

Flying Cloud Institute | Where Science Meets Art

ANNUAL REPORT 2021



THE MISSION OF FLYING CLOUD INSTITUTE IS TO INSPIRE YOUNG PEOPLE AND EDUCATORS THROUGH DYNAMIC SCIENCE AND ART EXPERIENCES THAT IGNITE CREATIVITY.

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What a wild year! We spent the first few months running an outdoor school, helping children with remote learning while offering science, art, and nature exploration during school shutdowns. Then, we were filled with joy at the chance to re-launch S·M·Art Summer, Young Women in Science, MakerSpaces, and classroom residencies as we came together again in classrooms, forests, and art studios throughout the Berkshires. I am forever grateful to you, our families, community partners, donors, staff, and board members who worked together to create positive solutions to a global crisis. We took a big swing to serve our community and you were there to ensure we could follow through.

With your help, we piloted a new summer program for Berkshire county public school children who don't usually get to go to camp, creating an opportunity for them to get not just science and art from Flying Cloud Institute but the best of the Berkshires from our sister nonprofits in a powerful coalition of artists, educators, and naturalists.

You brought STEM exploration to girls in Pittsfield who hadn't had a science class in two years. You gave students at W.E.B. du Bois the tools to design and build robots-- real robots with a local innovator in robotics engineering! And you supported K-8 teachers with science and art residencies for their classrooms.

We celebrate YOU for making all of this possible!


MARIA RUNDLE
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

WWW.FLYINGCLOUDINSTITUTE.ORG



Community Partners

At Flying Cloud Institute, the magic is in collaboration.



Joey Chernila, art educator, discusses illustration with young artists at *A Summer Money Can't Buy*.

For 35 years, Flying Cloud has worked with community partners, schools, scientists, and artists to empower and inspire children. These enduring relationships were critical to creating solutions for local families during the pandemic. Those partnerships, old and new, are how we will continue to evolve to serve the needs of our community today and in the future.

Thank you to our fellow nonprofits for collaborating with us to serve the children in Berkshire County in 2021:

Berkshire Community College, Berkshire Innovation Center, Berkshire Pulse, Dewey Hall, Flying Deer, Greenagers, Literacy Network of Southern Berkshire, R.O.P.E, Shakespeare & Company, SOAR, Volunteers in Medicine, WAM Theater, Wade Institute for Science & Education

Financial Report

TOTAL REVENUE
\$556,387

TUITION & PROGRAM INCOME
\$223,104

GRANT INCOME
\$233,408

DONATIONS & GIFTS
\$99,875

TOTAL EXPENSES
\$349,581

PROGRAM SERVICES
\$251,580

ADMINISTRATIVE & GENERAL
\$63,797

FUNDRAISING EXPENSES
\$34,204

Flying Cloud Institute BACK in Schools!

You empowered local children with equitable access to STEAM by bringing Flying Cloud Institute into schools.

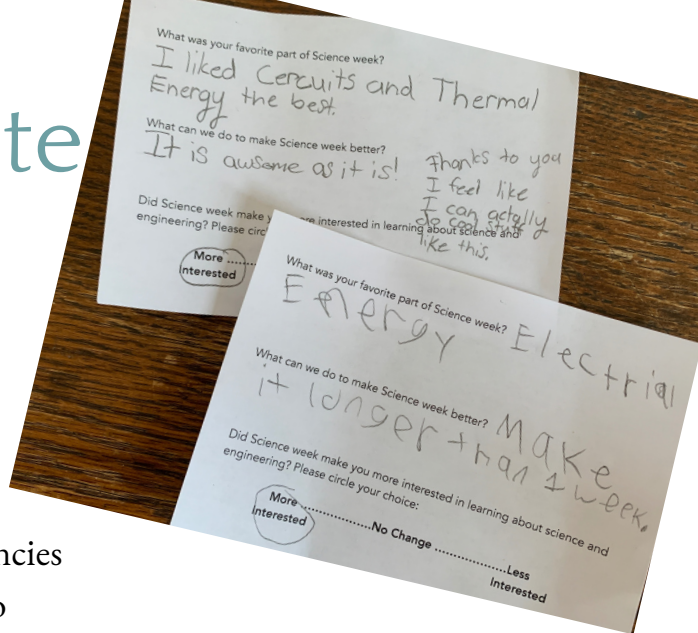
When schools reopened, your support brought FCI residencies to public school teachers in their classrooms in order to support their curriculum with the most up-to-date science and engineering practices.

