DEAR FRIENDS,

Children’s Museum of Pittsburgh celebrated its milestone 25th birthday on June 12, 2008, and we had a great time commemorating the occasion all year long with a gala party, a wild return to the 80s, a treasure hunt, robots, cake decorating contests, a carnival of spectacular proportions and last but never least, lots of cupcakes. Many thanks to everyone who joined in the fun and made the year so special.

But this was not the only milestone achieved this past year. We also experienced record-breaking attendance of 232,098 visitors for the year, noted the best attended month ever (28,107 in August 2007) and enjoyed the best attended day in the Museum’s history (3,578 on Saturday, June 28, for Carnival Spectaculaire.)

Children’s museums are a young field and at the age of 25, the Children’s Museum of Pittsburgh has become a leader in the field. As such, we have a solid foundation of providing creative and engaging experiences for children and families, and of promoting family learning – a mission that all children’s museums embrace. We’ve also taken the lead on issues such as research, design excellence, partnerships and environmentally sensitive business practices.

In the last year, we’ve also begun to explore new ways to reach children and families beyond our doors - ways of turning our neighborhood into a town square for families, our section of Pittsburgh into a family district, and our region into a nationally known family destination. One way we’re achieving this is through a unique effort launched by the Museum called the Charm Bracelet Project. This project strives to link the many cultural assets, or “charms,” in our neighborhood and strengthen the Northside through joint programs, art, marketing and physical connections. The Museum is also pursuing a revitalization plan for the park in front of our building, a lost space that has been in disrepair for many years.

Recent times have not been easy and times ahead may get tougher. We hope the Children’s Museum is a special place for you and your family, one that represents a retreat for exploring ideas, sparking curiosity and just plain letting loose. We also hope you support our dedication to being an agent of change in our community, and the many positive ways we can impact the future of our region, our city and our children.

Sincerely,

Thomas L. Mole
President, Board of Directors
donors

Community support from individuals, foundations, corporations, and government enables the Children’s Museum of Pittsburgh to offer quality exhibits and programs to children and families of this region. We wish to extend our sincere thanks to the contributors listed. We have included all gifts received from July 1, 2007, through June 30, 2008.

**PUBLIC FUNDING**
- Allegheny Regional Asset District
- City of Pittsburgh
- Institute of Museum and Library Services
- National Science Foundation
- Pennsylvania Council on the Arts
- Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development
- Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission

**ANNUAL FUND**
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- $100,000 – $249,999
  - Richard King Mellon Foundation
- $50,000 – $99,999
  - The Heinz Endowments
- $25,000 – $49,999
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exhibits

PERMANENT EXHIBITS
The Studio saw a major change this past year when the Climber was taken down. Its removal made way for an innovative piece of art, *More Light* by Dick Esterle, made up of 800 lengths of orange and pink flagging tape and 9,800 paper clips. We are designing a new climbing structure for the Garage that will reach into the dome of the former Buhl Planetarium.

The Theater was equipped with more lighting and Youthology, a gallery for youth art debuted its first exhibit, *Patient No. 1*, with artwork in glass, ceramics, acrylic, and video media by teen Hunter Blackwell.

The Lookout, an interactive club house, and the Sand Box were added to the Backyard in October 2007.

TEMPORARY EXHIBITS
The latest traveling exhibit created by the Museum, *How People Make Things*, debuted here in June 2007 with fun activities based on the processes of real manufacturing, inspired by the popular factory visit video segments from the Mister Rogers’ Neighborhood television series. *HPMT* traveled to venues in Omaha, Chicago and Sarasota this year and is booked into 2011.

The Museum is dedicated to developing and promoting locally created work. ToonSeum Gallery opened in the Museum in October 2007. Founded by our partner and cartoonist Joe Woos of Once Upon a Toon, this independently run exhibit gallery features exhibits of original art and related material from comic strips, animation, editorial cartoons and books. The Tough Art series launched its second year with interactive art works by local artists who got the chance to make their art “tough” enough to withstand kid handling during a three month residency at the Museum.

The Museum also offered: *Circus for Social Change, A Project of The Zany Umbrella Circus Stories of Children*

We welcomed the following traveling exhibits last year: *Clifford the Big Red Dog Fairy Tales of the World Secrets of Circles*.

*lemurtron*
programs

IN THE MUSEUM
The Museum offered educational and fun drop-in classes for visitors of all ages this past year, including ceramics, paper marbling, printmaking, cardboard construction, mosaic making, woodworking, taking apart small appliances, inventor’s workshops and electricity.

Weekly Tot Time classes continue to engage toddlers and their caregivers, while the Giant Eagle Child Development Series allows the Museum to present informal sessions for caregivers with local experts in areas such as infant sign language, nutrition, storytelling and the nowU PA College Savings Plan.

