



Western New York Economic Development Fund Recommendation Memo

Applicant Name:	Explore & More...A Children's Museum	REDC Region:	WNY
Project Type:	Tourism/Marketing & Infrastructure/Downtown Investment	County:	Erie
Industry:	Not for Profit	Locality:	City of Buffalo
Amount Requested:	\$3,116,834	Start Date:	March 2015
		Finish Date:	June 2016

RECOMMENDED OFFER

Recommended Total Award:	\$ 1,700,000
Total Project Cost:	\$ 11,676,419
% of Project Cost Recommended:	15 %

PROJECT BUDGET- Interior of Museum Space (Adapted from Application)

Use of funds	Amount	Source of Funds	Amount
Planning	\$ 432,691	Committed Individual Donations	\$326,250
Exhibit Planning & Construction	\$7,221,168	Committed Foundations/Corporate Support	\$3,712,875
Infrastructure Costs- build out, water efficiency, toilet rooms, flooring	\$2,692,941	Committed Government Sources	\$102,000
FF & E	\$550,000	Potential Individual Donations	\$1,000,000
Energy Efficiency, Conservation & Exhibit Components related to Green Technology	\$779,619	Potential Foundations/Corporate Support	\$4,050,000
		Potential Government Sources	\$1,000,000
		WNYPAB	\$3,116,834



Western New York Economic Development Fund Recommendation Memo

		Allowance for rejection of funding requests from potential sources	-\$1,631,540
Total:	\$11,676,419	Total:	\$11,676,419
REGIONAL IMPACT MEASUREMENTS (Adapted from Application)			
Number of Jobs Retained:	13 (an application submitted under this Track is not required to establish that the project will retain jobs)		
Number of Jobs Created:	19 (an application submitted under this Track is not required to establish that it will create jobs)		
Average Salary of Jobs:	N/A		
Indirect Jobs Created	40 construction-related jobs		
Other Impact	Explore & More is expected to attract 225,000 visitors per year and bring additional tourist investment of over \$5 million to downtown Buffalo.		



Western New York Economic Development Fund Recommendation Memo

PROJECT DESCRIPTION (Adapted from Application)

In 2013, Explore & More was selected to anchor the Canalside revitalization project spearheaded by the Erie Canal Harbor Development Corporation. ECHDC has committed to funding the planning and construction of the Explore & More at Canalside museum project (“Museum”) shell (\$8 million) on the condition that Explore & More be responsible for funding (or obtaining funding for) the interior build-out and exhibits that will make up the Museum.

Explore & More would occupy 40,000 SF of a proposed 80,000 SF facility. Explore & More would build out the interior space that the Museum will occupy, including all exhibits and educational play zones. The Museum would be developed around the concept of Exploring Buffalo & More and will highlight seven major areas:

1. Moving Water Play Zone that will look at the impact of water on the community
2. Playing Together will feature local sports teams and physical activities
3. Being Good Neighbors will look at the neighborhoods and cultures of WNY
4. Building Buffalo will highlight architecture and construction
5. From Farm to Fork will explore local agriculture and healthy eating
6. Weather Wise will embrace the weather of the waterfront and
7. Lighting Buffalo’s Imagination will pay tribute to Buffalo ingenuity and encourage visitors to play as great inventors

A planned rooftop art garden would offer inspiring and unprecedented views of Canalside and a temporary exhibit gallery would enable the Museum to work with local and national organizations on a rotating basis. The Museum is expected to open in Spring 2016.

OTHER ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT BENEFITS RECEIVED

ESD: (Possible 2014 REDC Award)	\$ 500,000	NYPA:	\$ N/A
IDA:	\$ N/A	Other:	\$

PREVIOUS STATE ASSISTANCE OFFERED OR PROVIDED

TYPE	AMOUNT	STATUS

BASIS FOR RECOMMENDATION



Western NY Power Proceeds Allocation Board

Western New York Economic Development Fund Recommendation Memo

The new site for the Explore & More Museum is located in the heart of downtown Buffalo, NY. The site is a designated Brownfield Opportunity Area and is also referenced specifically in the City of Buffalo's Local Waterfront Revitalization Plan. The Museum was selected by the ECHDC to anchor its development of the area and will serve as the economic engine driving benefits to the City's downtown restaurants, shops and hotels.

Once built, Explore & More at Canalside would be a vibrant, exciting, unique, hands-on play experience for children and families as they learn more about WNY and the world around them. Located in the South Aud Block, the Museum is expected to welcome almost 225,000 visitors in its opening year.

DISBURSEMENT TERMS

It is anticipated that Fund Benefits would be used to reimburse the applicant for a portion of the costs associated with exhibit planning and construction to complete the interior build-out of the facility. Funds would be disbursed in lump sum and as reimbursement upon project completion, as described above and as evidenced by attainment of a certificate of occupancy and/or other documentation verifying project completion as NYPA may require, and documentation verifying project expenditures of approximately \$11,676,419.