## walking mountains science center

# 2016 Annual Report



#### walking mountains science center

To awaken a sense of

### wonder and inspire

### environmental stewardship

and sustainability through

natural science education

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Kathy Borgen Phil Brodsky Alan Danson **Buck Elliott** Holly Elliot

# Another Year

JOWIK

Dear Friends.

We are pleased to share our annual report for fiscal year 2016 (July 1, 2015 – June 30, 2016). It has been another year of tremendous growth and achievement at Walking Mountains Science Center!

Every week brings a new level of engagement in the community across all of our program areas: Youth, Community, and Sustainability & Stewardship.

Collaborations are the cornerstone of our success, and we entered into an important partnership this year with local organizations in a planning effort funded by Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO). The Inspire *Initiative* is a five-year strategy aimed at inspiring kids to get outside and appreciate the great outdoors. Ultimately, this engagement will lead to further stewardship of our beautiful mountain community.

Our partnership with Eagle County Schools continues to grow, and research is showing that our outdoor, experiential science programs are having a positive impact on students' interest in and knowledge about science-related topics, as well as the development of critical thinking skills that are important for longterm success.

Walking Mountains is entering a new phase of expansion to meet the high demand for our programs. We are excited to have purchased 224 acres along Sweetwater Creek near Dotsero that will allow for significant program expansion to serve the many students in Eagle and Gypsum, and allow all local students to experience the diverse topography along the Colorado River through field science programs and camps.

While we can tout our programs, the truth is they would not be embraced by so many people if not for our outstanding staff. We were honored and humbled to be named the Best Place to Work by the Vail Valley Partnership, and as President and Board Chair, this distinction makes us incredibly proud.

We cannot accomplish any of this without you - our loyal and dedicated donors and partners.

Thank you for your steadfast support of our mission, and we look forward to all that lies ahead in the coming year and beyond!

With best regards,

motion Feder lot

Markian Feduschak President

Pat Tiene

Pat Tierney Board Chair

# Expansion

In July 2015, Walking Mountains purchased 224 acres of property along Sweetwater Creek near Dotsero, CO from Vail Mountain School. This expansion will provide local students and our community increased access to educational programming and outdoor experiences on this diverse land.

"Imagine a child....being able to sleep under the stars at the Sweetwater campus."

Ann Smead, key visionary for the Sweetwater property acquisition



# **Program Snapshot**

# over



Youth Programs **Connecting Eagle County** students with the natural world



Sustainability & Stewardship Programs

Providing the tools for individuals, businesses, schools, and communities to be environmental stewards





**Community Programs** 

Inspiring and fostering a connection to the natural world for locals and visitors

# Youth Programs

- School Field Science Programs
- Girls in Science
- STEM Leadership Academy • Summer Science Camps • Avon In-School

"We love that Walking Mountains" teaches environmental stewardship. We also love that it gets our kid outside and away from electronics. And our child loves the programs!"

Summer Camp Parent





4958

91%

of participating students plan to participate in the STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering & Math) Leadership Academy again during the next academic year

of students cared more about having a clean environment after participating in one of our

> of parents reported an increase in campers' attitudes towards the outdoors after participating in a Summer Science Camp

# Community Programs

Walking Mountains Science Center, Avon
Nature Discovery Center, Vail Mountain
Vail Nature Center, Vail
Naturalist Guided Walks, Hikes & Snowshoes
Adult Workshops & Lectures
Children Pre-K Programs

"The staff was absolutely wonderful and everyone appreciated their knowledge and enthusiasm!! They not only taught us so much about the flowers and nature up on the mountain, but gave everyone such a great overview of the wilderness areas. They had us stop and soak in all the beauty that we sometimes take for granted!"

