

The original documents are located in Box 28, folder “10/1-2/76 - Pennsylvania, Indiana, Texas (2)” of the Sheila Weidenfeld Files at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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10-5 (- 10 - 8
NOTE → 10-7 left wed that SBW would
get in touch next time in
area/pag

New Pittsburgh Courier

AMERICA'S BEST WEEKLY • PUBLISHED BY THE NEW PITTSBURGH COURIER PUBLISHING COMPANY
POST OFFICE BOX 2939 • 481-8302 • PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA • 15230

412

October 1, 1976

Sheila Weidenfeld, Press Secretary for Betty Ford
White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave.
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Ms. Weidenfeld:

I am personally requesting an interview with Mrs. Betty Ford the next time she arrives in Pittsburgh.

A 10 to 15 minute interview would be appropriate if it can be arranged.

The Pittsburgh Courier is one of the more prominent Black newspapers in the nation and I am sure our readership, which is too often ignored, will look upon such an interview in the Black Press as very favorable.

Your cooperation will be appreciated.



Respectfully yours;

Ron Suber
Staff Writer

Pittsburgh

Politics

Mrs. John Heinz, wife of the GOP Senatorial candidate, will probably be with you in Pittsburgh. Heinz had represented the 18th, the Pittsburgh suburban district since 1971. He is running against Democratic Rep. William Green of Philadelphia. The race for Sen. Hugh Scott's seat is reportedly tight. Attached is a brief description of Mrs. Heinz from Myra MacPherson's Book, "The Power Lovers."

Democratic incumbents are expected to win in 14th and 20th. The 14th is represented by liberal Democrat William Moorhead. His GOP candidate is John Bradley, who will be at the luncheon with you. The RCC's pessimism is reflected in the fact they don't have any biographical information either on Bradley or John Kostelac, who is running against Rep. Joseph Gaydos in the 20th. Bradley, a young lawyer, may be preparing for a future race.

In Heinz' 18th District, the GOP hopes to hold on to that seat with candidate Bob Casey, a 53-year-old public affairs consultant. Married with three children, Casey's opponent is Doug Walgren, who has made unsuccessful attempts against Heinz.

The Mayor of Pittsburgh, Peter Flaherty, ran an unsuccessful race against Sen. Richard Schweiker of "recent fame."

The City

Pittsburgh, the state's second largest city, is located where the Allegheny and Monogahela Rivers meet to form the Ohio. Geography helped push the city's growth, but in recent years, Pittsburgh has been having problems. Despite downtown renewal and a fairly successful campaign against air pollution, it was the only major metropolitan area to lose population during the 1960s.

The city is the headquarters of several major



Pittsburgh, Page Two

corporations, including U.S. Steel, several other steel companies, Westinghouse, H.J. Heinz and several of the enterprises of the Mellons.

You will be working to register voters in the South Side. The area is heavily Democratic in registration, but conservative in outlook. The neighborhood is blue-collar, mostly Eastern European background and Catholic. Carter's abortion stand has hurt him in this area. Most of the men are workers in the steel mills, but the social structure is matriarchal with the women holding the purse strings.

There is busing in Pittsburgh and strong opposition to it. The city has a population of 21 percent black, one of the lowest of the major industrial centers. Twenty-five percent of the population is of foreign stock.

After the voter registration work, you will lunch in the Lithuanian Hall. The host is Connie Pukas. His daughter danced for you at the Lithuanian Dance Festival in Chicago; she will be in costume.

Football

There is gloom in Pittsburgh, because the world champion Steelers have lost two in a row. They have a crucial game coming up with the Minnesota Vikings this weekend.

The other two "local" teams are Penn State in nearby State College, Pennsylvania, and Slippery Rock, the college that always gets its scores reported because of the name.



THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

September 17, 1976

MEMORANDUM TO: PETER SORUM
FROM: SUSAN PORTER
SUBJECT: Action Memo

Mrs. Ford has accepted the following out-of-town invitation:

EVENT: Tour of the new facilities at The Children's Museum
in Indianapolis, Indiana

DATE: Friday, October 1, 1976

TIME: To Be Determined

PLACE: The Children's Museum
30th and Meridian Streets
Indianapolis, Indiana

CONTACT: Polly Jontz
Director of Development and Public Relations
317-924-5431

COMMENTS: This will be the second stop this day for Mrs. Ford; the first, as of this writing, is yet to be determined.

*Invited to participate
in dedication on
Sat. 2nd. Can't believe
wd she participate
in Neighborhood
Festivities
surrounding
opening*

*Neighborhood
Preview -
good neighbors
invited from
interested in
museum*

The ~~dedication~~ of the beautiful new facilities at The Children's Museum in Indianapolis is an invitation to Mrs. Ford which has been "high on the list" ever since learning about it. The Children's Museum of Indianapolis, this year celebrating its fiftieth anniversary, is the third oldest children's museum in the country and is a pioneer in the field of museum education through its varied collections. Museums for children are an American phenomenon; The Children's Museum of Indianapolis will be the largest museum for children in the world.

