





AS WE REFLECT upon our first ten years and chart a course for decades to come, we are incredibly grateful to our members, donors, visitors, and the many partners who make Fort Collins Museum of Discovery such a vital community resource. You'll see the word "**community**" throughout this report, and that's intentional as we recognize that it takes all of us – and all of you – to do this meaningful work. We are pleased to report that we are tracking to match and exceed many of our pre-pandemic metrics. We continue to build our programming with you in mind, bringing thought-provoking touring exhibits like *Earth Matters: Rethink the Future* and the upcoming *Skin: Evolving Armor, Living Identity* to our region. Visits to our Gallery and OtterBox Digital Dome Theater are surpassing 100,000 guests annually. We are deeply engaged with our youth community through our Sonic Spotlight and FCMoD Squad programs. We are continually inspired by our ongoing work with local communities through our Día de Muertos programming, ISTAR Connections, and ISAAC partnership. Our focus on mental health and wellness manifests in annual programs like the Teen Self Care Fair, the Human Library, and the Autism Resource Fair. Visitor numbers are up, engagement is strong, and we've got big things planned for 2024 and beyond.

On behalf of the entire FCMoD community - a heartfelt Thank You for your ongoing support!

We look forward to partnering with you to create engaging experiences, a healthful community, and meaningful connections for many years to come!

Cheryl Donaldson, Co-Executive Director

Laura Valdez, Co-Executive Director





HEALTH, WELLNESS & OPPORTUNITY

More than ever, we are focused on the mental health and well-being of our community through programs like our Teen Self Care Fair, FCMoD Squad and Sonic Spotlight. Simply by having our doors open, we offer a respite for people of all ages to have a safe, fun place to learn, connect, and grow. By co-creating programs that foster spaces of belonging and inclusion, we help inspire youth toward direct service while connecting people to valuable programs and resources. These efforts are all interconnected and lean on each other to create diverse, yet cohesive, experiences.



TEEN SELF CARE FAIR

FCMoD began partnering in 2021 with Imagine Zero Coalition and Alliance for Suicide Prevention to host the Teen Self-Care Fair. More than 20 community partners come together to share information about mental health resources and self-care techniques with Larimer County teens. Around 600 teens and adult caregivers engage annually in sessions focused on interactive music, breakdancing, aerial silks, yoga and medieval longswords(!).





As part of Poudre School District's **YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH SUMMIT**, FCMoD hosted more than 175 cross-sector community leaders and teens to address critical mental health challenges facing our youngest generation. Students grades 6-12 identified four areas for community solutions that include creating more spaces of belonging, destigmatizing the ask for help, greater access to resources, and more training for students. FCMoD recently received an impact award from PSD for our continued work in mental health and wellness. There is still so much work to be done and many exciting opportunities ahead!



FCMoD SQUAD: The FCMoD Squad is a youth advisory board of individuals ages 15-19 from across the Front Range. The program provides hands-on experience and education working with the local music community while developing lifelong skills. *FCMoD Squad* members review and judge entries for music competitions and events like Sonic Spotlight, participate in college level-presentations and discussions, and curate stages like FoCoMX. They represent the voice and influence of our emerging youth, and we are fortunate to be able to learn from their perspectives. Nearly 30 teens have participated in the program since its inception with around 2,000 hours of shared experiences.





SONIC SPOTLIGHT

FCMoD joined forces with The Music District and 105.5 Colorado Sound in 2020 to launch *Sonic Spotlight*. This music showcase and competition supports Northern Colorado's 22 and younger music scene by giving emerging artists the opportunity to perform original music, connect with peers and industry professionals, and share their creativity with the world. Mark your calendars for December to experience our region's best youth talent during the inspiring showcase finale!

PHOTO CREDIT: Backstage Flash

SONIC SPOTLIGHT BY THE NUMBERS

Since 2020:

- 107 Applications from individual artists and bands
- 12 Industry professionals participated as judges
- 60 Hours of music recording and mixing at FCMoD
- 38 Supporting industry partners make Sonic Spotlight happen!





MUSIC INDUSTRY NIGHT



Music Industry Night is a quarterly gathering where local musicians and peers meet, eat, and throw down some beats. This event started during the pandemic, and was devised as a way for musicians to network and share best practices during a challenging time in the music industry. It's been a wildly popular collaboration with our partners such as FoCoMA and has grown beyond the initial vision into a much-anticipated brainstorm and jam session every quarter.

