

TESLA SCIENCE CENTER AT WARDENCLYFFE

ANNUAL REPORT 2023



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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

2023 was a year marked by significant milestones, community support, and unforeseen challenges at the Tesla Science Center. Building upon the successes of 2022, we dedicated ourselves to advancing initiatives in development and fundraising, aimed at transforming our site into a beacon of science, education, and innovation in honor of Nikola Tesla.

A key accomplishment this year was securing two major grants totaling \$2.62 Million in funding for Wardenclyffe's facilities. We received a \$1.47 million grant from the New York State Council for the Arts for the refurbishment of the laboratory interior, marking a vital step toward creating a museum and science center that reflects Tesla's innovative spirit. Additionally, a \$1.15 million grant from JumpStart Suffolk County for the redevelopment of the Eugene Sayan Visitor Center. This grant signifies the government and community stakeholders' support for the TSCW project, acknowledging its potential as an educational and cultural resource for our global community.

However, amidst our progress, we faced a major setback when a fire occurred on site affecting the historic lab building. This incident tested our resilience, reminding us of the vulnerability of even the best-planned projects. Thanks to the original design of the building and the bravery of over 100 volunteer firefighters from our surrounding communities, the fire did not result in a total loss, though it did cause significant damage.

This fire demonstrated our community's incredible strength and support. The response from individuals, organizations, and local government was heartening, reinforcing our commitment to our mission and the ties between TSCW and the community.

Reflecting on this year, we recognize both the challenges and the capacity for resilience and recovery. The fire was a setback, yet it has not deterred us. Rather, it has strengthened our resolve to continue our work with determination. We are grateful for our community's ongoing support, which has been crucial in addressing this challenge.

Moving forward, we remain committed to our mission of rebuilding, innovating, and honoring Nikola Tesla's legacy. The experiences of 2023, both the successes and the challenges, will inform our efforts as we strive toward a future enriched by innovation. With gratitude,

Marc Alessi
Executive Director

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 - Edward Fred, Treasurer
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 - Eugene Genova
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 - William Dillon, Director of Finance
 - Danielle Butler, Director of Development
 - Ed Wilson, Director of Amateur HAM Radio
 - Jeffrey Velez, IT Services
 - Kelly Javidi, CMR Manager
 - Margaux Serocki, Office Administrator

OUR STORY: MILESTONES TO SAVING TESLA'S LAST LAB

Wardencllyffe is the only remaining laboratory of one of history's greatest inventors, yet ten years ago it was in danger of being demolished. Here is the story of how a world of supporters joined our mission to save Tesla's last standing laboratory.



FRIENDS OF SCIENCE EAST, INC.

A local group of educators and civic leaders formed a nonprofit named Friends of Science East, Inc. with a mission to preserve Wardencllyffe. They garnered support, raised awareness, and began fundraising efforts. FSE later formed Tesla Science Center at Wardencllyffe (TSCW) with a goal to purchase the lab and renovate it into a science museum dedicated to Tesla's legacy.



HISTORIC CROWDFUND

In 2012 time was running out: Wardencllyffe was for sale and slated for demolition. An urgent call for support was posted on social media by Jane Alcorn, founding Board President. Response was immediate and soon became a movement with the support of internet cartoonist Matt Inman, who launched a crowdfund that became a record-breaker: within six weeks, \$1.3 million was donated by 33,000 supporters from 108 countries. This was enriched by a \$1 million donation from the Musk Foundation and a \$850,000 grant from the State of NY. These funds enabled TSCW to purchase the property and perform immediate work needed to preserve the deteriorated laboratory.



COMMERCIAL USAGE

During this time, Wardencllyffe was used commercially by a photo processing company that built numerous structures on the site until vacating Wardencllyffe in 1987.