*late
they*



*Arrive - Gov. Lugar, Meyer, Reps at airport
Hotel - 1 hr. to freshen up
Museum - met by grp of kids, (12 elementary) 1-6 grade
Take her thru museum (School) a guide P & Q
Grp of kids - Test grp to see if guide, know*

a

Circular ramp in center of 866s
4 or 5
45 mins to leave.

① Tour

② Theatre will meet Mr.

May
5:00
MP

Go in - meet VIPs of
Museum NP - PRIVATE - in Theatre

Goes outside - party - picnic

Faymells
Bryer Chef - bringing lunches
Ice cream - bringing 4 pepsi
Pepsi - something
Ice cream - bringing 4 pepsi
Faymells

Maple f.
leave 6:30 - 7:30
Vuite in Houston

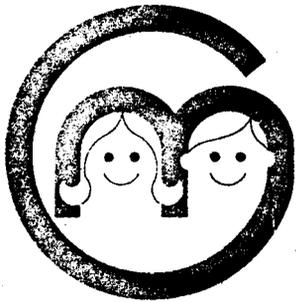
Because of Mrs. Ford's participation in the cancer center dedication in Houston, Texas, on Saturday, she will not be able to attend the formal museum dedication also on Saturday. She will, however, tour The Children's Museum on Friday late afternoon or evening and participate in the time set aside for an open house for the neighborhood. Brett Schneider, the first grader who drew the winning illustration (a big green dinosaur) for the museum grand opening poster would like to present Mrs. Ford a poster he has autographed for her.

Mrs. Ford will overnight in Indianapolis before traveling to Houston on Saturday. The file is attached.

Thank you.

c: BF Staff
Red Cavaney
Max Friedersdorf
Steve McConahey
William Nicholson
Jerry Jones
Terry O'Donnell
James Cavanaugh
James Connor
Jim Field
Jim Baker
Stu Spencer
Elly Peterson
William Greener III
Jud Summer
Rex Scouten
Staircase





August 25, 1976

Miss Susan Porter
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, D.C. 20006

Dear Miss Porter:

Now that the Republican convention has ended I am sure there are many decisions being made in The White House concerning Mrs. Ford's fall schedule. We at The Children's Museum want to reiterate our invitation to Mrs. Ford to participate in the dedication of the museum at 9:30 a.m. Saturday, October 2. As you may remember, this museum will be, upon its opening that day, the largest of its kind in the world.

I need not repeat the plans for that morning for they were included in my last letter to you, but only want to say they are progressing well and the opening will be as scheduled. We do think the museum's public dedication, which should attract attention nationwide as well as in Indianapolis and Indiana, would provide an excellent setting for an Indianapolis appearance of our First Lady. Of course, we would want her to make the major dedicatory remarks.

As you may remember, the cutting of the ribbon opening the new museum will be by a charming young man, Brett Schneider, who will enter first grade this fall. He won the honor when his illustration of a big green dinosaur was chosen to be used on the museum's grand opening poster and on billboards throughout the city. He has signed a poster especially for Mrs. Ford, and I am sending it in care of you. Brett was thrilled to think she might see his poster, and delighted to autograph one just for her.

Please keep us informed as to the progress of Mrs. Ford's plans. We hope she is well and rested from the convention.

Sincerely,

Polly Jontz, Director
Development and Public Relations



August 30, 1976

MEMORANDUM TO: MAX FRIEDERSDORF

FROM: SUSAN PORTER

Thank you for your memo of August 25th regarding the dedication of the Children's Museum in Indianapolis. This is an event we have had on our books for several months with the hope that Mrs. Ford would be able to participate. Your endorsement is appreciated.

Again, thank you.

c: BF Pending to Consider (Indianapolis, October 1,2, 1976)
Jack Marsh



THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

August 25, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR: SUSAN PORTER
FROM: MAX FRIEDERSDORF *M. G.*
SUBJECT: Invitation for the First Lady

As you are aware, Indianapolis will dedicate the world's largest Children's Museum on the morning of October 2.

The First Lady is being invited to cut the ribbon for the event and I wish to add my recommendation that this invitation be accepted if possible.

The facility cost \$7 million and all the money was raised privately.

Contact is: Polly Jontz - AC 317/924-5431.

cc: Jack Marsh
Sheila Weidenfeld
Bill Nicholson



May 10, 1976

Dear Ms. Jontz,

Your thoughtful letter telling of plans for the dedication of The Children's Museum is greatly appreciated. Although the official schedule is planned only a few weeks in advance, we have noted these dates on Mrs. Ford's calendar with the hope she might have the pleasure of attending. We will be in communication with you closer to the date when Mrs. Ford's plans are more fully determined.