You relaunched after-school MakerSpace and Girls Science Clubs, giving children hands-on learning experiences that inspired their imaginations.

What is a MakerSpace?

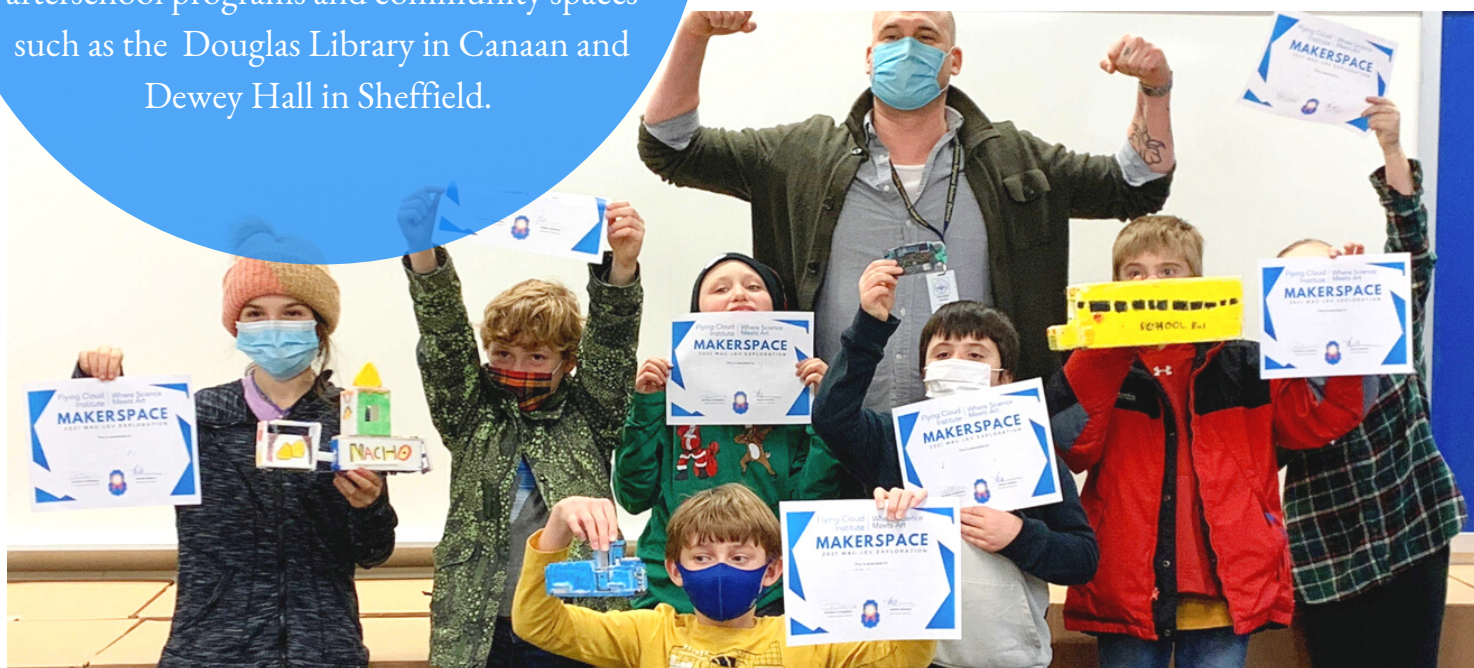
It's a place where children of all ages can explore hands-on, creative ways to design, experiment, build and invent as they deeply engage in science and engineering.