Free Nature Walk Participant



100%

of families surveyed would participate in another Nature Tykes or EarthKeepers program again in the future

**55**,**6**,**26** people reached (17.6% increase over last year)

92%

of parents report that 6 months after a program their child is still asking questions about their surrounding environment

3,490

1,399

miles traveled with guests on all our hikes, walks and snowshoe tours



# **Sustainability** & Stewardship Programs

• Actively Green • Eco-Schools • Energy Smart Colorado • Landscape Stewardship • Sustainable Film Series · Zero Waste Sustainable Destination Climate Action Plan

"Actively Green translates to taking care of the environment, being conscious of what we do, how it will affect our Earth in the coming years, and to 'actively' keep this actively effort going."

Lori Ann Barnes. Director of Vail Public Library



Through our Energy Smart Colorado program, we helped reduce 1,641 metric tons of carbon through energy improvements with local businesses and homeowners. That is equivalent to 273 cars off the road, or to powering 197 homes for a year!

**Zero Waste events** diverted 796

to be recycled or composted







The Eco-Schools Program helped 4 schools save \$12,000 on their energy bills over two years!

# ► 34,104 people reached

# Special Events

EdVenture

A program series that offers our donors engaging experiences that combine outdoor exploration of the natural environment with educational components in a social setting. Recent EdVenture events included 'Off the Beaten Path' at the Vail Nature Center with lunch at Larkspur, and a private reception with the film stars of 'Racing Extinction' before the screening.



A Taste of Nature

On July 7, 2015, the *Taste of Nature* gala achieved new levels of success, hosting 350 people on our Avon campus and raising more than \$450,000 for our natural science education programs. The evening also celebrated several friends of Walking Mountains: Kelly and Sam Bronfman were honored with the Reach for the Peak Award for their longtime dedication to conservation and education, Alix and Hans Berglund received the Founder's Stewardship Award for their commitment to environmental stewardship in the community.



Kelly & Sam Bronfman

"We couldn't be more proud to have been involved with Walking Mountains and know that today's youth and tomorrow's leaders are receiving exceptional science education and are being inspired to respect and protect our natural world."

Hans & Alix Berglund

"From the small Gore Range Natural Science School in Red Cliff, to this amazing campus, Walking Mountains Science Center epitomizes a healthy organization that is able to expand and adapt to current and future needs."



"The Science Center in Avon is absolutely beautiful with educational, interactive exhibits for children and short nature trails for all. Year-round programming offers something for everyone. Whether you live here or are visiting, Walking Mountains is a must!"

Walking Mountains Science **Center** Visitor



This list includes contributions made from July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016.

Individual, Foundation, Government and Corporate Donors Directors (\$50,000 +) Kathy Borgen Kelly and Sam Bronfman Eagle County Energy Outreach Colorado Craig Foley Harvey Family Foundation Jennifer and Philip Maritz Tony and Barbie Mayer National Forest Foundation Pam and Ben Peternell The lay Precourt Family Ann Smead and Michael Byram Pat Tierney and Argie Ligeros

#### Ambassadors (\$25,000 +)

Kathy and Bjorn Borgen **Borgen Family Foundation** Pete and Pat Frechette George Family Foundation Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO) Mike and Karen Herman Holy Cross Energy The Scrooby Foundation Sidney E. Frank Foundation -Colorado Fund The Tang Family Vail Resorts

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#### Visionaries (\$5,000 +)

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Anonymous

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Naturalists (\$500 +)

Active Energies, Inc. Alpine Collision Maris Berg Steve and Kristen Bertuglia Fritz and Christy Bratschie Priscilla Brewster Debbie and Peter Brill Michael and Karen Brisch **Richard and Suzanne Bross** Maryalice Cheney and Scott Goldman Richard Cleveland and Kathleen Langenwalter Susan and Michael Coleman Alan and Silvia Danson Matt and Jane Donovan lames and lanet Dulin Fredrick and Kathleen Eck Anne Esson David and Kathy Ferguson lim and Cookie Flaum Barbara and Paul Flowers Bev and Philip Freedman Robert and Helen Fritch Tom and Sandy Gaylord Ann and William George