With warmest regards,

Sincerely,

Susan Porter
Appointments Secretary
for Mrs. Ford

Ms. Polly Jontz
Director, Development and
Public Relations
The Children's Museum
30th and Meridian
Indianapolis, Indiana 46208

SP/SA

c: ✓ BF Pending to Consider (October 2, 1976, Indianapolis)

ENCLOSED MATERIAL SENT TO MRS. FORD'S FILES





April 26, 1976

Miss Susan Porter
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, D.C. 20006

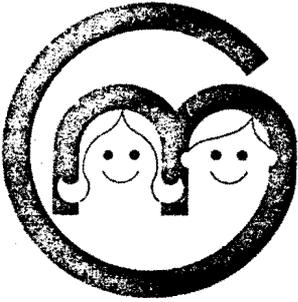
Dear Miss Porter:

Last August Frances B. Julian, trustee of this museum and chairman of the grand opening of the new museum, wrote to Mrs. Ford asking her to participate in our gala opening this fall. At the same time we wrote to Warren S. Rustand and Mrs. Melvin R. Laird reiterating our invitation to Mrs. Ford. Mrs. Laird is from Indianapolis and is familiar with The Children's Museum.

Last Friday when President Ford was in Indianapolis some representatives from the White House previewed our museum at the invitation of Dr. Landrum Bolling, president of Lilly Endowment. The opinion expressed at the conclusion of the tour was that a visit from Mrs. Ford might be very appropriate at the time of our opening. So it is our hope that she might be responsive to a reminder of the invitation to participate in this important cultural event.

Originally we invited Mrs. Ford to the dinner for 400 persons who gave generously to the museum's funding campaign making the fabulous new facilities possible. That dinner is September 29, and of course we would be honored were she to attend. Meanwhile, however, the plans have expanded and we would like to extend our invitation to the public dedication to be at 9:30 a.m. October 2, 1976, where her attendance might be of greatest benefit to each of us. An alternative date might be the opening for 5,000 members on Thursday, September 30. The public dedication is open to everyone and will climax the week of festivities. We are expecting excellent news coverage which would, of course, be heightened were Mrs. Ford to participate.





Although plans are still being formulated for the ceremony, the ribbon will be cut by a kindergartener. An article concerning him is in the enclosed material. A time capsule of children's art, poetry, essays and music may be presented to the museum for safekeeping by the Indianapolis Public Schools at that event. Representatives Andrew Jacobs, Elwood Hillis and David Evans will be in attendance and Governor Otis Bowen and Mayor William Hudnut also have accepted invitations to be present.

As we said in our original letter to Mrs. Ford, upon its opening this museum will be the largest museum for children in the world. We have just celebrated the museum's fiftieth anniversary, marking a half century of education through museum interpretation, and count as our public "anyone who is or ever was a child." Because museums for children are an American phenomenon, it would be particularly appropriate if Mrs. Ford, representing our nation and committed as she is to cultural life, could participate in the public dedication of this wonderful new museum.

I am enclosing a compilation of background materials which will inform you and Mrs. Ford of this unique institution. We would hope that you will be as enthusiastic as we and will allow us to share with Mrs. Ford this most important moment.

We look forward to hearing from you. Please let us know if we can provide additional information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Polly Jontz". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the typed name.

Polly Jontz, Director
Development and Public Relations

cc: Dr. Landrum Bolling
enc.

PJ/cd



3010 NORTH MERIDIAN STREET, BOX 88207, INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA 46208, PHONE 317-925-9263 / Director: Mildred S. Compton;
of Trustees: David H. Kenny, *President*, Jack R. Shaw, *1st Vice President*, Mrs. Richard D. Wood, *2nd Vice President*, Mrs. J. William Julian, *Recording Secretary*, Mrs. Alex M. Clark,
sponding Secretary, Jerome C. Stoketeo, *Treasurer*, Frederic D. Anderson, Alex S. Carroll, Robert P. Cronin, Charles R. Davis, William L. Elder, Omer H. Foust, Mrs. Edward Gallahue, T
A. Heidenreich, John J. Heidt, Jr., Robert E. Heine, Mrs. John P. Holton, Philip S. Kappes, Merle F. Kuhlman, Luke D. Lanford, Thomas R. Lugar, Frank E. McKinney, Jr., Robert H. McCl
Mrs. Walter Myers, Jr., John D. Pittman, George H. Rawls, Harley W. Rhodehamel, Mrs. Joseph A. Rothbard, Raymond G. Sweeney, Martha L. McCardle, *School Board Representative*, H
Trustees: Reily G. Adams, Mrs. Walter C. Hiser, A. Malcolm McVie, Mrs. Wilson Mothershead, Henry J. Peirce, John G. Rauch, Jr., Mrs. Frederic W. Taylor, George L. Varnes; *Guild Pre*
Mrs. Frank E. McKinney, Jr.



Children's
Museum
of Indianapolis

August 19, 1975

Mrs. Gerald Ford
The White House
Washington D.C.

Dear Mrs. Ford:

One of the most exciting occasions in the arts,
the dedication of the new Children's Museum, will
take place in Indianapolis September 29, 1976.
The Children's Museum will be, on completion, the
largest of its kind in the world.

The Trustees cordially invite you to a formal
dinner in the museum that night to honor those very
important persons who gave so generously to make the
fabulous new building possible. Other significant
people in the museum and cultural field will be
included to make this a truly memorable event.
Following dinner the theater will be dedicated to
the late Mrs. Eli Lilly with a brief entertainment.
Mrs. Lilly was a museum patron and trustee for many years.

