



News & Notes

Issue 1 Spring, 2008

www.childrensmuseumrochester.org

The Children's Museum of Rochester (CMR) is a nonprofit organization dedicated to creating and maintaining a permanent children's museum in our community. We're all local parents-educators, businesspeople, stay-at-home parents, healthcare professionals -with the dream of providing children the opportunity to discover the world around them in a hands-on, personal way.

President – Scott Liebl

scott@childrensmuseumrochester.org

Secretary - Melissa Brinkman

Committee Chairs

Communications:

Megan Malugani

megan@childrensmuseumrochester.org

Jennifer Tweed

Exhibits:

Heidi Mestad

Nicci Watson

Finance:

Bethany Minot

Fundraising:

Christina Stevens

Marketing:

Rebecca Roe

Site Selection:

David Strauss

Questions? Want to volunteer or contribute?

Find more information on our blog,

<http://0079954.netsolhost.com/cm/>

or E-mail us at

info@childrensmuseumrochester.org

Children's Museum Moves Forward

Site selection and fundraising are the next big steps

What started as a dream is nearing reality for Rochester families who want to establish a children's museum in town. Many baby-steps—and a few giant leaps—have been taken lately by the group of parents working to build and open a Children's Museum of Rochester.

Here's an update on our progress:

We've completed a feasibility study and business plan.

Several MBA students from Augsburg College conducted a feasibility study for us, which revealed a high level of community interest and support. We also completed a business plan that will be necessary to show potential donors in our fundraising efforts.

We continue to investigate sites for the museum.

The site selection committee has narrowed down the list of possible locations in town for a stand-alone Children's Museum of Rochester, and is thoroughly examining the few remaining possibilities. Considerations involved in site selection include land costs, potential partnerships with other non-profit organizations, and more.

We're creating artistic 'renderings' of the museum building and exhibits.

Exhibit committee members are working with architects and graphic designers to create concepts for the design of the CMR building and specific exhibits (like a 'green' exhibit, a wellness/health exhibit, and a technology exhibit). In addition, children's museums nationwide are being contacted to help the exhibit committee in estimating the ballpark costs of building various rooms and exhibits.

We're gearing up for a major fundraising drive.

Fundraising committee members have researched and applied for grants to get the ball rolling with our fundraising. After being awarded some seed money, the CMR will need to hire a fundraising consultant to guide us in launching a capital campaign in the near future. Preliminary estimates indicate that several million dollars must be raised for us to build a stand-alone museum or renovate an existing building for our purposes.

Your donation will make a difference!

A donation to CMR will:

- Help create a place for local children to learn in a positive, fun, and encouraging environment
- Lay the foundation for a permanent children's museum in Rochester
- Support our local economy by keeping children's museum dollars in our community

We appreciate all donations. Please send checks payable to The Children's Museum of Rochester, Inc., P.O. Box 6681, Rochester, MN 55901-6681.

Learn more at www.childrensmuseumrochester.org.

Come Dig With Us!

Visit the Children's Museum of Rochester booth Rochesterfest:

We will host a fossil dig or other fun activity for your little tykes during Rochesterfest's Family Night on June 25 in downtown Rochester.