The Meet the Makers Series complemented our How People Make Things exhibit in Summer 2008 with over 100 hours of live demonstrations by 17 artisans and craftsmen from Western Pennsylvania. Our ongoing Real Stuff Series continues this theme with local artists, tradespeople and specialists demonstrating their work in areas such as gemstone cutting, kaleidoscope building, special-effects design, plumbing, carousel carving and robotics.

The Museum has taken part in the national WE CAN! (Ways to Enhance Children’s Activity and Nutrition) Series since Winter 2007 to present activities that help children maintain a healthy weight such as dancing, competitive jump rope and fencing.

Through our Green Programming, we introduce ways to learn about sustainability, including our outdoor worm composting, Tot Hikes that guide children in outdoor exploration and art projects using recycled material.

YOUTH PROGRAMS
The Museum’s YouthALIVE! program has served local youth participants chose to focus on last year included anti-smoking, greening the neighborhood and robotics. Summer VolunTEENs devoted more than 1,707 hours helping visitors at the Museum and local festivals, and the Youth ArtWorks Puppet Troupe continued to create and perform puppet shows.
programs

SPECIAL PROGRAMS
The third annual Kindergarten!... Here I Come! offered 278 children and their caregivers a day of celebrating a child’s entrance to kindergarten with services, education and entertainment from more than 17 child and family oriented organizations and community partners.

See You, See Me Day enjoyed its fourth year of free vision screenings at the Museum, in collaboration with the UPMC Eye Center and Eye and Ear Institute and the Blind and Vision Rehabilitation Services of Pittsburgh. More than 83 pre-K and Head Start children benefited from the program.

Healthy Smile Days, in its sixth year, provided 453 children from local schools as well as visitors with free dental screenings by professional dentists and hygienists from the Dental Society of Western Pennsylvania.

Greene Counties. Classes included Creative Teachers Nurture Creative Students, Puppetry in the Classroom, and Green Building as a Teaching Tool.

The Museum also hosted Master Arts Workshops by visiting artists in partnership with the Arts Education Collaborative; Preschool and Day Care Classes through the Pennsylvania Pathways program of the YMCA of Pittsburgh; and a Teacher Residency Program where certified educators spent a week in the Museum developing an interdisciplinary unit for classroom implementation.

The fourth annual Fall Festival of Children’s Books offered a day of talks, demonstrations and workshops by three featured children’s book authors and artists.

OUTREACH PROGRAMS
Over the past 18 years, the Children’s Museum has reached over one million people outside the Museum, this year traveling into 15 counties in Pennsylvania as well as five other states with more than 100 programs for families, schools and community groups. Programs in storytelling, music, circus arts, cartooning, history and various art media reached almost 107,000 people over the last fiscal year in schools, organizations and community festivals.
programs

RESIDENT AND VISITING ARTISTS

A fantastic lineup of children’s performances was offered at the Museum, supported in part by the Isaly’s Performance Series, ranging from ballet, opera and theater to puppetry, storytelling and hip hop dancing. Our diverse art programs included live pottery wheel demonstrations and bowl-making workshops during Cera[Mix] Pittsburgh, sound poetry with Eden McNutt and an animation workshop with Pittsburgh Center for the Arts.

The Museum also offered visitors many opportunities to experience culture from other countries and unique art programs, including a concert by the Arab/Israeli group Atzilut: Concerts for Peace during World Children’s Weekend; the dance traditions of Ireland, Brazil, Lebanon, China and India; being one of four museums worldwide to participate in the Centre Pompidou’s Fi’Art Family Art Festival; and celebrating the Pittsburgh Cultural Trust’s Down Under Day.
awards

The Children’s Museum received the following awards last year:

GOLD MEDAL RUDY BRUNER AWARD
The Children’s Museum won the prestigious Gold Medal Rudy Bruner Award for Urban Excellence in July 2007 as an urban place distinguished by quality design and its social, economic and contextual contributions to the urban environment. The Museum was chosen among more than 100 nationwide entries and lauded for combining historic preservation, innovative architecture and a unique collaboration among local agencies and organizations in its expansion completed in November 2004. It is the first children’s museum and the first site in Pittsburgh ever to receive this award.

ASSOCIATION OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY CENTERS
Children’s Museum Executive Director Jan Wernher received the Leading Edge Award for Leadership in the Field — Award for Experienced Leadership. Jan was commended for making the Museum a “go-to” place for advice on community partnerships by linking educational and cultural organizations throughout Pittsburgh, and “creating a model of institutional citizenship from which all museums can benefit.”

PENNSYLVANIA ENVIRONMENTAL COUNCIL
The Museum received the Western Pennsylvania Environmental Award for carrying its green status beyond its Silver LEED certified building and into educational programs and staff practices.

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF MUSEUMS
The Museum’s 2006-07 annual report, designed by Brady Communications, received second place from among hundreds of entries in the 28th Annual Museum Publications Design Competition. This is the only national, juried competition involving museum publications produced by institutions of all kinds and sizes.
our future

The Children’s Museum’s mission to provide innovative museum experiences that inspire joy, creativity and curiosity is beginning to extend beyond the walls of the building and into the community. For Pittsburgh’s Northside, the Children’s Museum seeks to be a driving force for creating services and places in the community where families can gather and explore, and where every child’s potential and future is nurtured.

