



**Madison Children's Museum**  
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**For Immediate Release**

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## **Madison Children's Museum receives \$150,000 grant from Madison Community Foundation**

MADISON, Wis. (Nov. 2, 2009) — Madison Children's Museum recently received a \$150,000 grant from the Madison Community Foundation's Board of Governors, edging the museum closer to its fundraising goal so that a \$750,000 challenge grant to complete the capital campaign will be more secure.

The Madison Community Foundation grant is intended to encourage the community to donate to the capital campaign for the museum, which is in the process of renovating a former state office building to become its new, permanent home in a \$16.5 million project.

The museum received one of the foundation's three grants. The other two, both also for capital campaigns, went to the Urban League of Greater Madison and the Society of St. Vincent de Paul.

"We are dedicated to offering children the opportunity to learn through play," said Ruth Shelly, executive director of Madison Children's Museum. "We are extremely grateful that Madison Community Foundation has chosen us as a recipient of its grant. Relocating the museum to a permanent home in the heart of downtown will let us serve even more families in our community."

Madison Children's Museum's new facility at 100 N. Hamilton Street, downtown on the Capitol Square, will have public space that is three times larger than the current location at 100 State Street. It will have a free community concourse, a four-season rooftop with exhibits, classrooms, a café, a lunchroom for kids visiting on field trips, and many more amenities. The foundation's award specifically will fund a children's art gallery and two early childhood exhibits.

"The new museum will delight people of all ages, with interactive displays, hands-on artmaking, and a commitment to green building and sustainable practices," said Tom Linfield, the foundation's vice president of Grantmaking and Community Initiatives. "Madison Community Foundation has long supported Madison Children's Museum, and we are excited about this addition to downtown's thriving museum scene."

Madison Children's Museum has approximately \$1.2 million left to raise in its \$10 capital campaign. It has raised \$8 million, but the museum must reach \$9.25 million by June 1 for a \$750,000 Kresge Challenge Grant to kick in and complete the campaign.

**Madison Children's Museum:** Madison Children's Museum (MCM) is an award-winning organization which fosters family and community connections, and provides a place where every

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child can learn through play in an interactive environment. MCM's hands-on exhibits and programs celebrate and encourage children's imaginations and the power of play as the cornerstone of learning. For more information about the museum, please visit [www.MadisonChildrensMuseum.org](http://www.MadisonChildrensMuseum.org).

**Madison Community Foundation:** Established in 1942, Madison Community Foundation's mission is to encourage, facilitate and manage long-term philanthropy by assisting charitable enterprises in the City of Madison, Dane County and Wisconsin. MCF awards grants and scholarships from many individual funds to nonprofit organizations and individuals throughout Dane County and beyond. For more information, go to [www.madisoncommunityfoundation.org](http://www.madisoncommunityfoundation.org).

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