Since opening in 1995, the expERIEnce Children’s Museum has grown into a significant community asset:

- 64,000 visitors annually; 50% growth in four years
- 75% growth in membership
- 5,000 field trip students annually
- 15,000 children and families annually are part of Museums for All-reduced admissions
- 2018 National Museum Service Medal nominee

The new Museum will transform Erie

- World-class exhibits focused on STEAM—science, technology, engineering, art and math—will encourage children to problem solve, create, collaborate and innovate—all skills needed for the 21st century.
- A significant downtown presence will help draw residents, visitors, investors and businesses into the city core.
- Unlike any other setting in the region, the new Children’s Museum will be a common ground where children and families from different economic, social, cultural and ethnic backgrounds gather under one roof to play, share and learn from each other in unscripted ways.

“My students always have so much fun! Our visits to the expERIEnce Children’s Museum are exciting, educational and a great way to learn new skills.”

Mrs. Cindy Smiley
Tracy Elementary School
Millcreek Township School District

“Early intervention works best when families implement strategies during familiar routines. We LOVE seeing families at the expERIEnce Children’s Museum because families practice new skills in many different ways. Our therapists really appreciate the large variety of exhibits. For example, during one therapy session, we can explore the market, water table, the doctor’s office, make pizza and learn amazing science concepts! This museum is a huge asset for therapists and families with young children.”

Bebe Marin MS/CCC-SLP
Director, Bebe Marin Speech Therapy, LLC

“‘When I grow up I want to be a Chef! I love coming to the Children’s Museum Cooking Camp because I learned to measure, follow a recipe, and food safety. I can make a mean salad! Someday, I am going to give scholarships to kids to learn from me in my restaurant.”

Dash McCullum
Age 9
3rd Grade Student

“As a first grade teacher for many years, I find the expERIEnce Children’s Museum to be exceptional on every level. Our day always involves numerous opportunities for my students to be creative, problem-solve and use their imaginations. I find there is ample time for free exploration and discovery. It is very rewarding to watch my students’ interactions, listen to their conversations and witness their excitement in engaging and learning amid the many museum activities.”

Mrs. Cindy Smiley
Tracy Elementary School
Millcreek Township School District

“Early intervention works best when families implement strategies during familiar routines. We LOVE seeing families at the expERIEnce Children’s Museum because families practice new skills in many different ways. Our therapists really appreciate the large variety of exhibits. For example, during one therapy session, we can explore the market, water table, the doctor’s office, make pizza and learn amazing science concepts! This museum is a huge asset for therapists and families with young children.”

Bebe Marin MS/CCC-SLP
Director, Bebe Marin Speech Therapy, LLC

“Early intervention works best when families implement strategies during familiar routines. We LOVE seeing families at the expERIEnce Children’s Museum because families practice new skills in many different ways. Our therapists really appreciate the large variety of exhibits. For example, during one therapy session, we can explore the market, water table, the doctor’s office, make pizza and learn amazing science concepts! This museum is a huge asset for therapists and families with young children.”

Bebe Marin MS/CCC-SLP
Director, Bebe Marin Speech Therapy, LLC

“Early intervention works best when families implement strategies during familiar routines. We LOVE seeing families at the expERIEnce Children’s Museum because families practice new skills in many different ways. Our therapists really appreciate the large variety of exhibits. For example, during one therapy session, we can explore the market, water table, the doctor’s office, make pizza and learn amazing science concepts! This museum is a huge asset for therapists and families with young children.”

Bebe Marin MS/CCC-SLP
Director, Bebe Marin Speech Therapy, LLC

“Early intervention works best when families implement strategies during familiar routines. We LOVE seeing families at the expERIEnce Children’s Museum because families practice new skills in many different ways. Our therapists really appreciate the large variety of exhibits. For example, during one therapy session, we can explore the market, water table, the doctor’s office, make pizza and learn amazing science concepts! This museum is a huge asset for therapists and families with young children.”

Bebe Marin MS/CCC-SLP
Director, Bebe Marin Speech Therapy, LLC

“Early intervention works best when families implement strategies during familiar routines. We LOVE seeing families at the expERIEnce Children’s Museum because families practice new skills in many different ways. Our therapists really appreciate the large variety of exhibits. For example, during one therapy session, we can explore the market, water table, the doctor’s office, make pizza and learn amazing science concepts! This museum is a huge asset for therapists and families with young children.”

Bebe Marin MS/CCC-SLP
Director, Bebe Marin Speech Therapy, LLC

“Early intervention works best when families implement strategies during familiar routines. We LOVE seeing families at the expERIEnce Children’s Museum because families practice new skills in many different ways. Our therapists really appreciate the large variety of exhibits. For example, during one therapy session, we can explore the market, water table, the doctor’s office, make pizza and learn amazing science concepts! This museum is a huge asset for therapists and families with young children.”

Bebe Marin MS/CCC-SLP
Director, Bebe Marin Speech Therapy, LLC

“Early intervention works best when families implement strategies during familiar routines. We LOVE seeing families at the expERIEnce Children’s Museum because families practice new skills in many different ways. Our therapists really appreciate the large variety of exhibits. For example, during one therapy session, we can explore the market, water table, the doctor’s office, make pizza and learn amazing science concepts! This museum is a huge asset for therapists and families with young children.”

Bebe Marin MS/CCC-SLP
Director, Bebe Marin Speech Therapy, LLC
As lifelong Erie residents and parents of five, the Children’s Museum has been an important part of our lives—and we know so many other families feel the same.

Something else that’s important to us is building a more vibrant downtown Erie, for everyone who lives here, works here and for those who visit. Having a place for families to spend time together and for children to learn and play in a safe and engaging environment, is a key part of that.

The expERIEnce Children’s Museum has been a one-of-a-kind destination for children and families for more than 25 years. But, to put it simply, it is at capacity. Additional space is needed for the programming, exhibits and activities that will continue to inspire the leaders of tomorrow.

We’re proud to be chairing the capital campaign for a NEW Children’s Museum that will be a true asset to our downtown. We believe it’s an investment in our children, and it’s an investment in the future of our community.

We hope you’ll join us.

Tim and Lisa NeCastro

Full Steam Ahead Capital Campaign Cabinet

Tim & Lisa NeCastro
Jay & Ruth Albertstadt
Cle Austin
Pete Austin
Jon Bly
Ainslie Brosig
Melanie Ford
Jenny Weigold Geertson
Geertson

The Plan for the New Children’s Museum

Project Costs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cost</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Existing Building Renovations</td>
<td>$2,031,283</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Building Addition</td>
<td>$5,253,248</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exhibits (construction, design, engineering)</td>
<td>$5,500,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outdoor Classroom and Site Work</td>
<td>$541,890</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contingency (construction, design)</td>
<td>$782,572</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Estimated Construction Costs</td>
<td>$15,208,292</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Soft Costs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cost</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Estimated Soft Costs</td>
<td>$1,100,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Estimated Construction Costs</td>
<td>$15,208,292</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>