

Founded in 1963, one of the oldest in the country; a NYS & Federal historic building, adopted by NASA & Office of Science. A 501 (c)(3) not for profit, chartered by the State of NY, members Assoc. Children's Museums (D. C.), MANY (Museum Assoc. NY), MV Chamber Commerce, OC Conv/Visitors Bureau, rotaryclubny1.com hdqtrrs. *Creating an Enjoyable Educational Environment for Kids from 1-101, boldly going where no museum has gone before with our 4 floors of interactive exhibits*

Children's Museum
311 Main Street
Utica, NY 13501
www.museum4kids.net



**The Children's Museum of History,
Natural History, Science & Technology**
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Executive Director: Marlene B. Brown

November 2nd, 2009

Dear City of Utica Mayor Roefaro, Common Council President Morehouse, and Common Council Members:

Please consider this a letter of thanks for the contribution of \$10,000 as determined by the Mayor and the Common Council at a mid-September meeting. We had appeared at the meeting to discuss ideas we have for win/win collaboration between the City of Utica and our Children's Museum, sharing the following:

- 1.) We are one of the rare NFP's in the City who receives no City or County contributions for programs.
- 2.) We are comparable to other local family and tourist organizations in our admission fees and what we offer.
- 3.) After two years of paperwork, we have been designated a Federal and NYS historic building.
- 4.) We reside in the downtown Utica area of Baggs Square East, in the midst of several other historic buildings.
- 5.) We have achieved much in the past eight years, as listed on the attached document.
- 6.) Our museum hosts an average of 10,000 visitors a year, 40% are tourists who help spur our local City economy, 60% are County residents, and of those, 25% are City residents and schoolchildren who benefit from lifelong learning opportunities and enjoyable family outings at our museum, no matter what the age.

We have worked tirelessly to preserve and grow this wonderful institution. We're proud of what we've been able to accomplish but still have much to do in the way of continued building renovation, new exhibits & programs. The founders of the museum never anticipated our growth when they began this institution 46 years ago.

As you know, we are not just a children's museum. As a place of preservation and active learning, we boast 4 floors, 6,000 square feet per floor, with 60 Pavilions and over 1,000 exhibits, most interactive, and house some of the finest history of the area in our building, to say nothing of the beauty of this 1890's structure. We need help to continue making our Future Visions a reality and we'd like to improve upon the number of City of Utica visitors.

We had asked for a yearly \$25,000 contribution from the City of Utica with which we can reduce City of Utica resident admissions by \$2. each & reduce City of Utica school children's fieldtrip admissions by \$1. each. We applied for stimulus funding to redo our leaking roof into an energy sustainable green roof, and are hoping the City will choose to help us out there, also.

Our FeedbackSurvey form, handed out to all visitors, has 99% checking the "strongly agree" box on the line "CM should be a City/County line item". Most people are surprised we're not. DUDA refers to "one of Downtown Utica's best", and the Utica Observer-Dispatch calls us "A Community Treasure".

We run a four story building with a paid staff of only 3, along with 2 volunteers, but have had to reduce the number of days open, thus negatively affecting staff wages. **We are again asking the Mayor and the Council to approve our request in next year's Budget by giving us just a small portion of the local pie**, demonstrating they appreciate how valuable the museum also is as a major contributor to the City of Utica's As places of preservation and active learning quality of life & tourism attraction.

Sincerely, Marlene B. Brown, Executive Director & The Children's Museum Board of Directors

Board of Directors: Michael Pilawa, John Stephenson, Matt Chmielewski, John Nogas, Franca Armstrong, Sabina Bajic, Dr. Joanne Palumbo-Mozloom, Ed Waszkiewicz, Brad Zacek, Dr. Sindoor DeSai, CPA – Vin Gilroy Jr.