

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 hdqtrts. *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 2, 2009

Dear Oneida County Executive Anthony Picente, Chairman of the Board Gerald Fiorini & County Legislators:

We had appeared at a mid-September meeting to discuss ideas we have for win/win collaboration between the County of Oneida and our Children's Museum, sharing the following:

- 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 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 & we'd like to improve upon the number of County of Oneida visitors.

We are once again asking for a yearly \$25,000 contribution from the County of Oneida, with which we can reduce County resident admissions by \$2. each & County school children's fieldtrip admissions \$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 Feedback Survey 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. The Oneida County Convention & Visitors Bureau refers to us as "a valuable county asset", and the Observer-Dispatch refers to us as "A Community Treasure". We are working with Kelly Blazosky and Tim Trainor on the Branding Oneida County tourism project.

We run a four story building with a paid staff of only 3 + 2 volunteers, but have had to reduce the number of days open, thus affecting staff wages. **We are again asking the County Executive and Board of Legislators to approve our request in next year's Budget by giving us just a small portion of the pie**, demonstrating they appreciate how valuable the museum is as a major contributor to OC's quality of life & tourism attraction.

Sincerely, Marlene B. Brown, Executive Director & The 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.