MUSIC INDUSTRY NIGHT BY THE NUMBERS

*Since 2020: **9** events, **20** supporting partners, participation of more than **600** musicians, **5** jam sessions, including one on the FCMoD's roof!*





AUTISM RESOURCE FAIR



Since 2018 FCMoD has grown the Autism Resource Fair into a full-museum experience that connects the neurodiverse community with many regional service providers and others in the community. Guest speakers like Dr. Temple Grandin and panelists living on the spectrum help shed light on challenges faced and opportunities for support and connection.

AUTISM RESOURCE FAIR BY THE NUMBERS

*Since 2022: **20** community partners and **600** participants joined by Dr. Temple Grandin each year as keynote speaker*





COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

We continue to develop new connections while deepening our commitment to partnering with the many diverse peoples and cultures who make up our community through programs like the *Summer Mobile Program*, *ISTAR*, *Noches en Familia at the Museum* and our work with *ISAAC* fellows.

“ This is easily one of my favorite places to go in Fort Collins. We have a family membership, and my kids (ages 4, 6, and 9) love it. We’ve been going for several years. It’s very clean, and it activates good critical thinking for kids. As a bonus, the museum does a lot of amazing community work for Fort Collins and hosts many groups and events. I’ve been really impressed by all that they do. ” -Google Review



SUMMER MOBILE PROGRAM



The Summer Mobile Program is a traveling, bilingual community engagement partnership between FCMoD, the Fort Collins Bookmobile, Poudre Libraries, Larimer 4H, Food Bank of Larimer County and the City of Fort Collins. In summer 2023, the Summer Mobile Program introduced Evie, the fully electric, plugin mobile library. Since 2021, this traveling road show has continued summer learning by bringing lunch, STEAM activities, books, crafts, and fun to more than 2,400 participants in 8 neighborhoods. We've covered hundreds of miles and met limitless smiles with plans to expand in the coming years.





ISTAR



FCMoD recently received a TILT Award for Exceptional Achievement in Service-Learning (Community Partner) from Colorado State University for our role in the ISTAR (**Indigenous, Science, Technology, Arts and Resilience**) program. ISTAR started in 2020 with a one-week summer camp and is now a year-round program that includes a two-week summer camp, after school support through ISTAR Connections, and quarterly gatherings that connect Native American and Indigenous students and their families with Native science, technology and art. ISTAR is a deeply collaborative community effort, and we are honored to play a supportive role.



FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM WITH ISAAC



The ISAAC Fellowship Program connects youth from immigrant communities with resources and experience to help prepare for future work/life responsibilities. This program came about through a partnership with ISAAC NoCo, or Interfaith Solidarity and Accompaniment Coalition of Northern Colorado. During the summers of 2022 and 2023, FCMoD hosted six teens for a total of 354 fellowship hours. From managing collections to sharing marketing ideas and so much more, the Fellows have learned important professional skills and left a meaningful legacy with the museum. We can't wait to welcome the next cohort!





NOCHES EN FAMILIA AT THE MUSEUM



Noches en Familia at the Museum is a quarterly, bilingual program hosted at FCMoD that connects hundreds of community members with Latinx culture through Gallery experiences, stories, music, food, crafts, games, and good times! The 2023 *Concierto de Amistad* (Friendship Concert) featured classic ballads from Spanish-speaking countries, prompting many in the crowd to sing along. We are grateful to our founding partner, Poudre Libraries, others such as ISAAC, and the many community members who co-create this program at the museum. We have reached hundreds of community members since the program began. **¡Comunidad!**





BUILDING FOR A BRIGHTER FUTURE

After several years navigating the challenging impacts of COVID-19, FCMoD entered our 10th year stronger than ever. We welcomed our millionth visitor, brought all museum operating areas back online, and saw visitation return to pre-pandemic levels. We partnered with a record number of community organizations to create deeply relevant programs, experiences, and exhibits for even greater dimensions of our Northern Colorado community. We reconfigured our staff team with an eye toward optimizing how we serve the community and adapt to its needs, while working to strategically invest in compensation and culture to ensure a competitive, thriving workforce. As we continue to calibrate our greatest areas of impact, one thing remains core to FCMoD:

TO SERVE AS A TRUSTED COMMUNITY HUB FOR ALL.



