

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**  
Museum Tel: 315-724-6129 \* Fax: 315-724-6120  
Home Office: 315-853-1318 \* Fax: 315-853-4636  
Email: [marlenebrown@roadrunner.com](mailto:marlenebrown@roadrunner.com)  
Website: [www.museum4kids.net](http://www.museum4kids.net)  
Executive Director: Marlene B. Brown

September 1, 2009

William Morehouse, President of The City of Utica Common Council  
And City of Utica Common Council Members

Dear City of Utica Common Council President and Members:

We are here today to discuss some ideas we have for win/win collaboration between the City of Utica and our Children's Museum. We already met to discuss this with Mayor Roefaro and Angelo.

To give you both a little background:

- 1.) We are one of the rare NFP's in the City who receives no City or County contributions for programs.
- 2.) We are comparable to other local family and tourist organizations in our admission fees and what we offer.
- 3.) We have requested that the Mayor's Ball be held at our Children's Museum in 2010.
- 4.) After two years of paperwork, we have been designated a Federal and NYS historic building.
- 5.) We reside in the downtown Utica area of Baggs Square East, in the midst of several other historic buildings.
- 6.) We have achieved much in the past eight years, as listed on the attached document.
- 7.) Our museum hosts an average of 10,000 visitors a year, 40% are tourists who help spur our local City economy, 60% are County residents, and of those, 25% are City residents and schoolchildren who benefit from lifelong learning opportunities and enjoyable family outings at our museum, no matter what the age. We'd like to improve upon the number of City of Utica 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 document, 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 area's quality of life and tourism attractions.

**We are asking for a \$25,000 contribution from the City of Utica. With this, we can reduce admissions for City of Utica residents by \$2. each & reduce City of Utica 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.

DUDA refers to us as "one of Downtown Utica's best", and the Utica Observer-Dispatch refers to us as "A Community Treasure". We look forward to the Council and the Mayor approving our request, demonstrating that they, too, appreciate how valuable the museum is for the City of Utica.

Sincerely,

Marlene B. Brown, Executive Director

cc: Honorable Mayor David Roefaro, City of Utica, NY & Angelo Roefaro, Asst. to Mayor Roefaro

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