

October 2013



Dear Friend,

Fall is upon us and as our thoughts turn to apple picking and leaf peeping, the Campaign for the Westchester Children's Museum is moving full steam ahead toward opening the doors of the museum in 2015. The focus right now is on fundraising - we need to raise an additional \$10 million in a relatively short period of time. By next summer we hope to award a construction contract, with construction to begin in the fall of 2014 and be completed by the summer of 2015.

With our approvals now in place, we can finally bring the dream of a children's museum in Westchester to reality. If you are interested in getting involved with fundraising or helping to raise awareness throughout the county, please do not hesitate to contact me at (914) 421-5050.

Sincerely,

Tracy R. Kay
Executive Director

Young Scientists in the Making!

It is with great pleasure that we announce our first "Museum in Residence" partnership with the Children's Learning Center at the YWCA of White Plains and Central Westchester. In September we began our monthly visits to the 4-year-old classes at the YWCA to offer an hour-long, hands-on science workshop. These visits will continue for the duration of the school year. "I'm thrilled with this opportunity for the museum outreach program to expand. We've had a wonderful relationship with the YWCA's preschool, after school and camp groups during the last three years and this is a perfect way to grow our partnership" says Bev McAllister, Museum Without Walls Program Coordinator. "But most of all, getting to know the children and engage them in the joy and fun of discovery over an entire school year is especially exciting." For additional information about WCM's school outreach programs, please visit our website at www.discoverwcm.org/schooloutreach-programs.



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CALLING ALL VOLUNTEERS!



Once again, we will be participating in the annual Fall Fest at Edith Read Sanctuary (next to Playland) on Saturday, October 19th.

We are looking for a few volunteers to help with children's activities either from 11:30 am to 2:30 pm or 2:30 pm to 5:30 pm.

Please visit our website at <http://www.discoverwcm.org/volunteer> to sign up, and be sure to indicate which time slot(s) you are interested in.

Photo by Paul Downey

Welcome Future Patron

We welcome the newest addition to the WCM family, Grace Milowitz, daughter of David Milowitz and Laura Shoop of Scarsdale. David will be co-chairing the gala in May 2014 (exact date to be announced shortly) along with WCM board member Stacey Schutzer. David is a principal at esp productions, an event production company based in Albertson, NY. He has been responsible for providing audio/visual services for the last three years and we are thrilled that he has agreed to step up his involvement as gala co-chair. The 2014 gala will be held at our future home in the North Bathhouse at Playland, where guests will be treated to views of the newly renovated space and exhibit previews while participating in a few hands-on activities designed to bring out their inner child.



Awaken Your Inner Teacher

Do you enjoy working with children and have an interest in science and the arts? WCM's educational outreach program, Museum Without Walls, is in need of a few dedicated volunteers to lead and/or assist its classroom programs. **Must be available during the school day or for after school activities from 4 to 5 pm.** Please go to <http://www.discoverwcm.org/volunteer> to sign up, and thank you!



2013 Research Symposium

ASSOCIATION OF
**CHILDREN'S
MUSEUMS**

In September, WCM Executive Director Tracy Kay was invited to participate with 110 fellow museum staff, researchers, evaluators, and policy makers in a research symposium in Arlington, VA about the Learning Value of Children's Museums. The symposium's goal was to develop a field-wide research agenda for children's museums that identifies and prioritizes the most pressing evidence needed relative to their learning value.