Flying Cloud offers MakerSpaces in afterschool programs and community spaces such as the Douglas Library in Canaan and Dewey Hall in Sheffield.



In 2021, you expanded creative science learning opportunities to children in schools throughout Berkshire County and beyond:

- Child Care Center of the Berkshires
- Conte Community School
- Crosby Elementary
- Lee Elementary School
- Muddy Brook Elementary School
- Morningside Community School
- North Canaan Elementary School
- Reid Middle School
- Salisbury Central
- Undermountain Elementary
- W.E.B. du Bois Middle School



Young designers showcasing their magnetically levitating cars in a *MakerSpace* at Undermountain Elementary



What is an FCI residency?

Working closely with public school teachers, Flying Cloud Institute educators create lessons to meet science and technology state standards that re-enforce their curriculum through hands-on investigations and art activities.

Rachel Gall - FCI educator, physicist & middle school science teacher in New Milford, CT

"As someone who set out to be a public school teacher and then left to be a stay-at-home parent, I was thrilled to return to teaching as a S•M•Art Schools educator for Flying Cloud.

My position with Flying Cloud was like a surprise match made in heaven. I was trying to catch up on the Next Gen Science Standards and re-create my teacher mojo that felt so natural before becoming a parent myself. **Co-teaching alongside both new and veteran science teachers in their classrooms provided incredible mutual professional development. I learned from their teachers' craft, and in return, they gained an arts-integrated NGSS curriculum unit without having to stay up at night learning the new standards and creating lesson plans on their own.** I saw firsthand how innovative independent educators, like FCI, are basically the source of all of the tried and true teaching units and strategies that policy-strapped public school educators rely on to succeed. The fact that I got to integrate fiddling and music with the physics I was teaching was all icing on the cake!"



A young chemist at work in Girls Science Clubs

S•M•ART
WHERE SCIENCE
MEETS ART

Young Women in Science returns!

You provided the opportunity for diverse role models and mentors to share their STEM journey and work with girls on hands-on experiments in physics, economics, chemistry, coding, robotics and more.

You helped girls ask big questions:
Who do I want to be? How do I get there?
Can I do this?

You let these girls understand there are people to help them along their way.



Today, you're going to become a clay chemical engineer," says Jane Burke, Flying Cloud Institute founder, chemist & VIP STEM volunteer

YOU CAN'T BE
WHAT YOU
CAN'T SEE.

-Marion Wright Edelman



Angel Heffernan, Director Young Women in Science

"What a dynamic year! At the start of 2021, I was packing science kits and dropping them off to our young scientists in Pittsfield, so we could meet virtually while schools were shut down.

Then, as the world opened back up, we were filled with immense gratitude for being together again in person. The girls felt engaged and inspired by every activity. Our Mentor program bloomed with 19 extraordinary young women joining us to become impactful role models in our Girls Science Clubs. We were delighted to provide two mentor-training events this year with the women of the Berkshire Innovation Center.

And, of course, a deeply heartfelt thank you to all of the women STEM professionals who share their passion for science and create memorable experiences for girls that will last a lifetime!"

Thank you to the women volunteers who share their passion for science.

Bernadette Dineen

Chemistry Research Assistant - MCLA

Dana Vorisek

Economist - World Bank

Erin Potter

Doctoral Candidate - Univ. at Albany's Dept.
of Atmospheric and Environmental Sciences

Danica Chin

Process Engineer - Plaskolite

Jane Burke

Chemist & Flying Cloud Institute founder

Judy Diamond

Animal Behavior Researcher
Univ. of Nebraska

Kate Light

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Berkshire Innovation Center

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Lion's Head Cost Consultants

