifty attendees, one hundred items in a silent auction, three hours of entertainment, and one very special honoree – it all adds up to a very successful event. The Einstein Society Gala, our prestigious black tie and most important fundraising event of the year, features dinner, dancing, a silent auction, and the opportunity to honor an individual who has made an outstanding contribution in the nuclear field. The award honors those working in areas of military leadership, medical technology, public policy, government, energy sciences, education, or space exploration. The 15th Annual Einstein Society Gala was held on March 17, when the 2012 National Award of Nuclear Science & History was presented to Dr. Lisa Randall, an American theoretical physicist and a leading expert on particle physics and cosmology.

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MUSEUM ATTENDANCE AND MEMBERSHIP

- Attendance at the National Museum of Nuclear Science & History reached 50,889 in the fiscal year 2012
- With 1,730 members, the Museum reached an all-time high of member support
18% of the Museum’s budget is allocated to administration; 82 cents of every dollar go directly to programs.