The Children's Museum of Indianapolis, this year
celebrating its fiftieth anniversary, is the third
oldest children's museum in the country and is a pioneer
in the field of museum education through its varied
collections. Museums for children are an American
phenomenon. It would be particularly appropriate if you,
representing our nation and committed as you are to our
cultural life, could participate in the grand opening of
this wonderful new museum.

I am sending to Mr. Rustand a compilation of pertinent
background materials concerning the museum which will
inform him of this unique institution and will demonstrate



the appropriateness of your participation. We hope you will talk with Mr. Rustand concerning the background materials, that you will be as enthusiastic as we about the Children's Museum, and will allow us to share with you this most important moment.

Sincerely,

Frances B. Julian

Mrs. J. William Julian, Chairman
Grand Opening Committee

6917 North Pennsylvania
Indianapolis, Indiana 46220

JWJ/dw



THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

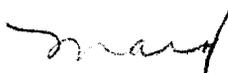
August 21, 1975

NOTE FOR SUSAN PORTER

Susan -

Since Warren is away (in Arizona)
and this is an invitation to Mrs. Ford,
may I leave with you for response?

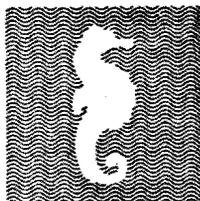
Many thanks.



Mary Rawlins



3010 NORTH MERIDIAN STREET, BOX 88207, INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA 46208, PHONE 317-925-9263 / Director: Mildred S. Comp
of Trustees: David H. Kenny, *President*, Jack R. Shaw, *1st Vice President*, Mrs. Richard D. Wood, *2nd Vice President*, Mrs. J. William Julian, *Recording Secretary*, Mrs. Alex M. Cl
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Mrs. Walter Myers, Jr., John D. Pittman, George H. Rawls, Harley W. Rhodehamel, Mrs. Joseph A. Rothbard, Raymond G. Sweeney, Martha L. McCardle, *School Board Representative*
Trustees: Reilly G. Adams, Mrs. Walter C. Hiser, A. Malcolm McVie, Mrs. Wilson Mothershead, Henry J. Peirce, John G. Rauch, Jr., Mrs. Frederic W. Taylor, George L. Varnes; *Guild*
Mrs. Frank E. McKinney, Jr.



**Children's
Museum**
of Indianapolis

August 19, 1975

Mr. Warren S. Rustand
Director of Scheduling
The White House
Washington D.C.

Dear Mr. Rustand:

A series of events beginning with a formal dinner
September 29, 1976, will celebrate the grand opening
of the new facilities of the Children's Museum of
Indianapolis. The dinner will honor those very
important persons who gave generously to the \$9 million
fund raising effort, making possible the building of the
largest museum for children in the world. In addition
to dinner that evening, the museum's theater will be
dedicated to the late Mrs. Eli Lilly, long a trustee and
patron of the Children's Museum. Other special guests
will be national dignitaries and it is to this event
we are inviting Mrs. Ford.

Enclosed is a compilation of pertinent background
materials concerning the museum and a copy of the
letter I am sending her. After you have glanced
through this material we hope you will share our
enthusiasm about this special place devoted to the
education and enjoyment of children of all ages.

We hope Mrs. Ford will want to participate in this
memorable occasion as our very special guest. It
would seem fitting that Mrs. Ford should represent our
country as the Children's Museum, with its new
facilities, continues its 50 years of leadership in
education for children through museum objects and
museum-related activities.

ACTION	
T/D	_____
SCHEDULE NO.	_____
DATE RECEIVED	_____
	AUG 21 1975
MESSAGE	_____
SPEAKERS BUREAU	_____
OTHER	_____
APPOINTMENT OFFICE	



We look forward to hearing from you or Mrs. Ford concerning her participation, and will be happy to provide you, or her, with any additional information that may be needed, and to develop the plans that would be necessary for her appearance here.

Sincerely,

Aruces B. Solian

Mrs. J. William Julian, Chairman
Grand Opening Committee

6917 North Pennsylvania
Indianapolis, Indiana 46220

JWJ/dw



9/15/76 - conversation with Polly Jontz

1st -

open house for neighborhood
U. S. Navy Steel Band will play
local rock station disc jockeys,
sports people
central city location, decision was made
to stay in this neighborhood
no ceremony,
Polly said she didn't think it would be
the best thing for Mrs. Ford

4:00 -
7:00 pm

30th -

invitational open house for members and
donors
small ceremony at 5:00 to present
membership to child who drew
green monster
5000 invitations sent out.

3:00 -
9:00 pm

Polly feels very strongly that the ~~day~~ ribbon
cutting on the 2nd is really the day
for Mrs. Ford, that's when the
coverage will be etc.



fire station - 1880's
1920's -

climb on.

locomotive + Vet. train
station

natural science area -

Cave

children's art
contest
others on
display
temporarily

Arboretum

Americano - log cabin
carpenter shops -

pre-history
Area.

operating carousel

toy trains - operating

Am. Folk Art Collection

Older airplane models.