SPECIAL EXHIBITIONS



Since 2020, we have brought four nationally renowned touring exhibits to our region: *Mental Health: Mind Matters* (x2), *Food for Thought*, *Life in One Cubic Foot*, and *Earth Matters*. These installations bring the world's foremost museum experiences to our collective front door. In the next three years we will host artists from Mexico City in our *Alebrije* exhibit, take a deep dive into *Skin: Living Armor Evolving Identity* and the cultural impact of *The Bias Inside Us*, and we will explore the world's flora and fauna in *Nature All Around Us*. To allow for the greatest possible access, all traveling exhibits are now included free with admission and will be presented in both English and Spanish.

**HEALING.
SANACIÓN.
GUÉRISON.**

LET'S CONTINUE THE CONVERSATION.
The Mental Health: Mind Matters exhibit aims to build greater understanding of the importance of mental health and create a safe space for meaningful conversations about mental illness.



SEPTEMBER 25 - JANUARY 2



**¿CÓMO TE
SIENTES EL
DÍA DE HOY?**

HABLEMOS SOBRE SALUD MENTAL.
Salud Mental: Asuntos de la Mente es una exhibición innovadora que busca combatir un mayor estigma hacia quienes se enfrentan a la salud mental, creando un espacio seguro para hacer conversaciones fundamentales sobre enfermedades mentales.



SEPTIEMBRE 25 - ENERO 2



**LET'S
CONTINUE
THE
CONVERSATION.**

HOW ARE YOU FEELING TODAY?

The Mental Health: Mind Matters exhibit aims to build greater understanding of the importance of mental health and create a safe space for meaningful conversations about mental illness.



