



Maryland Science Center Begins 50th Anniversary Celebration

Year-long commemoration includes special events, new experiences, and new brand

June 1976: Jimmy Carter was president. America prepared to celebrate its 200th birthday. “Afternoon Delight” by the Starlight Vocal Band was the #1 hit song, “All in the Family” led the TV Nielson ratings, and “The Omen” was the top-grossing movie.

Also in June 1976: The Maryland Science Center opened its doors at Baltimore’s Inner Harbor—the first major attraction in the rejuvenated area and the start of a 50-year legacy of engaging students and families in hands-on, interactive science experiences.

Now, in June 2025, the Maryland Science Center is beginning a year-long celebration of its 50th anniversary that will include special events, displays of historic milestones, a new, forward-looking brand identity, and the opening of exciting new exhibits and visitor experiences.

The opening of the Maryland Science Center in 1976 was more than the launch of an Inner Harbor destination; it was the fulfillment of the Maryland Academy of Science’s mission to be “a focal point for scientific activities... to strengthen and extend its activities in public education and civic service.” Through inviting spaces, fun and educational programs, and engaging experiences, that mission has been fulfilled for 50 years, thrives today, and drives The Maryland Science Center’s ambitious plans for the future.

50th Anniversary Events: The year-long celebration will begin Saturday, June 14 with “Best Day Ever,” a day-long festival showcasing classic Science Center demonstrations, such as the hair-raising Van de Graaff generator and smoky liquid nitrogen, and 1976 admission prices. Other events throughout the year will be infused with “50.” For example, the always-popular Mess Fest in August will include 50 balloons filled with paint dropped from the Science Center roof and 50 Mento-and-Coke explosions. The Science Arcade special event in September will highlight retro video games, and Music Under the Dome (of the Davis Planetarium) will be devoted in March to top tunes from the 70’s.

The Maryland Science Center schedule of events is available [here](#).

50th Anniversary Exhibit: A special exhibit chronicling the Maryland Science Center's history will open June 13 on the first floor of the museum. A timeline with historic photos and video will remind visitors of their earlier experiences and share how the Maryland Science Center has had such a meaningful impact on so many people.

[Click here](#) for a photo of the Maryland Science Center in 1976.

New Brand: A new brand (or logo, or mark) for the Maryland Science Center will be unveiled on June 13. While previous logos represented institutional priorities when they were developed—the red ring from 30 years ago mirrored the neon on the then-new IMAX Theater, the content of the 2004 addition

reflected in dinosaur, planes, and human body images—the new logo reflects the timeless Science Center experience of energy, fun, and the exploration process.

New Experiences: The most prominent features of the Maryland Science Center’s ambitious \$10 million *Inspire, Empower and Engage: The 50th Anniversary Campaign* will open during the anniversary year including the late-Fall dedication of the new 5,000 exhibit on space exploration and the expansion and renovation of The Shed maker space. These improvements represent the largest renovation to the Inner Harbor building in 20 years.

In Space, visitors will engage with dozens of interactive tasks as they consider their possible future life beyond earth; they’ll simulate landing futuristic spacecraft, manipulate robotic arms to perform tasks “in space,” and explore how humans might react to gravity on different planet. The expanded Shed on the second floor will include more workstations for families and groups to build, tinker, and disassemble.

In addition, the plazas facing the Inner Harbor and Key Highway will be renovated in the next year into greener spaces with plants, grasses and natural surfaces.

Significance of the Anniversary: Says Mark Potter, Maryland Science Center president and CEO, “For 50 years, the Maryland Science Center experience and our Inner Harbor location have been a powerful source of inspiration and ideas, awareness and affirmation, to millions of people. Researchers who make life-saving discoveries were first excited about science in our exhibits. Scientists who reveal the complexities of space were introduced to the wonders of the galaxies in our Davis Planetarium. Doctors and teachers, business leaders and community advocates, felt comfortable asking “why” and “why not” in our classroom programs and in our labs. From the 400,000 people we reach every year to the 90,000 Maryland schoolchildren who visit for free, what we do has an impact on Maryland residents and communities.”