

CAMBRIDGE SCIENCE CENTRE

Cambridge Science Centre

Annual Review 2023

CEO Statement



John Bull
CEO



Cambridge Science Centre is a purpose driven organisation. We exist to increase access to STEM. Our Vision for the future sees:

A future where all young people can enjoy, explore and shape a better world through STEM.

Our pursuit of equity drives us to support all young people, particularly those excluded from the life-enhancing opportunities STEM offers – whether due to gender, ethnic or economic background, geography, or any other reason. Our mission is to change the trajectory of young people's lives through inspiring and transformative hands-on encounters with STEM.

We're proud to be experimental and innovative, and work with partners and academics to showcase cutting-edge science and measure the impact we've had upon young people.

In 2023, we delivered an entirely new paradigm for the Science Centre – one that involved taking over underused High Street facilities and transforming them into pop-up Science Centres for the benefit of some of the region's most underserved young people. As ever, we can only do this work with the support of like-minded individuals and organisations who share our commitment to positive change.

I'd like to thank those of you already supporting us and ask those who might be encountering us for the first time to consider joining our coalition to strengthen our reach and ensure all young people have the chance to benefit from STEM opportunities.

To co-develop & deliver transformational STEM experiences for children and the people in their lives.

Chairman Statement



David Cleevely
CHAIR, BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Reflecting on the past year, I'm proud of the progress we've made at Cambridge Science Centre. Our mission remains clear: to make STEM accessible to all, shaping a future where every young person can engage with science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.





We're committed to equity, striving to support marginalized youth in unlocking the opportunities STEM offers. These experiences can spark interest, open doors, and shape futures.

We've launched bold initiatives, like 'STEM in the Fens', which will run again in 2024, providing young people with ongoing exposure to STEM activities. Repeated engagements foster a lasting interest in STEM, potentially influencing their academic and career paths.

I want to thank our sponsors, Executive Council, and supporters for their invaluable contributions. To those new to our work, I invite you to join us in expanding our reach, ensuring every young person benefits from STEM.

As we look ahead to 2024, let's continue to inspire, innovate, and create a future where every child has the opportunity to explore the world of STEM.

Our Impact



We know that a wider and deeper engagement with STEM is important for young people and society as a whole. Ongoing research is building an understanding of the ways that youth engagement can be supported and barriers overcome. At Cambridge Science Centre, we build our approach around data that shows:

- A young person's STEM aspirations are stable from age 10. If the first interventions are in secondary school, it is often "too little, too late."
- A positive emotional connection is the primary driver for people pursuing lifelong STEM learning.
- Inequalities evident across society prevent access to STEM opportunities. STEM educators need to create opportunities to help overcome barriers for those who need additional support.

We work with young people of all ages, tailoring our interventions to achieve maximum impact and to support the development of a lifelong positive association with STEM.

	STEM Tots (0-6)	STEM Kids (7-13)	STEM Teens (14+)
IMPACT	– Build Foundational Learning Behaviours	– STEM is 'for me'	– Showcase a bright future for those engaged in STEM
	– Support Cognitive Development	– Build Science Literacy and Attitudes	– Challenge perceptions of STEM as difficult
	– Build positive relationships around STEM	– Challenge broad misconceptions of STEM	– Encourage awareness that STEM is interesting and creative



We have two principal tools for delivering this impact, which we combine into endless variations based on the needs of our audiences. They are:

Our Activations: Transformational experiences delivered by our skilled team of Science Communicators, often in partnership with STEM practitioners.

These consist of hand-crafted shows, workshops, discussions, experiments, and in-depth STEM Clubs designed to provoke positive emotional responses.

Our Environments: Accessible, comfortable, and enjoyable spaces created on the doorstep of our communities, filled with participatory exhibits. We offer a space to build skills and experiment without risk.



Our New Science Centre



2024 will see the inauguration of an entirely new Science Centre venue at Cambridge Science Park. With over 20 exhibits focusing on core STEM skills, we'll be extending invitations to the young people of Cambridgeshire to join our community of active learners.

