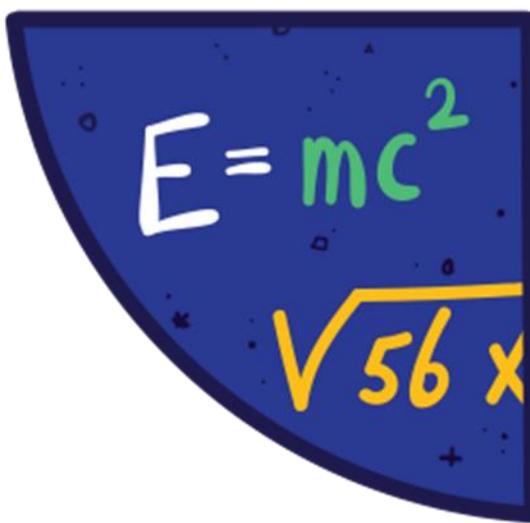




# SCIENCE CIRCLE



## Annual Report 2024 – The Science Circle

### 1. Introduction

- The Science Circle began in February 2008 and has been a Netherlands-registered foundation since July 3, 2017, offering free international scientific education through Second Life, YouTube, and PDFs and PowerPoints on our website. Our mission is to make science accessible to everyone worldwide. This report outlines our activities and finances for 2024.
- According to our statutes, established upon incorporation on July 3, 2017, our objective is "to share knowledge globally and promote free education and activities related to it in the broadest sense, or which can incidentally or structurally contribute to it; to connect various disciplines, inspire innovation, and serve as a forum for the exchange of ideas, without a profit motive." The full statutes are available upon request from the Chamber of Commerce (KvK number 69118701).
- Address: Jacob van Campenstraat 55, 7606 TX Almelo, Netherlands.
- KvK: 69118701
- RSIN: 8577.43.752

### 2. Board and Policy

- Board:
  - Chantal C.J. Jager, founder (Netherlands)
  - Jes C. Stannard, secretary (Australia)
  - Phil D. Youngblood, member (USA)
  - Mike J. Shaw, member (USA)
  - Stephen L. Gasior, member (USA)
  - Natalie M. Foster, member (USA)
- Board members receive no compensation; all work is performed voluntarily.

### 3. Activities

- In 2024, The Science Circle organized 166 (158, 2023) interactive lectures and excursions in Second Life, published 24 (21, 2023) lectures on YouTube, shared 6 (30-40, 2023) free PDFs and PowerPoints, and released 10 (10, 2023) scientific blogs (Hypothesis) via our website.
- Participation in:
  - Virtual Worlds Best Practices in Education Conference
  - Second Life's 21st Birthday
  - NASA's International Observe The Moon Night
  - Virtual Worlds MOOC 24 ["Virtual Moon Base Interdisciplinary Science Project"] in August 2024
- Our scientists from Bonaire (NL), Canada, Ecuador, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Panama, Scotland (UK), Singapore, United Kingdom, USA, and Switzerland reached over 500 monthly SL users and more than 1,000 YouTube viewers.
- Topics included:
  - o Technology: Artificial Intelligence (medical diagnostics), IT and scripting, history of the internet.
  - o Natural Sciences: Geology, astrophysics, biology, CRISPR, marine biology, genetic modification.
  - o Society: Food security, sociology of collaboration, history of Ethiopia and Eritrea, climate change, knowledge acquisition, Covid.
  - o Space: The moon and future bases, NASA's Observe the Moon Night (fall).
  - o Culture: Architecture, hope on the horizon, classical concerts (Sundays).
  - o Special Initiatives: Weekly math club, monthly discussions, Darwin Day (led by Stephen Gasior).

#### 4. Financial Overview

Financial overview 2024 (amounts in €):

##### **Income Statement**

	2024	2023
<b>Income</b>	€	€
Donations	881	890
Short-term loan	235	
NSF-Grant (SL)	<u>1200</u>	<u>1200</u>
	<u><u>2316</u></u>	<u><u>2090</u></u>

##### **Uitgaven**

NSF-Grant (SL)	-1200	-1200
Microsoft 365	-997	-156
Website/server		-450
Bank cost	-201	
SL activity expenses		-118
	<u><u>-2398</u></u>	<u><u>-1924</u></u>
<b>Total</b>	<u><u>-82</u></u>	<u><u>166</u></u>

Notes:

- The NSF grant is paid directly to Linden Lab, estimated value for 2024.
- Donations were received from members, participants, and friends.
- Year-end Balance is € - 82. All funds have been fully utilized for educational purposes, in accordance with ANBI standards.

**Balance sheet per 31 December 2024**

	2024	2023
	€	€
<b>Asset</b>		
Bank	43	166
Loan	235	
	<hr/> <hr/> 278	<hr/> <hr/> 166
<b>Equity</b>		
Reserves	<hr/> 278	<hr/> 166
	<hr/> <hr/> 278	<hr/> <hr/> 166

Notes:

1. Equity

The equity of €278 consists of a bank balance and a short-term loan. This amount is reserved for the continuation of our objective: supporting educational projects.

## 2. Bank account

The balance of €43 in the bank account represents liquid assets available for ongoing projects and administrative costs.

## 3. Short-term loan

The Short-term loan is received from the Founder/CEO of the organization, which will be repaid as soon as there is sufficient fund.

## 5. Future Outlook

- After 14 and 17 years respectively of working 50+ hour unpaid weeks, sometimes during nighttime hours due to our international reach, our foundation requires that we employ at least two people full-time. Our continuity is at risk. In 2025, we are seeking funding through Erasmus+ (€60K-€140K/year) and crowdfunding (€20K-€30K/year) to enable salaries for the founder and secretary, ensuring the mission's sustainability. Our Microsoft licenses have grown to 18 (€5.10/user/month), increasing future costs.

## 6. What is Second Life?

- Second Life (SL) is a 3D virtual world launched in 2003 by Linden Lab, where people create avatars—digital versions of themselves—to explore, connect, and build. Unlike video games with set goals, SL is an open-ended platform where users shape the experience. Since February 2008, The Science Circle has used SL to offer free science education, hosting 166 interactive lectures and excursions in 2024 alone. Scientists from countries like Bonaire, Canada, and Japan collaborate here, reaching over 500 monthly users with talks on topics like AI and climate change, all shared via YouTube and free resources.
- Some misunderstand SL as just a game or a dated social space, with comments calling it 'boring' or 'full of idle avatars.' In reality, it's a dynamic tool for creativity and learning—think of it as a global classroom or community hub, not a quest-driven adventure. Our NSF-funded region (active until mid-2027) proves its value: a space where real people, not bots, drive meaningful exchanges. It's not about constant action but about connection, education, and expression, evolving with its users for over 20 years.