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Children's Museum will renovate longhouse

UTICA - The Children's Museum on Main Street was presented with \$10,000 this week by the Oneida Indian Nation to refurbish the museum's Longhouse Exhibit, which was the very first installation 41 years ago. The longhouse, currently a walk-in display with artifacts from around the nation under a bark and wood structure, will be renovated for greater authenticity and detail for the generations to come, said Chuck Fougner, chairman of the Oneida Nation Foundation.

The original longhouse exhibit will remain in the museum, said museum director Marlene Brown. "We'll do this in stages," Fougner said. "We'll try to get it done as fast and as authentically as possible." Refurbishment of the longhouse will begin in November, and will take up to one year.

The museum will also be home to a specialized kiosk with a continuing array of folk tales and stories from the Oneida tradition. The kiosk will promote awareness of the Oneida Indian Nation, said Dale Rood, from the Oneida Indian Nation's 4-D Production Studios. "If you go to an encyclopedia and look up 'Oneida,' you get 'member nation of the Iroquois confederacy,'" Rood said. "That's it." Through the kiosk, the stories will be told from an Oneida perspective, Rood said. Development of the kiosk will begin soon, Rood said.

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