The San Antonio Museum of Science and Technology (SAMSAT) is the up-and-coming technology museum dedicated to “inspiring what’s next” through promoting STEM education, fueling the future San Antonio STEM workforce and transforming the local community. SAMSAT believes that the exploration of the past, present and future inspires innovation and creates a capable workforce.

**Foundation**

San Antonio Museum of Science and Technology (SAMSAT) founder and board chair, David Monroe, developed a love for STEM at an early age that followed him through college when he left the University of Kansas to start an internship at Datapoint. During his time at Datapoint, Monroe participated in developing the core innovations that would lead to the evolution of the personal computer and computer networks as we know them today. In 1983, he became a serial entrepreneur and was founder and/or president of multiple companies in the electronics, communication, and security space, including Image Data Corporation, PhotoTelesis Corporation, The Telesis Group and e-Watch Corporation, resulting in 54 patents related to these and other technologies.

A lifelong technology advocate, Mr. Monroe spent decades collecting museum-quality artifacts in the electronics, computers, communications and cybersecurity space. Artifacts such a World War II Enigma coding machine, Edison experimental light bulbs, original Edison dynamos (multi-ton electricity generation units), prototypes of the first cellphone camera, the Datapoint microcomputer collection and other technology artifacts were the foundation of Monroe’s exhibits showcased in his former e-Watch offices.

Meanwhile, local nonprofit, SASTEMIC, was founded in 2012 under the leadership of Scott Gray. SASTEMIC’s mission focused on advancing STEM education and economic development, acting as a connectory between K-12, college, industry, government and nonprofits in the San Antonio area. SASTEMIC acquired the Geekbus, SASTEMIC mobile maker space, in 2013. Since that time, the Geekbus has served over 50,000 students. SASTEMIC also delivered STEM camps, teacher training and STEM clubs. In 2015, SASTEMIC co-founder and current board chair, Cliff Zintgraff, learned of Monroe’s efforts and the partnership between the two organizations began, and from 2015 to 2016, the synergy between the two organizations continued through multiple events and various educational programs.
In 2017, both organizations moved to SAMSAT’s new Preview Center, at Port San Antonio, near Lackland Air Force Base. SASTEMIC staff began regular delivery of SAMSAT Preview Center tours. This move was the first step towards SAMSAT’s future presence in Port San Antonio’s Innovation Center, a 100,000 square foot space under development incorporating an Event Center, restaurants, E-gaming space, and the museum. SAMSAT’s David Monroe contributed to the Innovation Center design and played a key role in creating the vision and securing development funding.

SAMSAT and SASTEMIC merged in September of 2019, creating the SAMSAT student and visitor experience as it exists today.

**SAMSAT Today**

Today SAMSAT is “inspiring what’s next” through the exploration of the past, present and future of STEM. Artifacts include original Edison experimental light bulbs, two of the first four personal computers on the planet that were built in San Antonio, a WWII Enigma encryption machine and the Tesla Coil music demonstration that is the highlight of a museum tour. The 15,000 square foot preview center showcases many STEM artifacts, a TV production area, laser optics, machine production, and houses an education space.

**Educators**

SAMSAT delivers variety of STEM programming through Explore and Do tours, SAMSAT Online, the Geekbus mobile STEM space, STEM camps, STEM clubs, and lecture series and other adult-focused events. K-12 programming builds on 19 curricula covering topics like drones, cyber, wind energy, robotics, forensics and more. In Explore and Do tours, students learn the history of electricity, computers, communications, and cyber. During the tour, students delve into the mindset of some of history’s greatest inventors and entrepreneurs, and they participate in hands-on STEM curricula and activities.

In SAMSAT’s online inquiry-driven courses, students explore STEM topics, conduct research and create deliverables. Courses include video game design, robotics, the math and science of spreading disease, the invention of the lightbulb, Tesla coils, ciphers, and 3D printing. When school is not in session, SAMSAT offers summer camps that cover an array of topics including photography, dinosaurs, space, and infectious diseases. that cover an array of topics including photography, dinosaurs, space and infectious diseases.

**Families**

SAMSAT offers multiple programs for families interested in STEM through the FREE Family Days every Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Additionally, if a child is not affiliated with SAMSAT partner school, families can participate in online events open to the public that cover similar topics offered to educators.
532 STEM events hosted since 2015

114,000+ Adults and students served since funding

120 Online events provided to date in 2020

37,500 Students experienced GeekbusTM and other field-based programming since 2016

31,000+ Community members served through SAMSAT Family Days, lecture series, special events and online resources

800+ Teachers received professional development STEM training since 2015

5,743 Adults and children participated in Family Day in 2019

3,000 Students participated in online courses developed as a result of COVID-19
Community Partnerships
SAMSAT actively partners with community organizations for special programs related to STEM, invention, innovation, and application, custom curriculum and community-driven initiatives. These community partnerships include the SAHA/Boeing laptop program, SA Smart Challenge, Impact SA, Boys & Girls Club and KLRN’s Camp TV.

As of March 2020, SAMSAT transitioned to 100% online and virtual learning as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, with more than 2800 students participating in online coursework as of July 15, 2020.

David Monroe SAMSAT Education Center
Through the San Antonio’s Recovery & Resiliency Program and the Bexar County Strong Program, SAMSAT was able to extend its services to include adult workforce education. This important community initiative allows SAMSAT to transform the lives of the unemployed through STEM training at the SAMSAT Education Center and training hub.

Now, SAMSAT can help inspire what’s next, now from K through gray.

The 27,000 square foot Education Center creates a place where SAMSAT and other educators and workforce development partners can deliver an array of training and placement services, helping thousands of San Antonians to enhance their skills to gain access to new career paths. In order to get the education center up to its full potential SAMSAT needs financial support so we can transform as many lives as possible and get San Antonio back to work.

Looking to the Future
By 2021 SAMSAT will encompass more than 68,000 square feet on the Port San Antonio campus, including space at the Port San Antonio Innovation Center. This move creates a partnership with Port San Antonio that integrates education with economic development.

SAMSAT knows that inspiring innovation through STEM programming, education and training will develop a capable, local STEM-focused workforce that will fuel the future of cybersecurity, IT, medical and other STEM related industries that are booming San Antonio.