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September 21, 2012

Dr. Subra Suresh
Director
National Science Foundation
4201 Wilson Boulevard
Suite 1205N
Arlington, VA 22230-0002

Dear Dr. Suresh,

I am writing in strong support of the preliminary proposal submitted by the Children's Museum of History, Science and Technology to the National Science Foundation, Advancing Informal STEM Learning (AISL) program (NSF12-560) for funding to construct a new building behind the museum to house a STEM Center with several interactive STEM exhibits along the walls of the interior, theatre chairs in center, and a planetarium on the ceiling.

This project, if approved for full proposal submission and ultimately selected for funding, will expand and enhance the museum's current STEM offerings. The museum's 4th floor opened in 2002 with NASA and Science exhibits made possible with assistance from U.S. House of Representatives Science Committee Chair Sherwood Boehlert, NASA Administrator Sean O'Keefe and U.S. Department of Energy Office of Science Director Dr. Raymond Orbach. The museum's 3rd floor has a large television screen that shows the workings of a recently installed wind turbine via a rooftop camera. In addition, museum staff and board members routinely conduct STEM programs throughout the museum.


Combined with in-school settings, the museum's nontraditional setting will assist schoolchildren in understanding fundamental areas of STEM giving them an edge in learning to solve an array of immense and rapidly emerging national challenges in science and technology.

I commend the museum's efforts to ensure the United States remains a leader in STEM fields with a highly informed, knowledgeable and engaged citizenry able to compete in local, global and technological marketplaces.

Please do not hesitate to contact my Utica Office by phone (315) 724-9740, fax (315) 724-9746 or, if you prefer, via email at: sarah.bormann@mail.house.gov, if you have any questions or wish to share your ultimate decision with me.

Thank you, in advance, for your time and consideration of this worthy endeavor. I look forward to hearing from you.

Warm Regards,


RICHARD HANNA
U.S. Representative

RH/sfb