

Science Festival  
Alliance

# 2022 ANNUAL REPORT



San Diego Science Festival



Bay Area Science Festival



Atlanta Science Festival



## ABOUT SFA

The Science Festival Alliance is a professional association of independent science and technology festivals. We are dedicated to supporting both new and existing festivals, and to fostering an international conversation about how to make public science events more meaningful.

Science festivals are the unique product of the communities in which they take place. Most science festivals feature scores of activities, many of which change substantially from year to year. Thus it is a challenge to summarize even one science festival, let alone the operations of all of the Alliance's many independently organized members. Nevertheless, this annual report provides a useful snapshot of Science Festival Alliance activity in 2022 based on voluntary self-reporting.



Bio Bus

## QUOTES

**"All involved mentioned that they enjoyed the event and appreciated the opportunity to interact with each other and community members in a way we do not often have time to. Participants ranged in age from 7 to college students to university faculty and parents of college students. The younger participants were asking for more opportunities to participate even after spending 4 hours at the event."**

Wisconsin Science Festival, UW-Eau Claire

**"I am very happy to see the return of the Eureka! Festival, which has succeeded brilliantly in making science relevant and accessible to everyone for the past 15 years."**

Eurêka! Festival Attendee



Eurêka! Festival



## FESTIVAL ACCELERATOR

Thanks to funding from the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation, the third iteration of the Science Festival Accelerator started in 2018. The goal was to give 12 new festivals a big boost, with diversity issues at the top of the agenda. The plan was to have four established science festivals make diversity issues their top priority for a year before becoming mentors to 3 new festivals each. By the beginning of 2020, it was working well. We selected 12 new festival startups via a competitive application process, sorted everyone into four cohorts, and launched an intensive 6-month professional development program. But as it turns out, January 2020 was not the best time to accelerate local communities toward big in-person celebrations.



Everyday Futures Fest

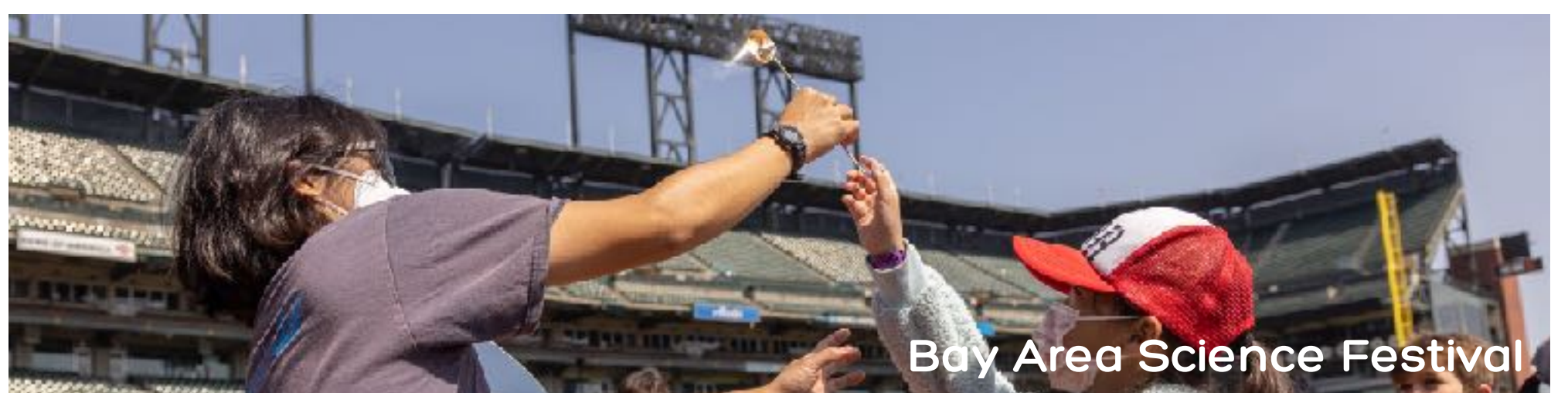


Bay Area Science Festival



Los Alamos Science Festival

By 2022 the timeline for the Accelerator project had been extended twice, and all of us were weary from the off-on-off-again spasms of the pandemic. However, the project's cohort structure and consistent focus on community engagement proved resilient regardless of the status of in-person gatherings. In the end, ten startup festival initiatives persevered, and we celebrated the long journey together at the 2022 Science Events Summit. Although dozens of people contributed to the project, Daniel Aguirre, the founder of Pueblo Consulting, deserves special thanks for stepping up in 2021 and 2022 during a time of need by shifting from an advisory role to taking the lead on many aspects of the project.



