

Museum Growth under Executive Director Marlene Brown, - In 2011 Marlene began running the Museum as unpaid President of Board of Directors. In 2002, the museum Board appointed Marlene the museum's Executive Director. 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 & adults we serve.

2002

In 2002, the 4th floor was opened and the museum was adopted by NASA & DOE's Office of Science (thanks to then Congressman Sherry Boehlert).

2003

In 2003, the museum 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 and updated our front entranceway (thanks to the volunteer GE Elfun's group).

2005

In 2005, we installed new energy-efficient windows throughout (thanks to grants from then Sen. Ray Meier, The Community Foundation & Nimo Foundation).

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.

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 GE Elfun's).

2010

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

2011

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

2012

In 2012, we installed Wind Turbines on our roof & Opened interactive Science Room. Plan to bring 2nd fl dollhouse & 3rd floor History wall to life & Finish interactive Erie Canal exhibit.

2013-15

Plans underway to build a STEM Center with Planetarium in a new building constructed on museum property in back of our current museum; & convert deck adjoining our building into garden/ eco-pond.

[STATS: We track visitors by Zip Codes + time they enter /leave to determine optimal hours of operation. 98% spend 2 hrs in museum betw 9:15a & 11:45a. Ave # visitors: 18% City Utica, 43% local cities/towns, 39% nat'l/global. A vital quality of life facility, educational resource, tourism attraction. <http://www.museum4kids.net>]

Board: John Nogas, Colonial Insurance; Joe Marino, Acc't-Brindisi Law Firm/City Councilman; Mary Cardinale PhD, Utica College Professor/ Shaklee; Dave Gordon, Sr. Mngr J C Penny/Oneida Co. Legislator; Celia Domser MS, MVCC STEM Director; Bradley Brown, Gemini Group; Dan Olivadoti, H. R./Compliance, Special Metals; Gloria Vescera, homemaker/K-Music; Erica Brindisi, MVCC Science Professor; Joe Ribauda, PhD, Asst. Physics Prof, UC; Bill Sheerin, retired GE Engineering; Jim LaPaglia, VP, Morgan Stanley, Andy Biernat, Sr VP, Brown & Brown