

Museum Ongoing Growth under leadership of Executive Director Marlene Brown - In early 2000 Marlene was asked to join the Museum Board. In 2001, Marlene was asked to run the Children's Museum as Chair of the Board of Directors. In 2002, the museum Board appointed Marlene the museum's Executive Director. In 2015, the Museum Board awarded Marlene the honor of Executive Director Emeritus.

2000-2001

She has served in that position ever since, choosing to continue unpaid, in her passion, vision & mission to keep growing the museum for the children & families we serve. In 2001 Marlene was 1 of 20 recipients awarded the 1st CNY (Central New York) Outstanding Women in Business Awards.

2003

In 2002, the 4th floor was opened and the museum (founded in 1963) was adopted by NASA & DOE's Office of Science (thanks to then Congressman Sherry Boehlert, who loved the museum & felt it was a great asset to the Community). In 2003, Collis Bros. installed new Heating & Air Conditioning on most floors, making a significant difference in our utility bills (thanks to a grant our director obtained).

2004

In 2004, the museum secured a new oak front door & updated our front entranceway (thanks to GE Elfun's volunteer group). Ear Lewis continued his impt volunteer roles as Bookkeeper & Exhibits Mngr

2005

In 2005, we installed new energy-efficient windows throughout (thanks to help w/grants from then Sen. Ray Meier, Community Foundation (representing them was Richard Hanna) & Nimo Foundation). Marlene was 1 of 20 recipients awarded the 1st Mohawk Valley Outstanding Women in Business Award

2006

In 2006, we cut the ribbon on our Commemorative Brick Sidewalk (thanks to the late Roger Sinnott, Bank of Utica) and continued our renovations & growth, thanks to many supporters.

2007

In 2007, we finished the required paperwork and had our museum building officially certified as a NYS & Federal Historic building (in historic Baggs Square East).

2008

In 2008, we installed new energy-efficient lighting throughout + new roof signs (thanks to a grant from NYS Senator Joe Griffo) & began our Festival of Trees event.

2009

In 2009, we installed an LED Play Dance Floor & Touch Screen History Quizzes (thanks to The Community Foundation) + an interactive Lionel Train (thanks to John Stephenson & the GE Elfun's).

2010

In 2010, we redid our then leaking roof (going from 25 lbs psf to 5 lbs psf – thanks to the Community Foundation, Bank of Utica, & Sen. Donovan Foundation) -- setup a Utica couple's donated ceramic village & a donated HO train exhibit, setup a musical light show, & were named for the 2nd year in a row 1 of 3 finalists in Mohawk Valley Chamber's Business of the Year for NFP's under 50 employees.

2011

In 2011, (thanks to Earl Lewis & other vols) we setup 4th fl donated interactive trains on the 4th floor; installed 3rd floor handicapped bathrooms thanks to Community Foundation grant; created 1st floor "Healthy Kids Hut" thanks to Shaklee's/Mary Cardinale; equipped our 4th floor Theatre thanks to TW "Connect a Million Minds" grant; ED Marlene was named 1 of 2011 YWCA Woman Leaders.

2012-13

In 2012 we were Chosen by the Landmark Society to receive the Restoration Award; installed a Wind Turbine on our roof; opened Sustainable Energy Science Room; Co-recipient of Mayor Palmeri's Gala; Installed interactive Erie Canal exhibit on 2nd fl near Erie Canal exhibits - thanks to a grant from GE Elfun's). Replaced our 2nd floor carpets, thanks to a Community Foundation grant. Our ED Marlene was selected 1 of 19 from Central NY as WCNY's "Women Who Make America" Award winner,

2014-16

We're renovating our building according to City Codes. Future plans: ask permission from Codes dept. to build a STEM Center w/Planetarium in new building to be constructed on museum property in back of current museum, bringing funds into Museum + tax base via sponsors/renters & convert our bldg's deck into "green" eco-center. Join/Support us in this worthwhile effort for our Community & children!