Bay Area Science Festival



## 2022 SUMMIT

The 2022 Science Events Summit was the first since 2019, and we met in Cambridge, MA. The Summit took place in June when it was deemed safer to meet in person, but preparations took place during the difficult time of the Delta and Omicron waves of the pandemic. Amidst this uncertainty, and with the conviction that the first return to a Summit should be more of a retreat-style meeting, attendance was capped at 60. The Summit's "Re/connecting" theme emphasized honest personal conversations, explored the different meanings specific places can have, and prepared practitioners to return to the emotional roller coaster of in-person event production. Along with more typical concurrent sessions, the agenda included curated walking sessions in Cambridge and a boat tour along the Charles River and Boston Harbor that capped off with fireworks from Fenway Park.



**"The Summit is probably the best opportunity we have in our country to connect with individuals in our field of public science engagement events. It offers a welcoming format to learn together with brilliant minds who are eager to improve and advance what science means to our larger society."**

SFA Member





## 2022 ANNUAL REPORT

68

NUMBER OF  
**SFA**  
FESTIVALS  
CELEBRATING



NUMBER OF  
**PEOPLE**  
VISITING A  
FESTIVAL

555,325

2,788

NUMBER OF  
**EVENTS**  
PRODUCED BY  
FESTIVALS



4

NUMBER OF  
**EVENTS**  
WITH MORE THAN  
10,000 VISITORS

NUMBER OF  
**EVENTS**  
WITH MORE THAN  
1,000 VISITORS

88

\* Figures reflect self-reported data provided by 37 reporting member festivals.



## 2022 ANNUAL REPORT

5,946

NUMBER OF  
**STEM PRACTITIONERS**  
TAKING AN ACTIVE ROLE IN A  
**FESTIVAL**



NUMBER OF  
**VOLUNTEERS**  
HELPING OUT A  
**FESTIVAL**

6,776

\$4,452,458

COMBINED  
**BUDGETS**  
FOR  
**FESTIVALS**

\$1,878,350

COMBINED VALUE OF  
**IN-KIND**  
MARKETING AND PR FOR  
**FESTIVALS**

NUMBER OF FESTIVALS WITH A  
**BUDGET**  
OF  
**\$50,000 OR LESS**

22



\* Figures reflect self-reported data provided by 37 reporting member festivals.