SEPTEMBER 25 - JANUARY 2



FOOD for THOUGHT

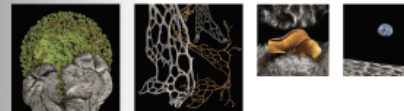
MICRO VIEWS OF SUSTENANCE: THREATS AND PROSPECTS

Photomontages by Robert Dash

ALIMENTANDO IDEAS

MICROVISTAS DEL SUSTENTO: AMENAZAS Y POSIBILIDADES

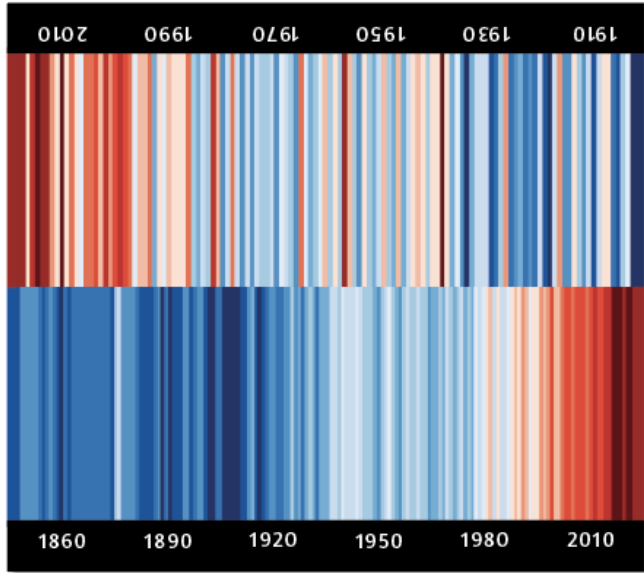
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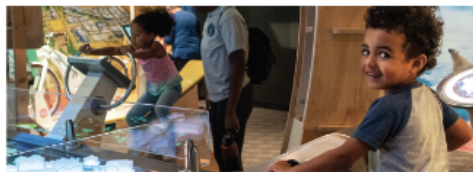
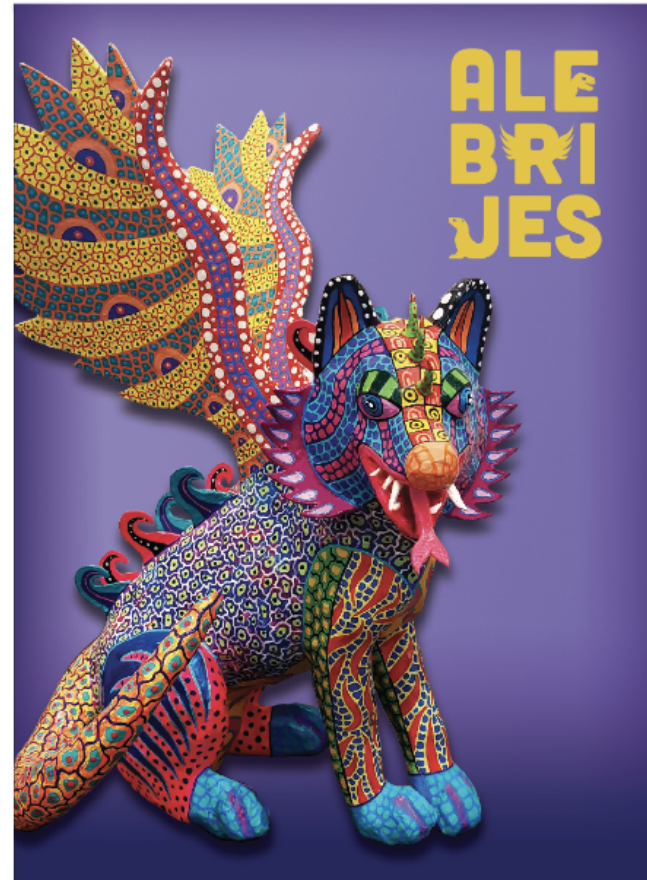
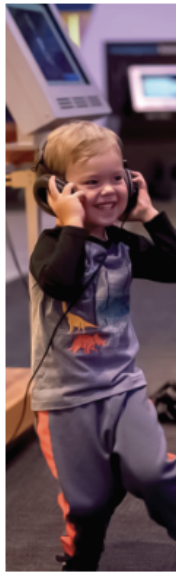
fcmod.org/FoodForThought



JUNE 18 - SEPTEMBER 4



#ShowYourStripes, by Professor Ed Hawkins (University of Reading)





DÍA DE MUERTOS

The Día de Muertos celebration is a time where families gather to commemorate their loved ones by creating meaningful altars thoughtfully decorated with memories and traditional elements such as food, flowers, photographs, and *calaveritas*, with the belief that souls return to visit from the land of the dead. The Aztec civilization honored their deceased ones with rituals during the harvest season, and they viewed death as a beginning of a new life or a new cycle, because death did not represent an absence, but a living presence. Since 2018, and with an ongoing collaboration with Poudre Libraries and other organizations, FCMoD has been honoring the Día de Muertos celebration by participating in public events and by hosting community-curated exhibitions, where members of the area are invited to create an Aztec *ofrenda* as well as mini altars, to bring to life the memories of their departed. Thousands of people have participated in the celebration over the years with more than 100 altars presented at the museum. We are truly honored and very grateful to host this special exhibition every year.





THE HUMAN LIBRARY

THERE'S A LIBRARY WHERE PEOPLE ARE PUBLISHED AS OPEN BOOKS FOR NON-JUDGMENTAL CONVERSATIONS.

Visit the Human Library

being me in fort collins. unjudge someone. **HUMAN LIBRARY**

HAY UNA BIBLIOTECA EN DONDE LAS PERSONAS SE CONVIERTEN EN LIBROS ABIERTOS PARA CONVERSACIONES LIBRES DE PREJUICIOS.

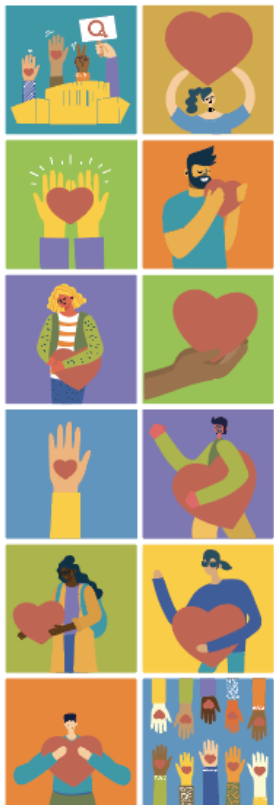
siendo yo en fort collins. desjuza a alguien. **BIBLIOTECA HUMANA**

From immigration to racism to overcoming addiction, 25 fearless Human Books volunteered to share their stories with more than 130 community Readers as part of the inaugural Human Library project. By sharing stories of bias and intolerance, the aim is to challenge prejudices and promote understanding of differences - to "unjudge" a human book by its cover. This powerful event was made possible in partnership with the City of Fort Collins' Human Relations Commission, Office of Equity and Inclusion, and Poudre Libraries.





