

FAQ's



What is it? The Discovery Center of Idaho has launched a Capital Campaign to fund facility upgrades that are necessary for us to continue providing our community with quality STEM educational experiences.

Why is this necessary? The Discovery Center has been in the same building in Julia Davis Park for over 30 years. The facility was already 40 years old when we moved in, and was never designed to be a science center. Our building is literally falling apart around us and we are now very limited in the types of exhibitions we can bring to the Center, the types of programming we are able to offer, and the numbers of visitors we can serve, due to the condition of the building. The renovated Center will serve 115K people annually, up from 85K today.

How much is the Discovery Center trying to raise? The entire campaign is budgeted at \$6M, which does not include in-kind support from our partners. The Discovery Center and the Board of Directors have pledged to contribute at least \$1M over five years (2022-2026). The campaign has been broken into two phases, so that construction may begin once fundraising goals for each phase have been met.

Has the Discovery Center raised any funds yet? Yes, the campaign has raised/pledged funds totaling \$2.7M and design is underway for Phase 1 (Exterior Facility Improvements) which is scheduled for completion by the end of 2024.

How long will it take? The project will be phased over the next several years allowing design and construction to get underway immediately while minimizing the time the Center will need to be closed to the public. We estimate that Phase 1 (Exterior Facility Improvements) will be completed in 2024, and Phase 2 (Interior Public Space Improvements) will be completed in 2026.

What will the Capital Campaign fund? The Campaign will fund a complete renovation of the Discovery Center facility and campus. The exterior and interior of the building will be completely transformed into a modern Science Center. Infrastructure upgrades will allow for more and better traveling exhibitions and programming, as well as allowing us to serve more people in more ways.

Who is running the Capital Campaign? The Campaign is guided by a Campaign Committee of Board members and at-large community members and by a Building Committee made up of Board members and advisors, along with professional staff from the Discovery Center of Idaho.

I still have questions. Who can I talk to and how can I find out more? Please contact Lydia Bassett, Development Director, with any questions, or to set up a visit to the Center to learn more. We love to host corporate groups at the Center on weeknights to learn more about the project and see a presentation about our plans.