MEMORANDUM
OF CALL

~~SECRET~~
-UPI

TO: _____

Toni Mangola *Sally*

YOU WERE CALLED BY— YOU WERE VISITED BY—

Angie Whitebeck

OF (Organization) _____

317-924-5431

PLEASE CALL → PHONE NO. CODE/EXT. _____

WILL CALL AGAIN IS WAITING TO SEE YOU

RETURNED YOUR CALL WISHES AN APPOINTMENT

MESSAGE _____

WOY

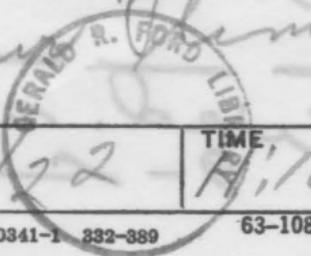
Children's Museum

Ind. - Indiana

Cred. Adv. by
Sally *1 our Home*

RECEIVED BY _____

R. | DATE *9/22* | TIME *11:10*



Gayle Cohen
4831442
J. Anderson

YOU WERE CALLED BY _____
YOU WERE VISITED BY _____

OF (Organization) _____

PHONE NO. _____
CODE/EXT. _____

- PLEASE CALL ←
- WILL CALL AGAIN
- RETURNING YOUR CALL
- MESSAGE



3 focus

Iddy ahead

1st 3 volunteers

1-1-1-2-1

Wed. 1-1-1-1-1
9-1-1-1

RECEIVED BY _____

03-108

040 1 2000 443 12 00001 1 205 000

STANDARD FORM 63
REVISED AUGUST 1987
GSA FPMR (41 CFR) 101-11.6

Sally

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

September 17, 1976

Bill LaPlant
317.639.2311
WTHR-Char. 13
-ABC-

MEMORANDUM TO: PETER SORUM
FROM: SUSAN PORTER
SUBJECT: Action Memo

Mrs. Ford has accepted the following out-of-town invitation:

EVENT: Tour of the new facilities at The Children's Museum
in Indianapolis, Indiana

DATE: Friday, October 1, 1976

TIME: To Be Determined

PLACE: The Children's Museum
30th and Meridian Streets
Indianapolis, Indiana

CONTACT: Polly Jontz
Director of Development and Public Relations
317-924-5431

COMMENTS: This will be the second stop this day for Mrs. Ford;
the first, as of this writing, is yet to be determined.

The dedication of the beautiful new facilities at The Children's Museum in Indianapolis is an invitation to Mrs. Ford which has been "high on the list" ever since learning about it. The Children's Museum of Indianapolis, this year celebrating its fiftieth anniversary, is the third oldest children's museum in the country and is a pioneer in the field of museum education through its varied collections. Museums for children are an American phenomenon; The Children's Museum of Indianapolis will be the largest museum for children in the world.



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c: BF Staff
Red Cavaney
Max Friedersdorf
Steve McConahey
William Nicholson
Jerry Jones
Terry O'Donnell
James Cavanaugh
James Connor
Jim Field
Jim Baker
Stu Spencer
Elly Peterson
William Greener III
Jud Summer
Rex Scouten
Staircase





August 25, 1976

Miss Susan Porter
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, D.C. 20006

Dear Miss Porter:

Now that the Republican convention has ended I am sure there are many decisions being made in The White House concerning Mrs. Ford's fall schedule. We at The Children's Museum want to reiterate our invitation to Mrs. Ford to participate in the dedication of the museum at 9:30 a.m. Saturday, October 2. As you may remember, this museum will be, upon its opening that day, the largest of its kind in the world.

I need not repeat the plans for that morning for they were included in my last letter to you, but only want to say they are progressing well and the opening will be as scheduled. We do think the museum's public dedication, which should attract attention nationwide as well as in Indianapolis and Indiana, would provide an excellent setting for an Indianapolis appearance of our First Lady. Of course, we would want her to make the major dedicatory remarks.

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Please keep us informed as to the progress of Mrs. Ford's plans. We hope she is well and rested from the convention.

Sincerely,

Polly Jantz, Director
Development and Public Relations



BF Pending to Consider
Indianapolis, IN
October 1 or 2, 1976
Children's Museum Dedicatio

August 30, 1976

MEMORANDUM TO: MAX FRIEDERSDORF

FROM: SUSAN PORTER

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Again, thank you.

c: BF Pending to Consider (Indianapolis, October 1,2, 1976)
Jack Marsh



THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

August 25, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR: SUSAN PORTER
FROM: MAX FRIEDERSDORF *M. G.*
SUBJECT: Invitation for the First Lady

As you are aware, Indianapolis will dedicate the world's largest Children's Museum on the morning of October 2.

The First Lady is being invited to cut the ribbon for the event and I wish to add my recommendation that this invitation be accepted if possible.

The facility cost \$7 million and all the money was raised privately.

Contact is: Polly Jontz - AC 317/924-5431.

cc: Jack Marsh
Sheila Weidenfeld
Bill Nicholson



May 10, 1976

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Your thoughtful letter telling of plans for the dedication of The Children's Museum is greatly appreciated. Although the official schedule is planned only a few weeks in advance, we have noted these dates on Mrs. Ford's calendar with the hope she might have the pleasure of attending. We will be in communication with you closer to the date when Mrs. Ford's plans are more fully determined.

