

 **Museum Growth under leadership of Executive Director Marlene Brown** - In 2001 Marlene began running the Museum as unpaid President of the 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 for now, in her passion, vision and mission to keep growing the museum for the children & families we serve.

2001-2002

In 2001 Marlene was 1 of 20 recipients awarded the 1st CNY Outstanding Women in Business Awards. In 2002, the 4th floor was opened and the museum (founded in 1963) was adopted by NASA & DOE's Office of Science (thanks to backing from 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). Marlene was one of 20 recipients awarded the 1st Mohawk Valley Outstanding Women in Business Awards.

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, Marlene 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 grant backing from 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 a Grant from The Community Foundation) & an interactive Lionel Train on 3rd fl (thanks to GE Elfun's).

2010

In 2010, we redid our leaking roof (going from 25 lbs psf to 5 lbs psf – thanks to support from the Community Foundation, Bank of Utica, & Sen. Donovan Foundation); setup a donated ceramic village & a HO train exhibit, setup a musical light show, 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 4th fl donated interactive trains thanks to Earl Lewis & other vols; installed 3rd floor handicapped bathrooms thanks to grant from Community Foundation; 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 Marlene was named 1 of 2011 YWCA Woman Leaders.

2012-13

In 2012 we were Chosen Landmark Society 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 grant from GE Elfun's, our ED Marlene was selected 1 of 19 from Central NY as WCNY's "Women Who Make America" Award winner, Replaced our 2nd floor carpets - thanks to a Community Foundation grant.

2014-16

We closed for a while to renovate our building to meet City Codes. Eventually, we'd like to build a STEM/NanoTech Center w/Planetarium in a building constructed on museum property in back of our current museum; & convert our deck adjoining our building into an eco/space, butterfly garden, etc, -continuing our City-wide "go green" efforts to coordinate with the City's Harbor Point Plan. Join/Support us in this worthwhile effort!