2019 Highlights
Virtual Reality Learning Bootcamp with UWM Immersive Media Lab

Chris Willey from UWM’s Immersive Media Lab led a four day bootcamp targeted at familiarizing 12 Digital Academy candidates with virtual reality code of conduct, equipment setup and software.
Brilliant Sandbox Partnership with Milwaukee College Prep

Workshops cycle cohorts of students from each of MCP's four urban campuses, pairing neurodiverse students with their grade level peers to attend a workshop at IOB studio space using traditional and digital means of creating art projects.
Big Gig Design Challenge with Summerfest

Brilliant Guest Artist Ashley Steinberg from Summerfest led a one day design challenge for 20 IOB students. Not only was it a fun workshop, but Danielle was interviewed by CBS58 about her t-shirt design that was available for purchase at the Summerfest Merchandise Store!
Design Thinking Learning Bootcamp
with UWM DVC Faculty

Kim Beckmann and Coe Douglas from UWM’s School of Design and Visual Communications led a four day bootcamp and showcase in Design Thinking and prototyping. This was many of our candidates first exposure to working collaboratively in a team to problem solve and develop solutions.
Light the Hoan Virtual Reality Software Development Sprints

13 Digital Academy candidates created a virtual reality experience of the Milwaukee inner harbor and Hoan Bridge, complete with colorful lights that users can change through virtual interactions. Project partners included Light the Hoan, UWM’s Immersive Media Lab, and Outer Rim Studios. The build took place at the new UWM Lubar Entrepreneurship Center during the last two weeks of June, 2019.
Community Engagement

The Light the Hoan VR experience was available for public user interaction at a number of high profile technology, education, and nonprofit events from late Summer through year end. Over 1,000 user interactions were recorded, including high profile users such as Milwaukee Mayor Tom Barrett; Milwaukee 2020 Democratic National Convention Executive Director Liz Gilbert; and Milwaukee philanthropist David Lubar.

The following is a list of events with approximate number of attendees in parenthesis:

- Light the Hoan VIP Fundraising Event, July 30 (50)
- Startup Milwaukee Tech Bash, August 20 (400)
- Light the Hoan VR Demo at Islands of Brilliance, August 27 (50)
- Milwaukee Maker Faire, September 14 - 15 (16,470)
- FallX Sponsored by Northwestern Mutual, October 4 - 5 (2,500)
- SySTEMnow 16th Annual Conference, October 31 (300)
- Force for Positive Change Awards, Lambeau Field, November 15 (125)
- Colors & Chords, November 22 (600)
- Light the Hoan VIP Fundraising Event, December 2 (75)
- The Commons Demo Day, December 6 (400)

The #MKEtechBash produced by Startup Milwaukee offered participants the opportunity to network while trying out new games and demonstrations from Milwaukee-area startups. I had the chance to try out the Islands of Brilliance Light the Hoan Virtual Reality experience-- It was out of this world!
88Nine Radio Milwaukee
2019 Membership Drive T-Shirt Design

What happens when two great Milwaukee nonprofit organizations partner together? Magic. 10 of our Digital Academy students participated in a real world design project over a three day period in March, resulting in the t-shirt design pictured directly above.
Foundation Workshops Set
New Enrollment Record

From January through December, Islands of Brilliance offers foundation art, design, and STEM workshops for students on the autism spectrum as young as age eight. With so many memorable moments, it's difficult to limit the amount of photos needed to tell the entire story!
Colors & Chords
Turner Hall Ballroom

A night dedicated to the power of inclusion—one we will never forget. Filled with art, music, smiles, and emotion our annual celebration drew a record crowd of over 600 people. Even Milwaukee Mayor Tom Barrett came—and stayed for the fun!