TESLA & WARDENCLYFFE

In 1901 Tesla bought 200 acres in Shoreham, NY, and named the site Wardencllyffe with a goal to build a Radio City. The project was financed by JP Morgan and Tesla hired the firm of renowned architect Stanford White to build a laboratory. Tesla also built a 187-foot tower for transmitting power and communications wirelessly. Morgan withdrew financing in 1903 and the tower was dismantled in 1917 and sold for scrap to settle Tesla's debts. Though unable to raise additional funds to complete Wardencllyffe, Tesla worked for many years to resurrect the project.



WARDENCLYFFE SAVED

Crowdfund donations were used to purchase Wardencllyffe in a landmark moment on May 2, 2013.



BRICKS FOR NIK

A bronze statue of Tesla was presented to TSCW by then-President of the Republic of Serbia, Tomislav Nikolic, as a gift from the Serbian people. The statue inspired a unique Bricks for Nik fundraiser where supporters donated personalized bricks that were used to build a plaza to showcase the statue. Bricks for Nik Plaza is now one of Wardencllyffe's most popular features where visitors explore thousands of bricks inscribed with inspirational messages, cryptograms, images, even marriage proposals.



GROWTH & GALA

TSCW experiences exponential growth in memberships, programming, and volunteers. Attendance at events double or triple. In September, TSCW kicks off a successful inaugural Gala that exceeds fundraising goals.



NATIONAL HISTORIC REGISTER

Wardencllyffe is placed on the US National Historic Register, hitting another record for highest number of endorsements. TSCW also launched a new website that energized an increase throughout 2019 in memberships, event attendance, online followers, and volunteers.



GROUNDBREAKING

The groundbreaking event for the construction of the Eugene Sayan Visitor Center and site demolition marks a pivotal moment in the effort to create a museum and learning center at TSCW. This project, generously funded by Mr. Eugene Sayan, CEO of Softheon, and supported by an Empire State Development grant from NYS, aims to revitalize the historic site. As part of this phase, approximately 110,000 sq ft of non-historical buildings surrounding the laboratory will be removed, allowing for the finalization of exterior design and preservation work.



PROGRESS

Amid the pandemic, TSCW expands virtual education and enrichment programs to thousands worldwide. Critical renovations to the chimney and cupola of Tesla's lab are completed and celebrated in a global event. The 2nd Annual Gala honors Vint Cerf, "One of the Fathers of the Internet," and exceeds goals. Visitor Center exhibit plans are developed, site plans are finalized, and permits submitted in preparation for Phase II renovations.



GRANT & REMEDIATION

TSCW is awarded a Save America's Treasures grant for \$500,000 from the US National Park Service. Remediation of the interior of Tesla's laboratory begins in 2022, marking an important milestone. Events expand and over 2,300 visitors come to Wardencllyffe for the annual Tesla Birthday Expo to experience the world's largest Tesla coil.



FIRE SETBACK

A major fire occurred on November 21 at the TSCW. Through the efforts of over 100 firefighters from 17 local departments, the original brick building still stands despite sustaining damage to its roof, steel girders, chimney, cupola, and a section of a wall. In response, a 60-day Indiegogo crowdfunding campaign was initiated to aid in the repair efforts and another Bricks for Nik campaign.

KEY PROGRESS IN 2023

Despite the fire, Wardencllyffe Laboratory remains standing, our mission and vision remain strong, our will is undeterred, and we are determined to continue our work. Although it presents challenges, we are committed to thorough and careful progress, prioritizing quality over speed.

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN PROGRESS

When the initial estimates were made, the capital campaign was targeted to be a \$20 Million project. The costs associated with fire remediation and inflation have driven that cost to \$24 Million of which we have raised or secured \$14 Million. \$10 Million remains on the capital campaign goal to reach our phase one goal and open the Nikola Tesla Museum and Laboratory.