We are tremendously excited about the opportunities the Centre will bring for a deeper impact among our audiences. Situated on the northern side of central Cambridge, we will be in close proximity to some of the most underserved communities, thereby enhancing our opportunities for partnerships. Additionally, we will be adjacent to innovative STEM organisations eager to broaden access.

Every weekday afternoon will be dedicated to working with young people who face additional barriers to engaging with STEM. We will host clubs and events that aim to establish the Centre as a vibrant hub of community activity.

Supported by new partnerships with Trinity College, University of Cambridge, Brockton Everlast, LifeArc, and ARM, and bolstered by the ongoing support of our Executive Council, we will explore new avenues to assist young people on their lifelong journey with STEM.

Our strategy is to further replicate this model in other locations across the city, catering to diverse audience groups and covering a range of topics. We aspire to establish an interconnected network of small Centres that collaborate to expand the reach of STEM, fostering an increasingly inclusive community of STEM advocates.



Income



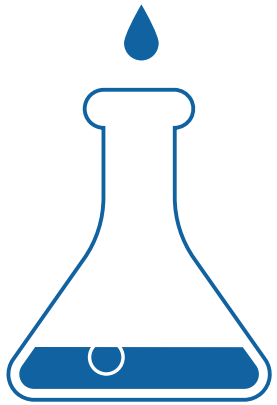
33%
Trusts, Foundations and Individuals



22%
Government and Statutory sources



31%
Corporate supporters



14%
Self-Generated

Costs

Our diverse suite of delivery methodologies allows us to pick the right tool for the job, this combined with our lack of overheads associated with aging infrastructure allow us to reach sector leading efficiencies.



84%
Charitable activities



14%
Costs of fundraising



2%
Legal and governance

Our Future Plans



We maintain a strong commitment to ensuring that the highest possible percentage of our income goes directly to charitable activities. Over recent years the scope of our work has grown as has the support of likeminded organisations.

Total Income Generated:

2021 – £622,000
2022 – £669,000
2023 – £999,000

Exciting times lie ahead for Cambridge Science Centre as we pursue our major goals for the next five years, which are to:

1. Deepen and demonstrate our impact on young people's lives through partnerships with industry and academia. Our Logic Model and Theory of Change will serve as blueprints for our work.

2. Create spaces that allow us to showcase the best of STEM and craft experiences that are increasingly impactful. This will involve introducing new iterations of our innovative pop-up Science Centres in areas of deprivation and opening new venues in Cambridge.

3. Maintain the positive trajectory of the charity towards a more diversified and stable funding base. We will aim to sustain our relationships with partners and funders while augmenting our self-generated income. This will afford us the freedom to be more experimental in our delivery.



Our Reach

Since the foundation of the charity, Cambridge Science Centre has engaged with over half a million people.

In 2023, Cambridge Science Centre embarked on a year of positive experimentation, refining our delivery methodologies and tweaking our approach to ensure maximum impact. This effort resulted in reaching:

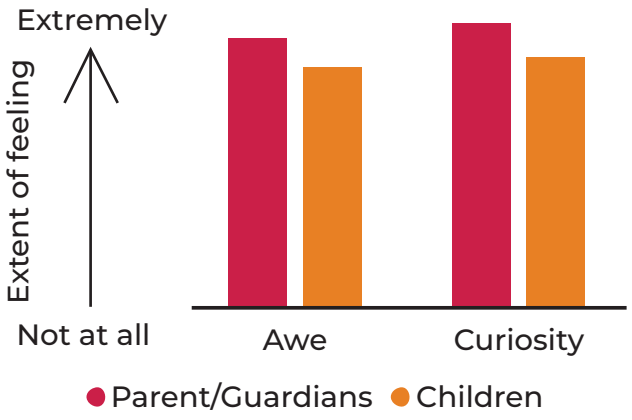
- **60** Schools and **8,846** pupils through outreach
- **36,681** young people in community and family groups at our Cambridge pop-up venues
- **6,367** toddlers and their carers at our innovative STEM Tots Centre
- **9,105** young people and their adults living in the underserved Fenland area throughout our STEM in the Fens project.

