



WESTCHESTER CHILDREN'S MUSEUM TO BREAK GROUND ON EXPANSION IN MARCH

Museum Successfully Matches Grant of \$824,000 from New York State for Expansion and Improvement of Historic Site

March 15, 2019, Rye, NY...The Westchester Children's Museum breaks ground in early March on the renovation and capital improvement of its site, known as the National Historic Landmark North Bathhouse. The infrastructure improvement project planned by the Museum converts the entirety of the site to a soaring, sunlit year-round facility that provides immense opportunity for hands on exhibits and STEAM programming not found anywhere else in the region. The undertaking increases available operating space threefold and allows for up to five times the Museum's current capacity. The Museum's current operating space will remain open throughout the construction period, which is slated to be completed in May 2019.

Located along a stretch of the Long Island Sound adjacent to Rye Playland, the home of the Westchester Children's Museum was originally built in 1928 as a summer seasonal structure for beachgoers to change into swimsuits. The infrastructure improvement project will include:

- Installation of plumbing for mutli-use classrooms, makerspaces, a future waterplay exhibit, and restrooms
- Electrical and IT systems
- New coloring
- Safety systems
- New admission and entrance circulation area
- New classrooms, gift shop and snack area
- Queuing space for school groups

Funding for the improvement project comes from a matching grant of \$824,000, administered by the Mid-Hudson Regional Economic Development Council and funded through New York State Council for the Arts/Empire State Development Arts & Cultural Facilities Improvement Program. The grant was successfully matched by contributions from individuals, businesses, and foundations.

"We are pleased to see the investment in the Westchester Children's Museum awarded by the Mid-Hudson Regional Economic Development Council," stated Dr. Marsha Gordon, President/CEO, The Business Council of Westchester. "This award process successfully met our focus on Live Work Play, economic strategies that reflect the diverse needs of our region. The Westchester Children's Museum meets the educational and cultural needs of our children, and this is especially meaningful to the future of Westchester and the Hudson Valley,"

"We are most grateful to the State of New York and the Mid-Hudson Economic Regional Development Council for recognizing the role our facility plays as an educational, social, cultural, and economic driver," stated Tracy Kay, Executive Director of the Westchester Children's Museum. "The initial milestone grant and the significant support from a wide array of donors to match the grant in our is a clear reflection of the need to continue growing and the demand for fun-filled, interactive valuable learning experiences for children in our region."

The Museum's master building plan was to build out its site in phases as funding became available. The Westchester Children's Museum opened to the public in mid 2016 with 6,500 square feet of exhibit space in the now named Hoch Lager Boardwalk Galleries. While the current operating space is a fraction of the full site, it has already become integral to Westchester's cultural and

educational landscape and has had more than 100,000 visitors and welcomed nearly 1,500 families as members to date.

The Museum will celebrate the opening of the expanded, newly renovated space with a fundraiser and cocktail party on May 17, 2019, 7-10pm. The event co-honors County Executive George Latimer and Museum Board member and former President Corinne Zola. The event will raise funds to support Museum operations. Tickets, journal ads, and sponsorships are available at www.discoverWCM.org/spring-benefit.

ABOUT THE MUSEUM:

The Westchester Children’s Museum is a light-filled, colorful, vibrant learning space for children age 0-13, filled with interactive exhibits not found anywhere else in this region. The Museum offers experiences in physics, science, art, technology, design, with places to create, build and explore.

The site of the Museum is owned by the County of Westchester and leased by the Westchester Children’s Museum which is responsible for the architectural development of the interiors, including plumbing, electrical, ventilation and heating, and life safety systems. The Campaign for the Westchester Children’s Museum is a not-for-profit organization that raises funds to support operations, programming, and facility improvements.

For further information, visit www.discoverWCM.org



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