



April 21, 2020

Honorable Carla Nelson and Carrie Ruud  
Minnesota State Senate  
Room 3235 and 3233 Minnesota Senate Building  
95 University Avenue West  
St. Paul, MN 55155-1606

Honorable Jim Davnie and Leon Lillie  
Minnesota House of Representatives  
Room 443 and 367 State Office Building  
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.  
St. Paul, MN 55155-1298

Dear Senators Nelson and Rudd and Representatives Davnie and Lillie

We are writing to you today to ask for your support in updating the respective education and legacy bills in both the House and Senate in order to maintain the legislative intent of funds going to a children's museum in Rochester.

At the start of the upcoming fiscal year 2021, the current children's museum here in Rochester will formally separate from Minnesota Children's Museum (MCM) and become its own legal entity to be known as the Children's Museum of Rochester (CMOR), DBA Spark. Coincident with this change, CMOR will also be moving to a new location that will open in July. Based on our financial planning, this would allow us to increase our audience to 43,000 visitors per year, a 43% increase. We will be able to enhance our experience with up to 7 permanent interactive exhibits and along with programming that reflects the vibrant Rochester area and provide for the growth and development of our children

Both the MCM and CMOR boards have been thoughtfully planning this transition over the course of the last several years. Foremost in our joint priorities has been to ensure the success and future sustainability of our new entity. From the years as a satellite location, CMOR has learned from the expertise of MCM to poise the museum for future growth and service to our community.

Specifically, the funding contained in each of these areas will provide for:

- Department of Education Funding
  - \$50,000 towards development and execution of museum programming to provide a vital part in the growth and development of children into healthy adults
- Legacy Funding

- \$150,000 towards interactive exhibits and outreach on arts and cultural heritage and providing scholarships for museum memberships for those in need
- Under separate grant, \$50,000 to develop and fabricate a permanent STEM exhibit for the museum in Rochester

Attached please find the certificate of incorporation as CMOR in the State of Minnesota and the 501(c)3 approval from the IRS. Please let us know of any questions you may have as well as any other documentation you require.

We thank you for your strong support of children and families in our area.

Respectfully,



Melissa Brinkman

Co-Chair of the Board of Children's Museum of Rochester



Ken Brown

Co-Chair of the Board of Children's Museum of Rochester



Beth Sherden

Executive Director of Children's Museum of Rochester

Enclosures:

Certificate of Incorporation (MN Secretary of State)

IRS 510(c)3 Certificate