To this end, the Museum has begun to plan the revitalization of Allegheny Square Park (the concrete plaza across from the Museum), as well as exhibit updates and new parking options. This past year, the park project advanced to the final stage of a juried design competition and a period of community input, leading to the selection of Andrea Cochran Landscape Architecture of San Francisco, Calif., as the park designer. The winning design will create a multi-use park with open space for events and other activities, terraced seating and a green design sensibility. The designers recently completed the schematic design phase with community input and coordination with several city agencies.

We are excited by our plans for the future, and will move forward prudently to ensure that the Children’s Museum of Pittsburgh provides fun, learning experiences for children and families as we move into our next 25 years.

Despite what may be tough times in the future, the Museum is committed to maintaining these experiences for our visitors and remaining the strong community asset we’ve grown to be.
partners

PARTNERS

The Children’s Museum maintains partnerships with six child-based organizations that rent space in the Museum, allowing us to share not only space but ideas and resources. Here’s how we collaborated:

The Museum provided staff to distribute books and snacks and organize crafts for children in Child Watch of Pittsburgh’s Juvenile Court waiting room.

The 34 children in the two pre-K/Head Start programs operated by the Pittsburgh Public Schools within the Museum visit Museum exhibits daily and take part in special programs.

This past year Reading Is FUNdamental - Pittsburgh (RIF) hosted fun reading events at the Museum such as Read Across America, a day honoring Dr. Seuss’s birthday; Breakfast with Clifford; and Theme Reads. They also collaborated on our annual Kindergarten!... Here I Come! and Fall Festival of Children’s Books events.

We congratulate partner The Saturday Light Brigade (SLB) on its 30th anniversary last year! The program recorded audio cards for holiday gifts; offered special field trips, afterschool workshops and festival activities through the Museum’s Outreach program; and provided audio expertise for Museum programs.

This past year, ToonSeum and the Children’s Museum co-presented Inside Peanuts: The Life and Art of Charles Schulz. ToonSeum also featured the work of cartoonist Morrie Turner and the themes of kids in cartoons, plot lines in popular comic strips and books transformed by animation. For National Cartoonist Day, ToonSeum also brought 12 visiting cartoonists to the Museum for lots of fun activities.

The Museum and the University of Pittsburgh Center for Learning in Out-of-School Environments (UPCLOSE) continued their award-winning partnership through ongoing study of the How People Make Things exhibit during its run at the Museum and subsequent rental venues.
other collaborators

To help the Children’s Museum provide stronger and more wide-ranging programs that benefit our visitors and the community, we collaborate with a variety of organizations each year:

**CHARM BRACELET PROJECT**
Three exciting activities are underway in collaboration with our Northside neighbors:
- the creation of an art installation in the underpasses leading into the Northside from downtown
- a cell phone-based scavenger hunt, launched this summer, which highlights the unique features and secret treasures of the Northside’s Allegheny City.
- Northside Microgrants awarded to eight innovative joint projects that enhance and beautify the Northside.

**CARNEGIE LIBRARIES OF PITTSBURGH**
CLP offered hundreds of books for loan in the Museum’s exhibit areas for the *Take a Book Home* program, and librarians provided advice on children’s literature for our monthly *Child Development Series*. The *Bringing Libraries and Schools Together* (BLAST) teachers also created rich task activities and provided book links for the Museum website.

**MISTER ROGERS’ NEIGHBORHOOD SWEATER DRIVE**
For the eighth year, this campaign collected more than 2,000 sweaters for **people in need**. Sweaters were distributed by the United Way of Allegheny County and the Presbyterian Churches of the Tri State Area.

**WON'T YOU BE MY NEIGHBOR DAYS**
The Museum offered free admission on March 20, joining over 30 organizations in a week-long celebration of Fred Rogers’ 80th birthday presented by Family Communications, Inc.

**POINT PARK UNIVERSITY**
The *Summer in the City summer camp program* offered week-long camps to middle school children, taught by Museum educators, partners, and performers.

**OTHER PROGRAMS**
The following organizations and groups collaborated with the Museum to entertain, educate and provide services for children last year: Allegheny County Department of Health and Human Services, Beginning with Books, Constructors’ Association of Western Pennsylvania, Family Support Alliance, Friends of the Urban Forest, Golden Triangle Council on the Blind, Golden Triangle Obedience Training Club, Heart Stories, Pittsburgh Association for the Education of Young Children, Robotics Institute of Carnegie Mellon University, Silk Screen, Tickets for Kids Foundation, University of Pittsburgh Medical Center, University of Pittsburgh School of Information Science, Venture Outdoors and The Wonders Unicycle Club.
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