- Prior to the fire, great progress had been made on our capital project. This included our groundbreaking ceremony and the commencement of demolition work on the 100,000 sq ft of non contributing structures on the building, along with the requisite site and ground testing.
- The fire has added a significant delay to our timeline and much of the end of 2023 was spent awaiting the official investigative reports.
- Regarding planning, we have nearly completed all permitting, planning, and compliance.
- Although we have made significant progress on our capital campaign, the government funds from state, federal, and county sources are typically released as reimbursements, often aligned with the completion of project milestones or the issuance of a certificate of occupancy, while private and philanthropic donors set specific conditions for their contributions. The funds are allocated for capital construction tasks, with certain portions designated for projects like the Visitor Center or the Wardencllyffe Laboratory.

FUNDRAISING & SUPPORT

We raised over \$3 million in funding in 2023 that not only directly supports our mission-based efforts and operations but opens the potential for expanded funding opportunities such as grants and support from Federal, State, and non-profit resources, as well as philanthropic foundations and private donors. With the help of supporters from around the world, we reached a fundraising goal of \$125,000 for the year-end TSCW Annual Drive, including matching funds from a private donor.

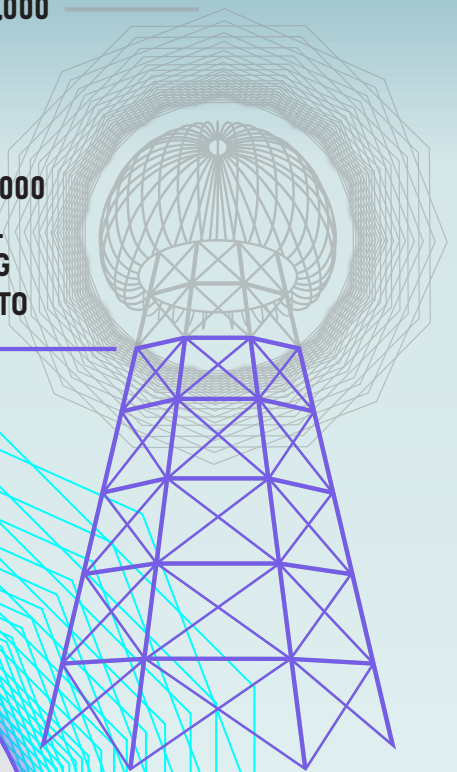
Major gifts to TSCW in 2023 include:

- \$1.47 million from the New York State Council on the Arts (NYSCA)
- \$1.15 million grant from JumpStart Suffolk County



\$24,000,000

\$14,000,000
CAPITAL
FUNDING
RAISED TO
DATE



EDUCATION & ENRICHMENT PROGRAMS

- Tesla Tribute
- "Invisible Threads" Documentary Screening
- Metal for Tesla
- Tours of Wardencllyffe
- "Tesla Unwired" Webcasts
- Long Island Maker Faire
- HOPE Conference
- Longwood Fair
- LI Paranormal Investigators Tour
- International STEM Career Day
- International Museum Day Exhibit
- STEAM Exhibits at Schools, Libraries, Conferences, Fairs
- STEM Trade Show for Youth Entrepreneurs
- 5th Annual Gala
- Holiday Lighting

GALA 2023

We held our 5th Annual Gala on November 16, 2023. While it marked our fifth celebration, it was only the second time we gathered in person due to the challenges of COVID-19. The event was a remarkable success, with all 220 seats sold out, honoring top Long Island innovators for their contributions. The Tesla Lifetime Achievement Award was presented to Dr. Yacov Shamash from Stony Brook University; the new Tesla Innovator of the Year award went to Professor Chad Bouton of the Feinstein Institutes for Medical Research/ Northwell Health; and the Tesla Rising Star Award was given to Sammy Chu of Edgewise Energy.

We were also joined by a distinguished group of dinner committee members who helped us plan and achieve our fundraising goals, co-chaired by Bob Catell of Stony Brook University and outgoing County Executive Steve Bellone. Additionally, we were honored to have Dr. Ljiljana Niksic, the Serbian Ambassador of Cultural Affairs, and Dr. Vladimir Bozovic, the new Consul General for the Republic of Serbia, join us in celebration.