A total of **52,153 engagements** over the year.

A Snapshot Of Our Impact

Impact evaluation is always a core component of our work, helping us assess our audiences and the ways in which we are changing their connections to STEM. This data is used to refine our practices and track our ongoing impact.

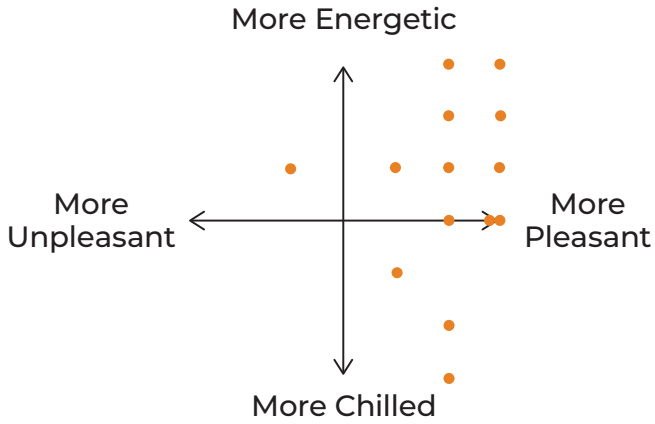
Each project and audience is unique, requiring specific targets and tools. Our recent pop-up event at a Cambridge shopping centre aimed to inspire young people from diverse backgrounds to consider coding. Our evaluation yielded the following results:



High emotional engagement was reported.



Families from high (dark red) and low (white) areas of deprivation across Cambridge booked and completed our coding challenge.



We supported young people with varying core affects (emotional states that define how they interact with their environment).

Our Supporters

29th May 1961 Charity

Amazon

Anglia Ruskin University, Cambridge

Anglia Ruskin University, Chelmsford

Anglia Ruskin University, Peterborough

Ashley Turner, POLA Technical Solutions Ltd

Association of Science & Discovery Centres

Biochemical Society

Cambridge City Council

Cambridge Festival

Cambridge Science Park

Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Combined Authority

Cambridgeshire Community Foundation

Centre for Landscape Regeneration, University of Cambridge

Cleevely Family Charitable Trust

Dr Debbie Allen

Dr Jason Mellad

Edina Trust

Eligator Sansom Family Fund

Evolution Education Trust

FAAM

Faculty of Education, University of Cambridge

Foyle Foundation

G's Fresh

Garfield Weston Foundation

Grafton Centre, Cambridge

Grand Arcade, Cambridge

Illumina

IQHQ

Jesus College, University of Cambridge

Johnson Matthey

Metalcraft Community Fund

Mills & Reeve

Mission Street

Mr Douglas Cuff

Mr Mike Inglis

North Cambridge Community Partnership

Nuclera UK

Ogden Trust

PEM Accountants

Railpen

Ramsey Wind Farm Community Benefit Fund

Redgate Software Ltd

Relithan Trust

Royal Society of Chemistry Outreach Fund

SC Johnson

Simon Gibson Charitable Trust

The National Lottery

Our Partners

The organisations that we work with are much more than funders. They are collaborators, innovation inspirers, relatable role models, passionate advocates, community connectors, changemakers, educators and all-round brilliant people who want to share their love of STEM. **Thank you to:**

Our Executive Council

a.r.u. Anglia Ruskin University

AstraZeneca

bruntwood SciTech

cambridge consultants Part of Capgemini Invent

CEMEX

KAO DATA

MathWorks®

Our partners for our new venue on Cambridge Science Park

arm

BROCKTON EVERLAST INC.

LifeArc

TRINITY COLLEGE CAMBRIDGE



CAMBRIDGE SCIENCE CENTRE

Cambridge Science Centre
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Public venue: The Trinity Centre, Cambridge Science Park, Milton Road, Cambridge, CB4 0FN

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