VOLUNTEER PROGRAM



We are very fortunate to have the support of 118 deeply talented and committed volunteers. We are especially grateful to work with a dozen volunteers from our partnership with SHINE, a local organization providing adults with disabilities enriching experiences in the community. These fine folks host events on the gallery floor twice a month and are an important part of our team!

We are grateful for the many ways in which we partner with OtterBox – especially for the time and volunteers they bring twice a year to clean the museum top to bottom!

“It’s been so meaningful to be a part of this community and get to know our volunteers and what makes them tick. It always puts a smile on my face seeing them in action and sharing their skills and knowledge. I started out as a volunteer myself, and it’s amazing being on the other side of it now and watching people fall in love with FCMoD just like I did.”

–Jessica Garfio, Volunteer Coordinator, FCMoD





ARCHIVE & COLLECTIONS



With support from our partners at the City of Fort Collins, we recently updated storage space in our Archive & Collections, helping to preserve more than 40,000 three-dimensional objects and over 400,000 archival records, which include photographs, oral histories, maps, and articles. We have been fortunate to nearly double our pool of archive volunteers from eight to 15 in 2022, a team who added more than 1,300 new photos to our database last year, bringing the total to 51,000 online images. Archive staff supported over 800 patron requests last year and took in a diversity of historic collections from the Fort Collins Children's Theatre to the Foothills Peace Center.



"I love seeing how visitors find themselves in the Archive all the time, through historic photos of where they live, their old high school yearbooks, oral histories of family members, and so much more. I also love how no day is the same in the Archive – we really never know what questions we'll be asked, stories we'll hear, or donations of local treasures we'll receive day to day." –Lesley Struc, Curator of the Archive, FCMoD





ACCESS THROUGH MEMBERSHIP



Member support is crucial to our success and membership numbers continue to rise with more than 3,200 current supporting memberships, 527 Early Childhood members and 87 Community Circle members. Through our Community Circle program, FCMoD has partnered with social service providers, Title I Schools and local nonprofits to reach community members experiencing barriers including poverty, physical and mental health, and economic instability.

We offer 50 percent and 100 percent scholarship memberships to individuals or families who indicate need.





FCMoD BY THE NUMBERS



Current Members: 3,200+



Early Childhood Members: 527



Community Circle Memberships: 87



Free or Discounted Memberships: 20% of Total Members



Visitors in 2022: 103,000



Seven sponsored free days in last 12 months



Historical Documents in Archive: 400,000+



Historical Objects in the Collections: 40,000+





FCMoD BY THE NUMBERS



Total Volunteers: 118



Number of school trip visits: 99 school groups totaling more than 6,000 guests!



Number of Bands who have performed onsite: 40ish local and touring



Number of grants received since beginning of 2022: 27



Number of Animals onsite (including individual bees) 20,000+



More than 900 dome shows in the last 12 months!



Total Visitors: 1 million + and growing!





VISITATION

- **47% of visitors from Fort Collins**
- **53% of visitors from outside of Fort Collins**
- **224 International Visitors**
- **25% of visitors access museum for free through Opportunity Program**
- **Hosted 1,071 summer campers from 18 Denver Metro YMCA locations**
- **Engaged with 14 Title 1 schools with around 840 free student visits**





BUILDING A BRIGHTER FUTURE

- **\$3.5 Million 2023 Combined Budget**
- **56 Museum Staff Members**
- **11 Board Members**
- **12 Current MoD Squad Members**
- **118 Volunteers**
- **256 Donors**





On behalf of the entire FCMoD community – a heartfelt

Thank You

for your ongoing support!



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A collaborative partnership between City of Fort Collins and Fort Collins Museum of Discovery, Nonprofit Partner