

ANNUAL REPORT 2024

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## TESLA SCIENCE CENTER AT WARDENCLYFFE



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**SNTER AT WARDENCLYFFE** 







**BOARD & STAFF** 

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**BOARD MEMBERS** 

Message Dear Friends and Supporters,

As we reflect on 2024 and look ahead to an exciting future, I am excited to share the remarkable progress and upcoming milestones at Tesla Science Center at Wardenclyffe.

The following pages will take a look back at the incredible achievements and milestones of 2024—celebrating the dedication of our supporters, volunteers, and partners who have helped us reach new heights. From groundbreaking events to educational outreach, we have laid a strong foundation for an even brighter future. As we reflect on these accomplishments, we are already setting our sights on the opportunities and progress that lie ahead in 2025 and beyond.

As we forge ahead, our dedication to preserving Tesla's legacy and advancing scientific discovery is stronger than ever. Through strategic initiatives and dynamic collaborations, 2025 promises to be a year of tremendous growth and inspiration. We invite you to join us in shaping the future of the Tesla Science Center and creating a legacy that will endure for generations to come.

Thank you for your continued support and belief in our mission.

Warm regards,

Marc Alessi, Executive Director



# **Executive Director's**

Tesla Science Center at Wardenclyffe

### Key Progress in 2024: Resilence, Recovery, and Renewal

In the wake of the devastating fire at Wardenclyffe, 2024 has been a year of reflection, strategic planning, and significant progress toward recovery.

#### **REBUILDING WITH PURPOSE**

Following the fire, Tesla Science Center embarked on a thorough reevaluation of our construction and development plans. This process was critical to ensuring that we not only restore what was lost but also build a stronger foundation for the future. Working closely with architects, engineers, and preservation specialists, we assessed the damage, reviewed existing plans, and adapted our vision to align with both historical preservation needs and future innovation.

### MAJOR GRANT FUNDING SECURED

A testament to our resilience and the importance of our mission, we successfully secured a \$500,000 New York State Environmental Protection Fund (EPF) Parks Grant. This highly competitive grant one of the most sought-after in the state due to the volume of applicants—demonstrates the strength of our vision and the confidence placed in our work by state leadership.

### **IMPACT OVERVIEW**



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**27** Board and Staff Members



246K Constituents

**415** Volunteers

### 406,126 LBS.

#### (203.4 tons) Metal Recycled

for Metal for Tesla since 2013



82,815 Social Media

Followers

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**19K** Monthly Website Traffic



## Mission, Vision, and Plan

#### 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.

#### VISION

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

#### 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.

### Celebrating Innovation and Community

The Tesla Science Center at Wardenclyffe (TSCW) celebrated a year of innovation, discovery, and community in 2024, hosting multiple events that honored the legacy of Nikola Tesla while inspiring curiosity and fostering connection.

#### **TESLA EXPO**

The July 2024 Tesla Expo celebrating Nikola Tesla's birthday transformed TSCW into a hub of hands-on learning and cutting-edge exploration. Highlights included a breathtaking drone light show by Sky Elements Drone Shows, featuring hundreds of drones in a choreographed tribute to Tesla's legacy. Visitors engaged with robotics showcases, battlebots, and interactive exhibits, marveling at modern engineering feats. Maker

Spaces, a Tesla Car Showcase and educational exhibits, demonstrations and displays ensured there was something for everyone, inspiring young inventors, families, and history buffs to explore Tesla's groundbreaking achievements.

#### **ANNUAL GALA**

On Thursday, November 21, 2024, the Tesla Science Center Annual Gala illuminated Flowerfields in St. James, delivering an evening of global connection, community celebration, and corporate collaboration. The event honored the past, embraced the present, and envisioned an innovative future for Wardenclyffe.

This year, we proudly recognized our distinguished

honorees: Dr. David Spergel, a trailblazing astrophysicist advancing space exploration; Kara Cannon, CEO of Enzo Biochem and advocate for scientific progress; and Paul Trapani, a visionary leader championing technology and community engagement. Their achievements reflect the ingenuity, resilience, and dedication that define Nikola Tesla's enduring legacy.

Each year, this annual event attracts a global Our Annual Holiday Lighting became another community of professionals, industry leaders, and memorable highlight, drawing the community innovators, unified by their shared commitment to together in true Tesla style. Guests enjoyed advancing Tesla's legacy. live holiday music, electrifying Tesla coil demonstrations, and festive photo opportunities HALLOWEEN AND GHOST HUNTING TOUR with Santa and Mrs. Claus.

The 2024 Halloween and Ghost Hunting Tour,



led by the Long Island Paranormal Investigators, offered a thrilling, hands-on exploration of Tesla's Wardenclyffe lab. Guests used real investigation tools in an immersive experience that blended history, science, and mystery—highlighting Tesla's legacy and showing how education can be a thrilling adventure.