Sara Mason

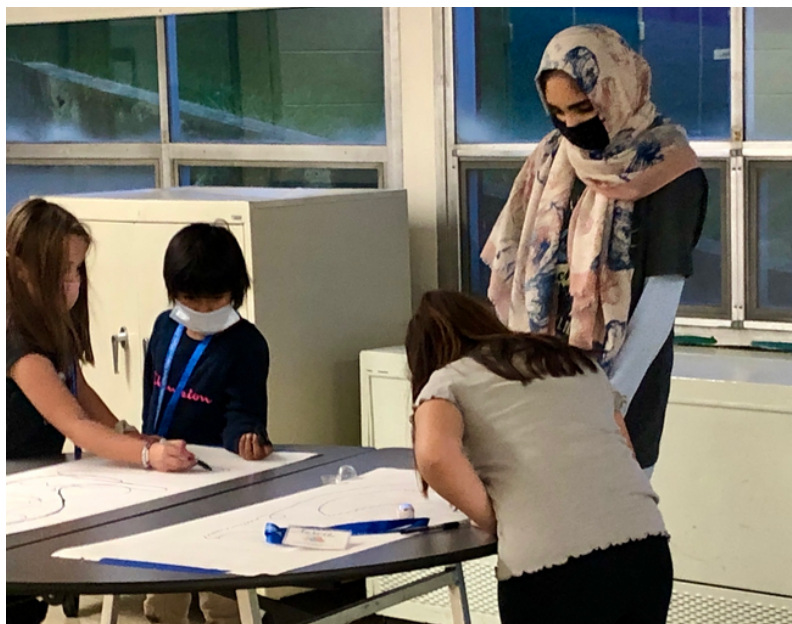
Chemist - Snapdragon Chemistry

Sarah Snyder

Professor of Biology
Bard College at Simon's Rock

Dr. Wei Chen

Professor of Chemistry & Life Science
Mt Holyoke College



Esha, High School Mentor

"Mentoring with the Flying Cloud Institute has been one of the highlights of my school year. I've learned to grow compassion and patience when I spend time with these little girls. **With each meeting, I learn something new about myself, others, science, and the world around me.** Mentoring with Angel and Maria has been an experience for which I'm extremely grateful. **I hope I can be a leader and an inspiration to these young scientists."**



Tia Damman, Young Women in Science

Volunteer & Engineer from General Dynamics Mission Systems, breaking down barriers with Angel Heffernan, YWIS director

S•M•Art Summer

Thank you to our summer program hosts!

S•M•Art Summer

April Hill Conservation & Education Center in Egremont
Jane & Larry Burke's farm in New Marlborough

A Summer Money Can't Buy

Undermountain Elementary in Sheffield

Young Women in Science's STEM Summer

Berkshire Community College



"I want to tell you how happy my daughter is every day she comes home from camp. She thoroughly enjoys all that you are doing as well as the counselors and classmates. She is excited to tell me each day about the discussions and what she did at camp. After a year of remote schooling over the past year during Covid, it's really nice to see her socializing and enjoying herself again."

-Mitch Kellar, parent



A Summer Money Can't Buy



S•M•Art Summer at April Hill

Ways YOU Help

YOU INSPIRE YOUNG PEOPLE & IGNITE CREATIVITY

Your donation ensures access to science & art, regardless of a child's ability to pay.

Only summer camp is fee-based. All other programs are available for FREE.

Did you know that you can also easily give in ways that benefit you too?

- **Become a business sponsor** and receive public recognition.
- **Employer Match** - by asking your employer if they offer a matching gift policy, you can double or triple your impact.
- **A gift from your IRA.** If you are 70 1/2 years old or older, talk with your financial advisor about how to take advantage of tax benefits with your donation.
- **A monthly recurring gift** is one of the best ways YOU can give! It's easy to set up a monthly gift that fits your budget and provides sustainable funding for dynamic science and art throughout the year.
- **Make a gift in your will** for future generations.

Questions? Contact Amy Truax at atruax@flyingcloudinstitute.org.