Anita and Steve Gilbert Megan Gilman and Jason Weingast Stuart and Rebecca Green Andrew and Lynn Kaufman Curtis and lennifer Krizek Candace Wilhelmsen and Ted Leach lames and Julie Maurer MISTRAS Group, Inc. Mountain Chevrolet Peggy Nicholls Adam and Kalie Palmer Patagonia Nancy and Douglas Patton Dick and Mary Pownall Gerald and Nancy Rose Douglas and Gayle Schwartz David and lody Smith Tammy Schiff and John Stearns Mary and Sherwood Stockwell Lois and John Van Deusen Thomas and Susan Washing Steven and Pamela Wexler

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Molly Cabe

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Nadine Davis

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Kathy Carlson

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Fox Hot Tubs Billiards and Games Ingegerd Fränberg and Rol Hamelin Kristin and Tony Friel Miriam and Morris Futernick Zane Gearhart Andrea and Mike Glass Stacey Goehring Kurt and Mary Haserodt Anne Hintz Diane and Robert Holmes Monika Hornbostel Elyse and Taggart Howard Leslie Isom Susanne and Ted Johnson Natalie Joseph Meggen Kirkham Cheryl Kohn and Andrew Edwards Andrea and Phil Koski lames Landis Helena and Peter Leslie Rob LeVine Susan Lowe Don and Susan Maclachlan Diana Mathias ludy McBride and Bruce Baumgartner Tom and Marcia McCalden Marci and Patrick McCalley Linda McKinney Donald McMahan and Harrel Lawrence Mary Angela and Jeff Meyer Teresa Michel Novus Autoglass Tanju and Tina Obut Heather Olson and Glenn Crotty Michael and Iill O'Meara Suzanne Padilla Alan and Kim Parnass Pazzo's West Inc. Stephen and Angela Penrose Sue and Ken Petracek Carolyn and Brian Reihe Kerry and Justin Roach Anne Roberts Nathan and Ruth Robinett Gussie Ross Frederick and Jan Sackbauer Terri and Pete Scales Carole Schragen Garrett and Betty Jean Smith lames and Barbara Spiker losef Staufer Madeline and Leslie Stern ludith and Bob Stiber Pamela Stockwell and Wayne Katsumata C| and |essica Tenner

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#### In-Kind Partners

Alexander & Associates Network Consulting Avon Liquor Berglund Architects, LLC Bonfire Brewing, LLC Boxcar Restaurant Sunny Brodsky By Nature Gallery Colorful Cooking Dana Bronfman Fly Fishing Outfitters in Avon Foods of Vail Graceful Aging Vail lay Mahoney KRM Consultants, Inc. Organic Housekeepers Paragon Guides Rick Travers & Wear Travers Perkins LLC

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Legacy Donors Recognized for making a planned gift or financial endowment to support sustainability and science education in our community. Karen Berndt Montine Hansl Anthony and Teressa Perry Pam and Ben Peternell Susan and Al Pollack Sherwood and Mary Stockwell Laura Tumperi

**Cornerstone Donors** Recognized for their cumulative subbort

of science and sustainability education. Mount Elbert Society (\$1 million +) Kathy and Biorn Borgen Pete and Pat Frechette Penny and Bill George Pam and Ben Peternell The Jay Precourt Family The Tang Family

#### Mount Massive Society (\$500,000 +)

Elana Amsterdam and Rob Katz Borgen Family Foundation Kelly and Sam Bronfman Craig Foley Gates Family Foundation Tony and Barbie Mayer Ann Smead and Michael Byram

#### Mount Harvard Society (\$250,000 +)

Eagle County Buck and Holly Elliott George Family Foundation Cynthia and Peter Kellogg Patrick Tierney and Argie Ligeros Philip and Jennifer Maritz Patrick and Tricia McConathy Amanda Precourt Amy and Jay Regan Vail Resorts

#### La Plata Peak Society (\$100,000 +)

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#### Blanca Peak Society (\$50,000 +)