#### **ANNUAL HOLIDAY LIGHTING**



## **Environmental** Impact and Restoration

#### **METAL FOR TESLA**

Metal for Tesla, an annual collection drive and signature Earth Day event, continues to make a significant environmental impact while supporting historic preservation. The 2024 Earth Day edition of Metal for Tesla marked a record-breaking turnout, showcasing the power of community action and sustainability. With generous support from Gershow Recycling and a surprise contribution from Amazon, the initiative collected unprecedented amounts of metal. Despite challenging weather, attendees engaged in recycling workshops, historical tours, and interactive exhibits, reinforcing the connection between environmental responsibility and cultural preservation.

Since its inception in 2013, Metal for Tesla has collected over 400,000 pounds of metal, directly contributing to the restoration of Nikola Tesla's historic Wardenclyffe laboratory. As an ongoing initiative, it highlights TSCW's dedication to advancing Tesla's vision of innovation and sustainability while fostering a greener future for generations to come.



406.126 LBS (203.4 TONS) METAL RECYCLED FOR **TSCW SINCE 2013** 















#### NASA SPACE APPS CHALLENGE

In 2024, TSCW launched its Space Science Program and was selected for the first time as a host site for the NASA Space Apps Challenge, a global initiative that fosters innovation and collaboration in space science.

This initiative merges Nikola Tesla's visionary contributions with contemporary advancements in space exploration and education and engages students, mentors, and industry experts in an interactive environment that cultivates a passion for STEAM education.

The heart of this program is **SpaceHack** – Designing Tomorrow, Today, an immersive educational experience tailored for high school students (grades 9-11). SpaceHack provides participants with essential skills in programming, problem-solving, and design thinking, preparing them to take part in the global NASA Space Apps Challenge.

On October 5 & 6th, 2024, Space Apps Brookhaven, hosted its first NASA Space Apps Challenge with collaborator and supporter, Zebra Technologies. Teams of students worked together during the global hackathon to work on the theme "The Sun Touches Everything."

Through initiatives like SpaceHack, TSCW remains steadfast in its mission to inspire and empower students to become trailblazers of the modern era. By investing in educational programming, we are not only honoring Tesla's legacy but also laying the groundwork for the next generation of STEAM innovators.

### Global Connection

Our mission knows no borders. With supporters and donors spanning the globe, we are empowered by their unwavering commitment to preserving Nikola Tesla's legacy and inspiring the next generation of innovators.

The 2024 Annual Gala welcomed a diverse international community of professionals, industry leaders, and changemakers, all united by a shared dedication to advancing Tesla's work. We were honored by the attendance of Consulate General Dr. Vladimir Božović and Deputy Dušan of the NYC Serbian Consulate, whose presence highlighted the strength of our global partnerships and the cultural and historical ties that connect us to Tesla's homeland.

Furthering our international outreach, Executive Director Marc Alessi traveled to Macedonia for a strategic visit and appeared on Channel 5 News to promote a new collaboration with the Association

of EU Candidate Countries Research Innovation Development Network (ACRID). This exciting partnership will support cross-border STEM initiatives and expand educational opportunities aligned with Tesla's vision of innovation without limits.

Our role in the 2024 NASA Space Apps Challenge also underscored our global engagement. With over 93,500 participants from 163 countries and territories, the competition brought together students and innovators from around the world. Our student team proudly contributed to this international effort, reflecting TSCW's commitment to STEAM education on a global scale.

Whether through international partnerships, educational programs, or worldwide events, TSCW remains dedicated to fostering global connections that honor Tesla's enduring legacy and universal impact.



### **NEW BOARD MEMBERS FOR 2024**

We proudly welcomed four exceptional leaders to its esteemed Board of Directors in 2024. These visionaries bring diverse expertise and shared passion for innovation, leadership, and advancing Nikola Tesla's legacy.



As CEO of FifthVantage, Matt drives digital transformation by integrating emerging technologies to empower teams, delight customers, and foster sustainable growth. A world-class futurist and thought leader, Matt is a pioneer in AI and cloud computing and a recognized global icon in technology leadership.

#### MATTHEW INMAN

Widely known as "The Oatmeal," Matthew Inman is a celebrated cartoonist, author, and game creator. Inman played a pivotal role in preserving Nikola Tesla's historic laboratory site through TSCW's 2012 crowdfunding campaign. His dedication to storytelling and innovation embodies Tesla's spirit and continues to inspire.

#### **DR. GREGORY OLSEN**

Dr. Olsen, a pioneering research scientist and entrepreneur, is the third private citizen to travel to the International Space Station. With a distinguished career in fiber-optic and infrared technologies, multiple successful ventures, and a commitment to STEM advocacy, Dr. Olsen advances innovation while inspiring the next generation.

#### **KARA CANNON**



These distinguished leaders embody the ingenuity, resilience, and vision of Nikola Tesla, and we are honored to have them to join our esteemed Tesla Science Center Board of Directors team.