Elaine S. Padilla, PhD

**Distinguished Professor Emerita,
State University of New York
Association of Community College
Trustees National Faculty Awardee**

"When I was a student at the Bronx High School of Science, I was immersed in math and science... I loved it! STEM was so exciting!

Later, as a college Professor and Mentor of college students, I was perplexed at the number of young women who, despite my enthusiasm and encouragement, sidestepped STEM subjects. Why? STEM is our present and, clearly, our future. I began to realize that enthusiasm and encouragement for STEM had not come early enough for my students.

When I moved to the Berkshires, my friend, Barbara Viniar, a board member, told me about Flying Cloud Institute. I read their vision statement...INSPIRE YOUNG PEOPLE... IGNITE CREATIVITY. I was smitten!

Enthusiasm and encouragement are just the beginning for these lucky youngsters! Hands-on experiments led by incredible facilitators create an atmosphere of wonder and comfort that will forever shape these kids' perspectives.

That's why I regularly donate to Flying Cloud. I know, for sure, it will make a difference in these children's lives, and ours...and our beautiful planet will benefit."

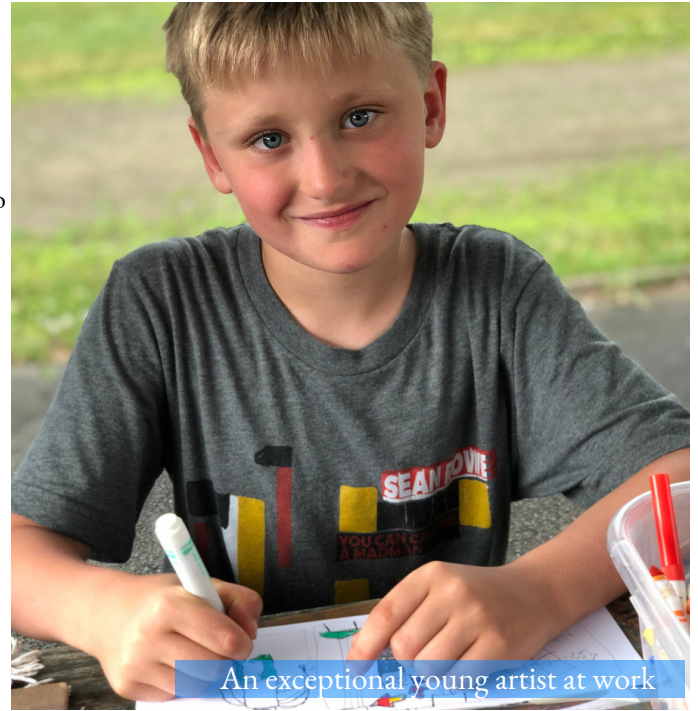
THANK YOU FOR GIVING CHILDREN HANDS-ON CREATIVE LEARNING

January 1 - December 31, 2021

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An exceptional young artist at work

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Susan S. Beck
Sharon Milukas
Bob Nason

We make every effort to ensure the accuracy of these lists. If you discover an error, please accept our apologies and email Amy Truax at atruax@flyingcloudinstitute.org

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and John Weinstein
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Kathryn Sirois
Kristen Sparhawk
and Ryan Marchione
Jacqui Valouch
Barbara Viniar



Student Artwork

“I like science because I get to experiment and create new things to help the world and people”

-Natatie, age 9

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The Agnes M. Lindsay Trust
The Green Foundation
The Honey Hives Soaps
Women's Fund of Western Massachusetts

Jeffrey Diamond

Founding Board Member

"As a professional in the Technology business, I know it's extremely important to introduce our kids to an environment of development and discovery that readies their curiosity for the real world. I love how Flying Cloud takes a grass roots and hands on approach to the sciences, math, music, and art. "



Flying Cloud Institute | Where Science Meets Art

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"A Summer Money Can't Buy" at Undermountain Elementary School