

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 hdqrtrs. *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**
311 Main Street, Utica, NY 13501
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Website: www.museum4kids.net
Executive Director: Marlene B. Brown

September 1, 2009

Oneida County Board of Legislators, Chair and Members

Dear County Legislators:

We are here today to discuss some ideas we have for win/win collaboration between the County of Oneida and our Children's Museum. We already met to discuss this with County Executive Anthony Picente.

To give you a little background:

- 1.) We are one of the rare NFP's in the county who receives no 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, including that listed on the attached letter dated Jan. 15th
- 6.) Our museum hosts an average of 10,000 visitors a year, 40% are tourists who help spur our local economy, 60% are County residents who benefit from lifelong learning opportunities and enjoyable family outings at our museum, no matter what the age. We'd like to improve upon those numbers of local visitors.

We have worked tirelessly to preserve and grow this wonderful institution. We're very proud of what we've been able to accomplish, but as you can see on the attached listing, we still have much to accomplish in the way of continued building renovation, new exhibits & program enhancements.

The founders of the museum – the Junior League (Melva Max, Mackie Kernan, and Alice Pender-O'Shea) - attended our commemorative brick sidewalk opening and again expressed their delight in the growth of the museum, something they never anticipated when they began it 46 years ago.

As you know, we are not just a children's museum. While we boast 4 floors, 6,000 square feet per floor, with 60 Pavilions and over 1,000 exhibits, most interactive, we also 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, as we continue to be a major contributor to the Utica and County area's quality of life and tourism attractions.

We are asking for a \$25,000 contribution from the County of Oneida. With this, we can reduce County residents admissions by \$2. each & reduce Oneida County school children's fieldtrip admissions \$1. each

Attached is a copy of the Feedback Survey we have been handed out to all visitors this past year. 99% checked the "strongly agree" box on the line "CM should be a City & County line item". Most people are surprised we're not.

The Oneida County Convention & Visitors Bureau refers to us as "a valuable county asset", and the Utica Observer-Dispatch refers to us as "A Community Treasure". We will be working with Kelly Blazosky and Tim Trainor on their Branding Oneida County tourism project.

We look forward to the Board of Legislators and the County Executive approving our request, demonstrating that they, too, appreciate how valuable the museum is for the County of Oneida and its residents.

Sincerely,

Marlene B. Brown, Executive Director

cc: County Executive Anthony Picente

**Board of Directors: Michael Pilawa, John Stephenson, Matt Chmielewski John Nogas,
Dr. Joanne Palumbo-Mozloom, Ed Waszkiewicz, Brad Zacek;. CPA – Vin Gilroy Jr.**