### Partners in Innovation



Kara Cannon, CEO of Enzo Biochem, is an accomplished leader with over 30 years in the life sciences industry. With expertise in marketing, sales, and operations, she has driven growth and mentored emerging leaders, dedicating herself to fostering future industry talent and innovation.

## Volunteers

#### THE HEART OF OUR SUCCESS

Our volunteers were instrumental in making 2024 a year of progress and memorable experiences. With a volunteer pool of over 400, these dedicated individuals are the backbone of our mission, driving its success and impact. These passionate individuals devote their time and energy to ensure the success of key events, such as the Annual Holiday Lighting and the Tesla Expo, demonstrating the incredible power of teamwork and dedication. From planning and setup to guest engagement and activity coordination, their efforts created an atmosphere of connection, celebration, and shared purpose. Their commitment not only enriched our events but also inspired a deeper appreciation for Tesla's legacy.

### **Supporters** and Donors

#### **DRIVING OUR MISSION FORWARD**

The generosity of our donors and corporate partners has been pivotal in supporting our programs and expanding our outreach. Contributions have fueled educational initiatives, enabled crucial restoration projects, and supported the development of the Eugene Sayan Visitor Center, set to open in 2025. Whether through financial gifts, in-kind donations, or corporate sponsorships, our supporters have demonstrated their belief in our mission to preserve Tesla's legacy and inspire future innovators.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to every individual and organization that contributed to our journey in 2024. Your unwavering support empowers us to continue pushing boundaries and bringing Tesla's vision into the future.



#### **ADVISORS**

#### EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Global Thought Leaders in Technology, Innovation, Entrepreneurship



VINT CERF One of the "Fathers of the Internet" 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





#### Leaders in Education

#### JANE ALCORN

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 GEARNS,** 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 Wardenclyffe Documentary "Tower to the People"



**TESLA THE BAND** Musicians, Advocates of Nikola Tesla and Wardenclyffe

#### 2024 ADVISORS AND COLLABORATORS



### 2024 PARTNERS AND SUPPORTERS



- The Calone Family
- Robert B. Catell
- The Corey Foundation
- Flagstar Private Bank
- Mahendra Durai Farmingdale State College
- Fifth Vantage

- Intelibs
- Jaspan Schlesinger
- Key Capture Energy
- Tomislav Kundic
- National Grid
- NY Transco

MARKETING

- Ryco Fundraising
- Suffolk Credit Union

#### **2024 COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

**ARCHITECTURE, CONSTRUCTION &** ENGINEERING (ACE) Jane Alcorn, TSCW Board 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 Michael Russo, TSCW Board President Janice Scherer, TSCW Board Frank Vero Jr., CEO, **Aurora Contractors** Kevin Walsh, Managing Director, VHB

#### **EXHIBIT & MUSEUM DEVELOPMENT**

Jane Alcorn, TSCW Board Emily Conrad. President. Tessellate Technology & Architectural Design 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, President, MRISAR Joseph Sikorski, Filmmaker, Fragments from Olympus

#### FINANCE

Judith Murrah, Chair Chris Cheeseman Mary Daum, TSCW Board Michele Dean, TSCW Board Richard Gearns, Board VP Eugene Genova Erik Paulson Michael Russo, TSCW Board President Jill Scher, TSCW Board Matthew Stadler

#### **FACILITIES & GROUNDS**

Eugene Genova, Chair Dan Berry **Daniel Black** Judy Black

Jeff Brown Aldo Catsaros Michael DiBartolomeo **Bill Havdamach** Steve Kuhl Tom LeDeoux Jonathan May Peter Palmieri Paul Rosa Karl Sidenius Jeffrey Velez Christopher Wesselborg James Wuttke

#### **HISTORY & COLLECTIONS**

Margaret Foster, Ph.D., Chair Jane Alcorn, TSCW Board Neil Baggett Bryan Field, Ph.D. Eugene Genova, TSCW Board Kristen lversen Russ Rubman Michael Russo, TSCW Board President Marc Seifer, Author Joe Sikorski, Filmmaker, Fragments from Olympus

James Alcorn, President, Old Town Press, Inc. Dragana Diermanovic. Internet Strategist Tom Hespos, Founder, The Pitch MD David Madigan, TSCW Board Justin Palmen, **Client Experience Consultant** Michael Schab, Founder, iOS Developer, Bluebird Brand Joseph Sikorski, Filmmaker, Fragments from Olympus

#### MICROGRID

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

## A Look at 2025

Tesla Science Center at Wardenclyffe is energized by the momentum we've built and the opportunities ahead. The late 2024 launch of our Power of Giving campaign marked a new era, showcasing the impact of generosity while paving the way for growth. In 2025, we'll introduce a revamped membership option, a new



corporate partnership program aligned with our mission, and host events and initiatives to inspire innovation and curiosity. Every effort brings us closer to our ultimate goal: opening Tesla Science Center at Wardenclyffe, preserving Tesla's legacy, and advancing STEAM education for future generations.



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