Albert Beedie and Joyce Bennis Alix and Hans Berglund Karen Berndt Priscilla Brewster Dorothy Browning Colorado Energy Office Steven and Amy Cover Alan and Silvia Danson El Pomar Foundation Rose and George Gillett James and Mary Hagen Greg and Jane Johnson Tara and Bob Levine Paul and Susie Lyons Suzanne and Patrick McGee Iulie Noolan Susan and Al Pollack Steven and Carolyn Pope Michie Slaughter Slifer, Smith, and Frampton Foundation The Perot Foundation The Scrooby Foundation Diane Tope and Richard Patriacca Town of Vail Carroll Tyler Thomas and Emily Weisel William G. McGowan Charitable Fund.Inc. Women's Foundation of Colorado

#### **Statement of Financial Position**

#### Assets

Current Assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$461,956	
Restricted cash held for others	4,637	
Investments	59,712	
Accounts/Pledges receivable 577		
Bookstore inventory	34,693	
Other	33,197	
Total Current Assets	\$1,171,891	
Non Current Assets		
Pledges receivable	\$1,073,420	
Restricted investments I,040,918		
Total Non Current Assets \$2,114,33		
Iotal Non Current Assets	\$2,114,338	
Fixed Assets	\$2,114,338	
	\$ <b>2,114,338</b> \$4,450,000	
Fixed Assets	.,,,	
Fixed Assets Land	\$4,450,000	
<b>Fixed Assets</b> Land Building	\$4,450,000 7,609,716	
<b>Fixed Assets</b> Land Building Equipment	\$4,450,000 7,609,716 61,485	
Fixed Assets Land Building Equipment Furniture and fixtures	\$4,450,000 7,609,716 61,485 728,321	
Fixed Assets Land Building Equipment Furniture and fixtures Vehicle	\$4,450,000 7,609,716 61,485 728,321 68,366	
Fixed Assets Land Building Equipment Furniture and fixtures Vehicle Construction in progress	\$4,450,000 7,609,716 61,485 728,321 68,366 74,586	

\$14,877,395

#### Total Assets

#### Liabilities and Net Assets

Current Liabilities	
Accounts payable	\$112,783
Accrued payroll	76,293
Deferred revenue	366,083
Held for others	4,637
Current portion of notes payable	7,422
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>	\$567,218
Non Current Liabilities	
Notes payable	\$600,764
Total Non Current Liabilities	\$600,764
Total Liabilities	\$1,167,982
Net Assets	
Net investment in fixed assets	\$10,982,980
Unrestricted	200,277
Temporarily restricted	1,485,238
Permanently restricted	1,040,918
Total Net Assets	\$13,709,413
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$14,877,395

#### **Statement of Cash Flows**

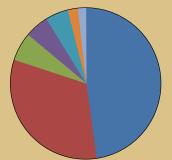
#### Cash Flows from Operating Activities

Cash received from contributions, grants & special events Cash received for program fees & tuition Cash received from other and interest Cash paid to employees Cash paid for interest Cash paid for goods and services	\$2,815,914 1,026,414 45,391 (1,652,044) (35,803) (953,636)	
Net Cash Provided by Operating Activities	\$1,246,236	
Cash Flows from Financing Activities Principal payments on debt Cash received from debt issuance Cash drawn on line of credit Cash repaid on line of credit	\$(306,353) 541,866 16,503 (16,503)	
Net Cash (Used) by Financing Activities	\$235,513	
<b>Cash Flows from Investing Activities</b> Payments for purchase of property & equipment Cash paid to purchase investments	\$(712,594) (1,000,918)	
Net Cash Provided (Used) by Investing Activities	(\$1,713,512)	
Net Change in Cash Cash and Cash Equivalents – Beginning of Year Cash and Cash Equivalents – End of Year	(\$231,763) \$698,356 \$466,593	
Reconciliation to Cash on Statement of Financial Position		
Cash and cash equivalents Cash held for others	\$461,956 4,637	
Reconciliation of Operating Income (Loss) to Net Cash Provided By Operating Activities	\$466,593	
Operating income (loss) Adjustments	\$1,975,163	
Depreciation expense	\$332,075	
(Gain) loss on sale of asset	1,874	
Donate fixed assets	(29,983) (42,461)	
Unrealized (gain) loss on investments (Increase) decrease in accounts receivable	(42,461) 66,382	
(Increase) decrease in pledges receivable	(1,281,863)	
(Increase) decrease in bookstore inventory	(14,138)	
(Increase) decrease in other current assets	16,425	
Increase (decrease) in accounts payable	75,015	
Increase (decrease) in accrued payroll	39,910	
Increase (decrease) in deferred revenue	116,026	
Increase (decrease) in infrastructure escrow	(8,189)	
Total Adjustments	(\$728,927)	
Net Cash Provided by Operating Activities	\$1,246,236	