THE FIRE



“On November 21, 2023, a devastating fire erupted at the historic Tesla Science Center at Wardencllyffe. More than 100 firefighters courageously fought the blaze, which caused serious damage to this one-of-a-kind treasure.

The facility continues to be thoroughly assessed by engineers to determine the full extent of fire-related damage. According to Mark Thaler, the Center’s historical architect, “Despite the valiant efforts of the first responders, the laboratory is sadly, still at great risk.”

While the four walls of Tesla’s main laboratory remain standing, there was significant damage to the roof — original to the 1901 structure — as well as the chimney and cupola, which had been replaced in 2019.



OUR MISSION, VISION AND PLAN



1

OUR MISSION

To develop the site of Nikola Tesla's last remaining laboratory into a transformative global science center that embraces his bold spirit of invention, provides innovative learning experiences, fosters the advancement of new technologies, and preserves his legacy in the Tesla Museum.

2

OUR VISION

A world where people appreciate Nikola Tesla's contributions, are inspired by his scientific audacity, and engage in the future betterment of humanity.

3

OUR PLAN

Transform TSCW's 16-acre campus into a global center of excellence that pushes the boundaries of imaginative thinking to attract regional, national, and international audiences. TSCW will inspire and empower the next generation of scientists and Tesla enthusiasts and prepare them for success in the innovation economy through dynamic, immersive, and meaningful on-site and virtual experiences.



EUGENE UGUR SAYAN VISITOR CENTER

Opening Summer 2024
500 square feet of exhibit space.



EDUCATION FOR THE FUTURE

Tesla's belief in the importance of invention will be demonstrated through cutting-edge, future forward science exhibits and public EdTech programming both on-site and virtual. The focus will be on exploring and inspiring the process of innovation and incorporating a collaborative laboratory environment for emerging innovators of all ages from around the world.

INNOVATION CENTER

TSCW will inspire and promote innovation from around the world. We will draw from a global virtual network of incubators that will come together under the Tesla brand for startups in Tesla-inspired industries such as alternative energy, wireless, medical devices, and electronics.

OUR SUPPORTERS

ADVISORS

Global Thought Leaders in Technology, Innovation, Entrepreneurship



VINT CERF
One of the Fathers of the Internet
Co-developer of World Wide Web and Education Advocate



DRAGANA DJERMANOVIC
Internet Strategist
Digital Transformation Expert and Social Media Innovator



EUGENE SAYAN
Softheon
Tech Innovator, Education Advocate



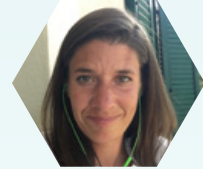
DUSAN STOJANOVIC
True Global Ventures
Business Innovator, Entrepreneur



RICHARD MOXLEY
Moxley Family Foundation



GREGORY OLSEN
Entrepreneur, Astronaut
Supporter and STEAM Education Advocate



SASHA BAN, MBA, MA Edu.
NY City Dept. of Education
Citywide STEM Programs

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JOHN COHN, Ph.D.
MIT, IBM Watson AI Lab
Computer Science Pioneer



MATT EVANS, MA Edu.
Tech Lx Curriculum Developer
Professor, Univ. of San Diego



CHRIS LAWRENCE, MA
Museum Education, Sr. Program Manager at Grant for the Web



RICH EARNES, Ph.D. Edu.
NY State Master Teacher
TSCW Board Member



DR. RICHARD MARSH
Superintendent — Bethpage Public Schools
Exec. Board — Nassau Co. Council of School Superintendents