With warmest regards,

Sincerely,

Susan Porter
Appointments Secretary
for Mrs. Ford

Ms. Polly Jontz
Director, Development and
Public Relations
The Children's Museum
30th and Meridian
Indianapolis, Indiana 46208

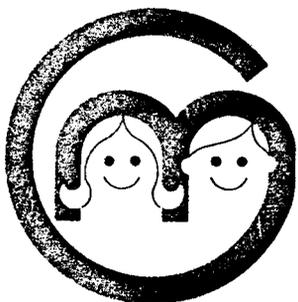
SP/SA

c: ✓ BF Pending to Consider (October 2, 1976, Indianapolis)

ENCLOSED MATERIAL SENT TO MRS. FORD'S FILES



4-30
X
19



April 26, 1976

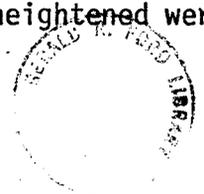
Miss Susan Porter
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
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Dear Miss Porter:

Last August Frances B. Julian, trustee of this museum and chairman of the grand opening of the new museum, wrote to Mrs. Ford asking her to participate in our gala opening this fall. At the same time we wrote to Warren S. Rustand and Mrs. Melvin R. Laird reiterating our invitation to Mrs. Ford. Mrs. Laird is from Indianapolis and is familiar with The Children's Museum.

Last Friday when President Ford was in Indianapolis some representatives from the White House previewed our museum at the invitation of Dr. Landrum Bolling, president of Lilly Endowment. The opinion expressed at the conclusion of the tour was that a visit from Mrs. Ford might be very appropriate at the time of our opening. So it is our hope that she might be responsive to a reminder of the invitation to participate in this important cultural event.

Originally we invited Mrs. Ford to the dinner for 400 persons who gave generously to the museum's funding campaign making the fabulous new facilities possible. That dinner is September 29, and of course we would be honored were she to attend. Meanwhile, however, the plans have expanded and we would like to extend our invitation to the public dedication to be at 9:30 a.m. October 2, 1976, where her attendance might be of greatest benefit to each of us. An alternative date might be the opening for 5,000 members on Thursday, September 30. The public dedication is open to everyone and will climax the week of festivities. We are expecting excellent news coverage which would, of course, be heightened were Mrs. Ford to participate.





Although plans are still being formulated for the ceremony, the ribbon will be cut by a kindergartener. An article concerning him is in the enclosed material. A time capsule of children's art, poetry, essays and music may be presented to the museum for safekeeping by the Indianapolis Public Schools at that event. Representatives Andrew Jacobs, Elwood Hillis and David Evans will be in attendance and Governor Otis Bowen and Mayor William Hudnut also have accepted invitations to be present.

As we said in our original letter to Mrs. Ford, upon its opening this museum will be the largest museum for children in the world. We have just celebrated the museum's fiftieth anniversary, marking a half century of education through museum interpretation, and count as our public "anyone who is or ever was a child." Because museums for children are an American phenomenon, it would be particularly appropriate if Mrs. Ford, representing our nation and committed as she is to cultural life, could participate in the public dedication of this wonderful new museum.

I am enclosing a compilation of background materials which will inform you and Mrs. Ford of this unique institution. We would hope that you will be as enthusiastic as we and will allow us to share with Mrs. Ford this most important moment.

We look forward to hearing from you. Please let us know if we can provide additional information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Polly Jontz". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

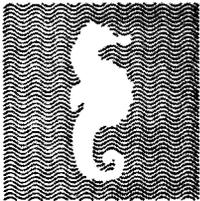
Polly Jontz, Director
Development and Public Relations

cc: Dr. Landrum Bolling
enc.

PJ/cd



3010 NORTH MERIDIAN STREET, BOX 88207, INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA 46208, PHONE 317-925-9263 / Director: Mildred S. Compton
of Trustees: David H. Kenny, *President*, Jack R. Shaw, *1st Vice President*, Mrs. Richard D. Wood, *2nd Vice President*, Mrs. J. William Julian, *Recording Secretary*, Mrs. Alex M. Clark, *Spending Secretary*, Jerome C. Stekete, *Treasurer*, Frederic D. Anderson, Alex S. Carroll, Robert P. Cronin, Charles R. Davis, William L. Elder, Omer H. Foust, Mrs. Edward Gallahue, A. Heidenreich, John J. Heidt, Jr., Robert E. Heine, Mrs. John P. Holton, Phillip S. Kappes, Merle F. Kuhlman, Luke D. Lanford, Thomas R. Lugar, Frank E. McKinney, Jr., Robert H. Mc Mrs. Walter Myers, Jr., John D. Pittman, George H. Rawis, Harley W. Rhodehamel, Mrs. Joseph A. Rothbard, Raymond G. Sweeney, Martha L. McCordle, *School Board Representative*; H Trustees: Reily G. Adams, Mrs. Walter C. Hiser, A. Malcolm McVie, Mrs. Wilson Mothershead, Henry J. Peirce, John G. Rauch, Jr., Mrs. Frederic W. Taylor, George L. Varnes; *Guild Pr* Mrs. Frank E. McKinney, Jr.



**Children's
Museum**
of Indianapolis

August 19, 1975

Mrs. Gerald Ford
The White House
Washington D.C.

