

Central New York's only Children's Museum is permanently chartered by the Board of Regents of New York State. We are passionately committed to providing a hands-on safe environment for children, families, and groups who visit. Our 4 floors of exhibits provide an enjoyable educational experience for kids from 1 to 101 to learn, experience, & create.

We are located in the historic Main Street district of downtown Utica between majestic Union Station and Bagg's Square Memorial Park, home of Bagg's Tavern, originally a log house founded in 1794 by Moses Bagg. Guests included General George Washington, General Lafayette, Henry Clay, General Grant. The location, near the ancient fording place of the Mohawk River and the sites of Old Forts Schuyler & Stanwix, houses the only permanent exhibit of the Mohawk Valley's history and origins.

One of the oldest children's museum's in the country, we were organized in the October of 1963 by the Junior League. Originally called the Junior Museum of Oneida County, our museum began in the basement of the Utica Public Library. The museum consisted of one exhibit, an Iroquois Longhouse which we still exhibit. The idea of a museum for area children caught on quickly and growth began.

In October 1965, due to lack of space at the library, it moved to the former Department of Parks & Recreation Building at the Southeast corner of the Memorial Parkway and Oneida Street. In its nine year stay there, the museum developed a variety of permanent exhibits and a large range of educational programs. Interest increased steadily so that by 1974 more than 21,000 adults and children were participating. November of 1974 saw the museum move to the upstairs of the Valley View Country Club. This new location provided badly needed space for the many exhibits, storage, and gift shop. In 1975, the name of the organization was changed to Mohawk Valley Museum.

Forty years later, in July of 1979, the museum was again relocated, this time to its current location in the historic Bagg's Square area. The former John C. Heiber Dry Goods Building, at 311 Main Street, Utica, NY was purchased for \$35,000 by borrowing that sum from the Oneida National Bank and Trust Company of Central New York. At this time, the name of the organization was changed to The Children's Museum of History, Natural History, and Science. The five story brick building, constructed at the turn of the century, once drew visitors who came on the train from as far away as Albany and Syracuse to shop for dry goods. The interesting Romanesque Revival exterior remains as imposing as ever, and the charm of the period remains inside with its decoratively paneled central oak staircase, an original glass and wood paneled office, and fourteen foot high ceiling sheathed in fancy pressed tin. Each of the five floors contains approximately 6,000 square feet of exhibit and program space.

In 2002, the mortgage on the building was paid off, the fourth floor was opened, and the name was changed to The Children's Museum of History, Natural History, Science, and Technology. One of the oldest children's museums in the country, in 2002 The Children's Museum became the only museum in the country to be adopted by NASA – National Aeronautic & Space Administration & DOE OS – Dept. of Energy's Office of Science).

The Museum is a *hands-on learning center with emphasis on local history, environmental science, the arts, and space science*. The Museum provides educational programs for local school groups, home school groups, scouts, and daycare centers throughout the three county area that we serve, as well as for groups who come in by bus and train from throughout the state. Our Educational Enrichment Programs enhance learning for children of all ages. Teachers and others who book educational field trips are given resource materials for their students to enhance learning after the visit.

Our 60 different Pavilions, containing 1000's of hands-on exhibits include *Playspace*, a unique larger than life wooden train activity center for children age 3 and younger; *Exploration Station*, a play village with numerous stores to explore for younger children; the *Dinorama*, a multimedia display of dinosaur models and fossils; the *Diorama*, a multimedia display of the history of Central New York; a reconstruction of an *Iroquois Longhouse*; the *Living Science Learning Center* which houses live animal and insect displays, the *Weather Room* which features Doppler Radar programs, plus several other interactive exhibits including musical instruments and our Saturn car.

Our 4th floor features exhibits on "*Transportation Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow*". This new addition features Utica Fire Department artifacts & an old fire engine, Utica Police Department artifacts & exhibits kids can explore, the original Amtrak railway switching station, and a 17 foot airplane kids can climb into and pretend to fly! Thanks to Congressman Sherwood Boehlert, NASA Administrator Sean O'Keefe, and Office of Science Director Raymond Orbach, we have several really cool space & science exhibits! Become a corporate sponsor and help sponsor our continued growth!

There is a place for visitors to eat. They can bring a lunch or snack to eat in our 1st floor Birthday room, on our 1st floor bench by our museum back door, on the picnic table on our covered train platform outside our door, or in our historic park outside (weather permitting). We have popcorn, snack bags, soda, juice, and water available for purchase. If our museum chef is on site, you can order in advance from our Museum Café. You may also get your hand stamped and drive to a local restaurant (there are several within a mile) returning after lunch.

Outside of the Museum, there is an outdoor display of real trains including an *Engine, Dining Car, and Caboose*, which were acquired by the National Railway Historic Society and reside on museum property. Public sculpture done for and by children is sited in Bagg's Square Park.

The Museum hosts birthday parties in our neat *Birthday Room* and Corporate, Association and group meetings in the Community Room. The Museum is totally accessible to persons with disabilities, has a ramp and an elevator to accommodate visitors needs. Open Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday from 9:45am to 3:45pm and Saturday from 10:00am to 4:00pm. (closed on Wednesday & Sundays). *Check our Calendar for holiday schedules, days closed for renovations, & days open for special events.*

Come visit us, and support our activities and exhibits, as we continue growing Central New York's premiere family attraction, one the media and elected officials have named "A Community Treasure."