STAN SILVERMAN, MS
Director/Professor, New York Institute of Technology



ROGER WAGNER
Makerbit and Hyperstudio Creator,
1010 Technology President

MARY SCHWARTZ Educator, STEAM Advocate

DEBORAH LOHMAN Science Coordinator, Educator

COLLABORATORS

Innovators and Influencers from Around the World



ADAM CONOVER
Adam Ruins Everything
Internet Influencer, STEAM Education Advocate



DR. AROGYASWAMI PAULRAJ
Wireless Communications Pioneer, Inventor of MIMO Technology, TSCW's 4th Annual Gala Honoree



TED RAPPAPORT
Wireless Technology Innovator, Inventor of 5G/6G Technology, TSCW's 3rd Annual Gala Honoree



NOVAK DJOKOVIC
Tennis Champion, Philanthropist
Advocate for STEAM Education



JOSEPH SIKORSKI
Filmmaker
Award-Winning Wardencllyffe Documentary "Tower to the People"



TESLA THE BAND
Musicians, Advocates of Nikola Tesla and Wardencllyffe

- Brookhaven National Lab
- Center for Excellence in Wireless & Info Technology (CEWIT)
- Cold Spring Harbor Lab
- Morrison Mentors
- NY Institute of Technology
- Rocky Point Robotics Team
- Rocky Point School District
- Sachem Aftershock Robotics Club
- Sachem School District
- Shoreham Wading River School District
- Smithtown Industry Advisory Board
- Smithtown Robotics League
- Smithtown Central School District
- Stony Brook University
- TESLA Owners Club of NY State
- Tesla Science Foundation

2023 PARTNERS & SUPPORTERS

- Applied DNA Sciences
- bld architecture
- Cameron Engineering
- Campolo, Middleton & McCormick LLP
- Celesta VC
- EdgeWise Energy
- Eisner/Amper
- Gershow Recycling
- Holiday Inn Express & Suites

- Hawkins Webb
- Hotel Indigo
- InnovateLI
- Lacey Thaler Reilly Wilson Architecture & Preservation
- Marc Ian Bain
- Marcum LLP
- MD Electrical
- National Inventors Club

- NYIT/CoCES
- Paumanok Vineyard
- PSEG Long Island
- Qualcomm
- Theodore Rappaport, NYU Wireless
- Samuelli Foundation
- Signature Bank
- Suffolk Credit Union
- Zebra



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Alex Badalamenti, CEO, bld architecture
Paul Cataldo, CEO, Paul Cataldo Architecture
Bill Chaleff, CEO, Chaleff & Rogers Architects, PC
Bart Gallagher, Engineer EnviroScience
Eugene Genova, TSCW Board
Kevin McAndrew, Cameron Engineering
Michael Russo, Board VP
Janice Scherer, TSCW Board
Frank Vero Jr., CEO, Aurora Contractors
Kevin Walsh, Managing Director, VHB

EXHIBIT & MUSEUM DEVELOPMENT

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Adam Esposito, Museum Specialist
Margaret Foster, TSCW Board
David Madigan, TSCW Board
Paul Orselli, President, Paul Orselli Workshop
John Rago, COO, Trifecta Technologies
John Siegel, Pres., MRISAR
Joseph Sikorski, Filmmaker, Fragments from Olympus

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Richard Earns, Board Treasurer
Gene Genova, TSCW Board
Michael Russo, Board VP
Jill Scher, CPA/MST Director, Marcum LLP

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Margaret Foster, TSCW Board
Eugene Genova, TSCW Board
Eva Rodriguez-Greguski
Marc Seifer, Author
Joseph Sikorski, Filmmaker, Fragments from Olympus

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David Madigan, TSCW Board
Justin Palmen, Client Experience Consultant
Michael Schab, Founder, iOS Developer, Bluebird Brand
Joseph Sikorski, Filmmaker, Fragments from Olympus

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Sam Chu, US Green Energy Council of Long Island
Josh Halsey, Peconic Land Trust
Stephen Jay, Alida
Michael Russo, Board VP
Janice Scherer, Board, Town of Southampton



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