

Education Coordinator Report – Amanda Kucharek
January 2019

Last Month (Nov-Dec Report) Looking Ahead:

Johnathan, Maggie, and I are working on/submitting grant(S) for the upcoming Apollo 11 exhibit (April-October). I am researching and making plans for the upcoming field trip season that will pair nicely with this exhibit. Johnathan and I are also making plans for our Art and Astronomy programs. These will have included planned activity days and summer day camps, as well as extra star viewing sessions.

Current Events:

Season of Light cleanup was completed promptly, and all Juried Art submissions were retrieved. The Lewandowski/Beins show was set and held an opening with excellent attendance. We received quite a few winter blues entries for Feb 1 and will hold a public opening on Feb 13th.

The CFNEM Community Impact Grant for Apollo 11 exhibit materials was submitted Jan 14, accompanied by a NEMYAC grant to support an accompanying Free Family Fun Day (submitted Jan 15).

A small group of parents and children came to the museum midway through the month from the Gaylor-Western side of MI. They first became interested in a group visit after receiving a recommendation from a past visitor. I structured the visit as a basic building tour with elements of the “habitat earth” tour to tie everything together. The parents were really pleased with the content and stated that their home-school curriculum happened to be focusing a lot on habitat information, so they found the lessons to be age-appropriate and relevant. They are a part of a larger home-schooling network, and I hope to see this successful visit recommended to friends in the future.

Jonathan and I have been working closely as we prepare for art and astronomy events. We have three planned events through March and hope to add extra activities as the Apollo 11 exhibit is finalized. We feel that the material has a wide range of interesting points of focus and can appeal to a broad audience. We are interested in holding at least two summer day camps, currently 2 days long. We have spoken with our contact Steve with StarBase and I feel like we have the potential for a beneficial partnership. I look forward to seeing growth in our educational programming and value my time working one-on-one as an “education team” with the planetarium. I think we have much to gain from each other by working together.

I created and sent out marketing material for the three art and astronomy events and was pleased with the social media response. We will be soon working with an ACC work-study student with marketing experience and I hope to learn new creative ways to distribute information throughout the community.

Many days of illness and rough weather have occurred since December, but the mobile apps for our office programs and the potential for the “team” app (like Google docs) is something I am grateful for ease of access. It helps me to feel connected to the museum workspace in a new way.

Looking Ahead:

As Johnathan and I hold additional Art and Astronomy Activity Days, we gather more data on things that work as well as things to improve. After the Feb. 2 Activity day with minimal (but satisfied) attendance,

we will be exploring ways to expand the program and make it more accessible for more varied groups of people (Family Fun, activity stations, Boys and Girls Club outreach).

On February 21st, Johnathan and I will attend the Youth Advisory Committee for the Free Family Fun Day to occur in May. We will be presenting our concept backed by figures supporting our goal of extending valuable content to underserved community members.

In order to support our growing programs and to show growth into the future, I will be reviewing my personal educational goals from the past and writing a new philosophy of education for my role in the Museum. I will also be reviewing old materials I had gathered and researching new to share and discuss as a part of the educational team.