
From the desk of Lesley White, Foundation Director
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Thank You!

On behalf of the Foundation Board of Directors and myself, I want to extend a Happy Holidays to all of you! The return of so many visitors to the Flint Hills Discovery Center made for a joyful 2021. The Foundation has been blessed to be the recipient of your generosity and others during the year. More than \$600,000 was raised for the NEXT VISTA Campaign. The campaign includes gifts for endowment, capital (KIDSCAPE Project) and ongoing educational programming.

Additional gifts continue to be received this last month of December as donors make final year-end charitable gifts. Thank you for making the Foundation and the Discovery Center part of your philanthropy. May all the best be with you and yours in 2022!

Bison, Beef & Bourbon, 2nd Annual Gala

On October 23rd, we held our second annual Bison, Beef and Bourbon Gala. The night was fun filled and it raised over \$27,000 in support of the Discovery Center.

We are so grateful for everyone who attended the event, our sponsors, and to the businesses and individuals who donated auction items, and the volunteers and FHDC staff who made it all happen for our live and silent auction!



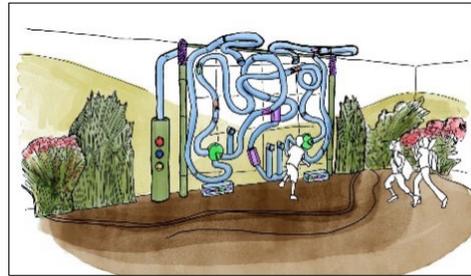
Making Charitable Gifts

Please remember, this is the last year for the “\$300 above the line” charitable donation deduction! If you are making charitable gifts this year and you do not itemize, you can still take a \$300 deduction on next year’s tax return. This provision was part of the 2020 COVID CARES ACT and it expires at the end of this month, December 31, 2021.

Gifts from IRAs and other retirement funds have been made a permanent part of the US tax code. A single person may donate up to \$100,000 annually to the charity or charities of their choice. There are tax benefits for gifting minimum qualified retirement distributions to charity. We are grateful to those who have made such donations to us this year. We gladly accept such contributions. Please visit with your tax advisor to learn more and support your favorite charities.

KIDSCAPE PROJECT

Through the generosity of many donors, the Flint Hills Discovery Center Foundation has committed to fully funding the design and construction of KIDSCAPE, a complete renovation of the Discovery Center's second floor mezzanine children's area. This new permanent exhibit immerses children in an exceptional, hands-on, educational experience all about the Flint Hills. Our goal is to inspire youth to learn about, explore and care for the Flint Hills region as a unique and important ecosystem. The FHDC staff has been immersed in the final design and planning for five months and the project will move to construction in 2022.



The opportunity exists for you to help complete the funding for this most significant improvement to the Discovery Center since its opening in 2012. With an additional \$150,000 in gifts the total project budget of \$1.5 million will be reached. With this funding we can add a dynamic interactive digital screen to the exhibit, which provides ever greater flexibility in programming and depth of content. Please consider supporting this effort to help accomplish this unique component of KIDSCAPE! *(images are conceptual designs by Dimensional Innovations)*

Upcoming Discovery Center Events!

- Family New Year's Eve: Prehistoric Party - December 31st, from 6:30 p.m. to 9 p.m.
 - Dinosaur Discoveries: Ancient Fossils, New Ideas- runs until January 2nd.
- More information on all these programs can be found at www.flinthillsdiscovery.org

Charles Rice, FHDC Board Member

Charles (Chuck) Rice is a Distinguished Professor and holds the Vanier University Professorship Chair at Kansas State University. His research on the native prairie helps to design agricultural systems to be more resilient. He teaches courses and conducts research on soil carbon and nitrogen, microbial ecology, and climate change impacts on agriculture.



Chuck has served in numerous capacities with professional societies including President of Soil Science Society of America. He has received numerous awards for his work at K-State including honors from the Soil Science Society of America, American Society of Agronomy, the Soil and Water Conservation Society, and the Nobel Prize. Chuck and his wife Sue are active community members. He belongs to Rotary, Sunflower Lions, First United Methodist Church, and the Zoo Trust Board.

The Flint Hills Discovery Center Foundation

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VISTAS is provided to advance the cause of philanthropy in support of the Flint Hills Discovery Center.