## SFA MEMBER FESTIVALS

**7 Days of STEM - Silly Science Sunday \***  
September 17, 2022

**Alabama Science Festival \***  
October 22, 2022 to October 29, 2022

**Arizona SciTech Festival**  
December 10, 2022

**Arkansas Science Festival \***  
October 15, 2022 to November 3, 2022

**Art of Science\***  
June 24, 2022 to June 24, 2022

**Atlanta Science Festival \***  
March 12, 2022 to March 26, 2022

**Bay Area Science Festival \***  
April 21, 2022 to April 30, 2022

**Beakerhead \***  
September 23, 2022 to September 25, 2022

**BLAST Canada \***  
June 11, 2022 to September 25, 2022

**Bug Bowl**  
April 9, 2022

**Cambridge Science Festival**  
October 3, 2022 to October 9, 2022

**Celebrate Science Indiana \***  
October 1, 2022 to October 1, 2022

**Charleston STEM Festival**  
April 23, 2022

**Chicago Science Festival \***  
June 4, 2022

**City of STEM \***  
April 1, 2022 to April 30, 2022

**Colorado Springs Science Festival**  
September 30, 2022 to October 15, 2022

**COSI Science Festival \***  
May 4, 2022 to May 7, 2022

**Dayton Regional Science Festival \***  
November 19, 2022

**Dinosaur Days**  
August 6, 2022 to August 7, 2022

**eSTEAM Sumter Festival**  
November 12, 2022 to November 13, 2022

**Eureka! Festival \***  
June 10, 2022 to June 12, 2022

**Everyday Futures Fest \***  
April 1, 2022 to April 30, 2022

**Flagstaff Dark Skies Coalition \***  
September 22, 2022 to September 24, 2022

**Flagstaff Festival of Science \***  
September 23, 2022 to October 2, 2022

**Greater Fort Lauderdale Science Festival**  
March 3, 2022 - March 4, 2023

**Hack the Park**  
July 9, 2022



## SFA MEMBER FESTIVALS

### **iMagine Upstate**

April 1, 2022

### **Indian River Lagoon Science Festival \***

October 22, 2022

### **Interplanetary Festival \***

October 22, 2022    October 23, 2022

### **Jackson Hole WILD Science Festival**

September 26, 2022 to October 1, 2022

### **Jacksonville Science Festival \***

March 24, 2022 to March 26, 2022

### **Kansas Science Festival \***

April 20, 2022 to April 30, 2022

### **Kenora Science Festival \***

September 19, 2022 to September 24, 2023

### **Las Vegas Science & Technology Festival**

April 30, 2022 to May 7, 2022

### **Los Alamos Science Festival \***

July 8, 2022 to July 16, 2023

### **Maine Science Festival**

March 16, 2022 to March 20, 2022

### **Maryland STEM Festival \***

October 14, 2022 to November 14, 2022

### **Mississippi Science Festival**

September 15, 2022 to September 17, 2022

### **MSU Science Festival \***

April 1, 2022 to April 30, 2022

### **National Math Festival \***

April 23, 2022

### **NCSciFest \***

April 1, 2022 to April 30, 2022

### **Nebraska Science Festival**

April 1, 2022 to April 30, 2022

### **Neutrino Day**

July 8, 2022    July 9, 2022

### **North Bay Science Festival**

October 22, 2022 to October 29, 2022

### **Northern Nevada Science & Technology Festival**

April 26, 2022 to April 30, 2022

### **Randolph College Science Festival \***

March 31, 2022 to April 3, 2022

### **Roanoke STEAM Day**

October 28, 2022 to October 28, 2022

### **Rogue Valley Mini Maker Faire**

September 24, 2022 to September 24, 2022

### **Roswell Science and Art Festival \***

October 8, 2022

### **San Diego Festival of Science & Engineering \***

March 8, 2022 to May 7, 2023

### **Sault Ste. Marie Science Festival**

June 14, 2022 to June 19, 2022

### **Science Is Everywhere \***

March 12, 2022 to March 20, 2023



## SFA MEMBER FESTIVALS

**Science Learning Tent at the Arlee Celebration \***  
July 1, 2022 July 2, 2022

**Sitka WhaleFest**  
September 4, 2022 to September 6, 2022

**SKySci Fest (S.Ky.ScienceFestival) \***  
April 21, 2022 to April 23, 2022

**SUBMERGE! \***  
October 14, 2022 to October 15, 2022

**Sun City Science Festival \***  
March 8, 2022 to May 3, 2022

**Tallahassee Science Festival**  
October 22, 2022 to October 22, 2022

**Tennessee Science Festival**  
October 14, 2022 to October 23, 2022

**Texas A&M Physics and Engineering Festival \***  
April 2, 2022 April 3, 2022

**Thunder Bay Science Festival**  
February 19, 2022 to February 26, 2022

**Virginia Tech Science Festival \***  
November 12, 2022 to November 12, 2022

**Waco Cultural Arts Fest ScienceFest**  
September 30, 2022 to October 2, 2022

**Wisconsin Science Festival\***  
October 10, 2022 to October 16, 2022



Atlanta



San Diego



NCSciFest



Bay Area Science Festival



Eurêka! Festival



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