Dear Mrs. Ford:

One of the most exciting occasions in the arts, the dedication of the new Children's Museum, will take place in Indianapolis September 29, 1976. The Children's Museum will be, on completion, the largest of its kind in the world.

The Trustees cordially invite you to a formal dinner in the museum that night to honor those very important persons who gave so generously to make the fabulous new building possible. Other significant people in the museum and cultural field will be included to make this a truly memorable event. Following dinner the theater will be dedicated to the late Mrs. Eli Lilly with a brief entertainment. Mrs. Lilly was a museum patron and trustee for many years.

The Children's Museum of Indianapolis, this year celebrating its fiftieth anniversary, is the third oldest children's museum in the country and is a pioneer in the field of museum education through its varied collections. Museums for children are an American phenomenon. It would be particularly appropriate if you, representing our nation and committed as you are to our cultural life, could participate in the grand opening of this wonderful new museum.

I am sending to Mr. Rustand a compilation of pertinent background materials concerning the museum which will inform him of this unique institution and will demonstrate

SEBASTIAN R. FORD

the appropriateness of your participation. We hope you will talk with Mr. Rustand concerning the background materials, that you will be as enthusiastic as we about the Children's Museum, and will allow us to share with you this most important moment.

Sincerely,

Frances B. Julian

Mrs. J. William Julian, Chairman
Grand Opening Committee

6917 North Pennsylvania
Indianapolis, Indiana 46220

JWJ/dw



THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

August 21, 1975

NOTE FOR SUSAN PORTER

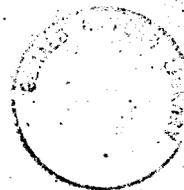
Susan -

Since Warren is away (in Arizona)
and this is an invitation to Mrs. Ford,
may I leave with you for response?

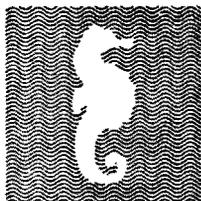
Many thanks.



Mary Rawlins



3010 NORTH MERIDIAN STREET, BOX 88207, INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA 46208, PHONE 317-925-9263 / Director: Mildred S. Compton
of Trustees: David H. Kenny, President, Jack R. Shaw, 1st Vice President, Mrs. Richard D. Wood, 2nd Vice President, Mrs. J. William Julian, Recording Secretary, Mrs. Alex M. Clair
sponding Secretary, Jerome C. Steketee, Treasurer, Frederic D. Anderson, Alex S. Carroll, Robert P. Cronin, Charles R. Davis, William L. Elder, Omer H. Foust, Mrs. Edward Gallahue
A. Heidenreich, John J. Heidt, Jr., Robert E. Heine, Mrs. John P. Holton, Philip S. Kappes, Merle F. Kuhman, Luke D. Lanford, Thomas R. Lugar, Frank E. McKinney, Jr., Robert H. M.
Mrs. Walter Myers, Jr., John D. Pittman, George H. Rawls, Harley W. Rhodehamel, Mrs. Joseph A. Rothbard, Raymond G. Sweeney, Martha L. McCordle, School Board Representative;
Trustees: Rolly G. Adams, Mrs. Walter C. Hiser, A. Malcolm McVie, Mrs. Wilson Mothershead, Henry J. Peirce, John G. Rauch, Jr., Mrs. Frederic W. Taylor, George L. Varnes; Guild
Mrs. Frank E. McKinney, Jr.



Children's
Museum
of Indianapolis

August 19, 1975

Mr. Warren S. Rustand
Director of Scheduling
The White House
Washington D.C.

Dear Mr. Rustand:

A series of events beginning with a formal dinner
September 29, 1976, will celebrate the grand opening
of the new facilities of the Children's Museum of
Indianapolis. The dinner will honor those very
important persons who gave generously to the \$9 million
fund raising effort, making possible the building of the
largest museum for children in the world. In addition
to dinner that evening, the museum's theater will be
dedicated to the late Mrs. Eli Lilly, long a trustee and
patron of the Children's Museum. Other special guests
will be national dignitaries and it is to this event
we are inviting Mrs. Ford.

Enclosed is a compilation of pertinent background
materials concerning the museum and a copy of the
letter I am sending her. After you have glanced
through this material we hope you will share our
enthusiasm about this special place devoted to the
education and enjoyment of children of all ages.

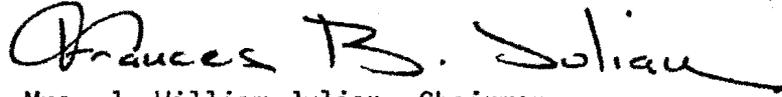
We hope Mrs. Ford will want to participate in this
memorable occasion as our very special guest. It
would seem fitting that Mrs. Ford should represent our
country as the Children's Museum, with its new
facilities, continues its 50 years of leadership in
education for children through museum objects and
museum-related activities.

ACTION
T/D _____
SCHEDULE NO. _____
DATE RECEIVED
AUG 21 1975
MESSAGE _____
SPEAKERS BUREAU _____
OTHER _____
APPOINTMENT OFFICE



We look forward to hearing from you or Mrs. Ford concerning her participation, and will be happy to provide you, or her, with any additional information that may be needed, and to develop the plans that would be necessary for her appearance here.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Frances B. Soliau". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name.