#### Income Statement

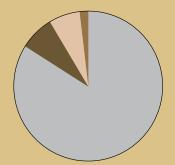
<b>Operating Income (Los</b>	s):		
Revenues	FY 2016	FY 2015	
Individuals	\$3,699,144	\$974,140	
Foundations	169,490	222,797	
In - Kind	170,777	70,586	
Corporate Gifts	134,248	146,942	
Government	51,757	43,270	
Tuition & Program Fees	917,127	790,721	
Interest Income	42,870	3,493	
Bookstore Sales	36,696		
Other	8,286	33,625	
Total Revenues	\$5,230,395	\$2,285,573	
Expenses			
Programs	\$2,724,207	\$2,062,912	
	<i>\_,r _ i,207</i>	<b>φΖ,00Ζ,71Ζ</b>	
Operations	217,748	174,581	
Operations Fundraising			
•	217,748	174,581	
Fundraising	217,748 313,277	174,581 246,794	
Fundraising Total Expenses	217,748 313,277 <b>\$3,255,232</b>	174,581 246,794 <b>\$2,484,287</b>	
Fundraising Total Expenses	217,748 313,277 <b>\$3,255,232</b>	174,581 246,794 <b>\$2,484,287</b>	
Fundraising Total Expenses Operating Income (Loss)	217,748 313,277 \$3,255,232 \$1,975,163	174,581 246,794 <b>\$2,484,287</b> (\$198,714)	

The income statement includes revenue and expenses for all Walking Mountains activities, including our capital campaign, the expansion of the science center campus and depreciation. The pie charts to the right reflect fiscal year 2016 expenses and revenues only related to annual educational activities. The financial statements of Walking Mountains Science Center for the period ending June 30, 2016 were audited by McMahan and Associates, independent certified public accountants. A copy of the complete audit report is available upon request.



FY 2016 O	perating <b>R</b>	levenues
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Individuals	48%
Tuition & Program Fees	33%
Foundations	6%
In - Kind	5%
Corporate Gifts	5%
Government	2%
Other	2%



#### FY 2016 Operating Expenses

Programs	84%
Operations	7%
Annual Fundraising	7%
Special Events	2%



"I love working at a place that truly values education, the community, and the environment. It means a lot to me to be doing work that aligns with my personal values and allows me to feel like I'm doing something positive every day."

ail Valley Partnership's

**13TH ANNUAL SUCCESS AWARDS** Best Place to Work

#### WINNER 2015

"We have an amazing mission... It's easy to be motivated to do my job when I know my work is fulfilling this mission. The organization as a whole supports the value of family and a sense of community."



### walking mountains<sup>•</sup> science center

P.O. Box 9469 318 Walking Mountains Lane Avon, Colorado 81620 970.827.9725



Walking Mountains Science Center operates under a special use permit from the White River National Forest and is an equal opportunity service provider. All or part of this operation is conducted on Public Lands under special permit from the U.S. Bureau of Land Management.

PHOTO CREDITS: Walking Mountains Science Center and Rick Spitzer