Mrs. J. William Julian, Chairman
Grand Opening Committee

6917 North Pennsylvania
Indianapolis, Indiana 46220

JWJ/dw

Up-Date Indiana Politics

Polls show former Indianapolis Mayor Richard Lugar with a substantial lead in his bid to unseat incumbent Democratic Senator Vance Hartke. Lugar made an unsuccessful effort in 1974 against Senator Birch Bayh.

Both Congressional races involving Indianapolis are GOP potentials for unseating Democrats. The 11th, which includes most of Indianapolis, is now represented by Democrat Andrew Jacobs. (Jacobs is the one married to Rep. Martha Keys of Kansas.) The GOP candidate is Larry Buell, a 42-year-old CPA. Buell is currently Marion County Treasurer, an elected position. An Army veteran, he is married and has three children.

The 6th District, which includes Indianapolis' black sections, is currently represented by first-term Democrat Dave Evans, 28. His GOP opponent is Dave Crane, a doctor and a lawyer. Crane is Rep. Phil Crane's brother. He is 39, married with three children. The Republican Congressional Committee thinks both candidates have good organizations and possibilities of winning.

The incumbent Republican Governor, Dr. Otis Bowen, is seeking a second four-year term. Bowen is expected to defeat his Democratic opponent, Secretary of State Larry Conrad.

Teen Leans

Indianapolis Steer

(317) 633-9160 w:

(317) 844-5005 H:

"Next" term as 1st led,
Pet projects, special interests,
eh.

Sheila

Background, The Children's Museum of Indianapolis

The Children's Museum of Indianapolis opened in December, 1975, the third museum for children in America. The first was located in Brooklyn, the second in Boston. A wealthy Indianapolis woman visited the Brooklyn museum, and with three other women organized the Indianapolis museum. It opened in a carriage house.

The Museum has had three directors, including the current one, Ms. Mildred Compton. Chartered by the state of Indiana, the Museum is owned, operated and supported by the citizens of Indianapolis and surrounding areas. A volunteer Board of Trustees formulates policy and oversees the administration of the Museum.

Overcrowding and lack of exhibit space prompted planning for the new facility. A fund drive, which began in late 1972, has raised almost \$9 million. With a challenge grant of \$3.5 million from the Lilly Endowment Inc. as an incentive, the museum raised the rest of the money from the public. (91-year-old Eli Lilly may be there during your visit. The late Mrs. Lilly was a long-time trustee and patron of the Museum.)

The emphasis at the Museum on participation and involvement of the visitors is described in the attached article from The Christian Science Monitor.

A kindergarten student, Britt Schneider, drew the picture which is being used on the poster announcing the opening. He has sent you an autographed copy, and he will be involved in the program in some way.



Highlights:

- A reconstructed 19th century firehouse with a horsedrawn steam pumper and hand pumper in the Indiana Firefighters Gallery.
- A reconstructed Victorian railway station, home of Reuben Wells, a wood-burning steam locomotive. This was the most powerful railroad engine in the world in 1868. It was named for its creator, a master mechanic for the Jeffersonville, Madison and Indianapolis Railroad.
- A display of early Americana, including a log cabin and a genuine Conestoga wagon.
- Galleries showing the history and life styles of the American Indians, Eskimos and Latin Americans.
- A gallery showing the emergence of man, including three reconstructed dinosaurs and two early mammals.
- An ancient Egypt gallery, featuring the mummy of a young girl, a great favorite with the children.
- A natural science gallery and small arboretum to show Indiana's plants, insects, birds and geology.
- A kaleidoscope room for children under seven to help them develop their physical senses.
- A gallery featuring the cultures of Africa, Europe, the South Seas and Asia with concentration on Japan and China.
- A theatre seating 360.



make folder

9A-10

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

August 25, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR: SUSAN PORTER
FROM: MAX FRIEDERSDORF *M. G.*
SUBJECT: Invitation for the First Lady

As you are aware, Indianapolis will dedicate the world's largest Children's Museum on the morning of October 2.

The First Lady is being invited to cut the ribbon for the event and I wish to add my recommendation that this invitation be accepted if possible.

The facility cost \$7 million and all the money was raised privately.

Contact is: Polly Jontz - AC 317/924-5431.

cc: Jack Marsh
Sheila Weidenfeld
Bill Nicholson



Info

RE: New Children's Museum Opening

CONTACT: Angie Woytinek, Polly Jontz

FOR: Immediate Release

Its first name is "children," but it's over 50 years old and far from small. In fact, with the opening of its bold new \$6.8 million home, The Children's Museum, Indianapolis, becomes the largest such museum in the world.

The gala public dedication begins at 9:30 Saturday morning, October 2, outside the new museum building on the corner of 30th and Meridian Streets.

Open Tuesdays through Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sundays from 1 to 5 p.m., the museum's only admission costs are an interest in the past, an appreciation of the present and a curiosity about the future.

Situated on five acres in Indianapolis' central city, the new brick and aggregate concrete building is designed in four modules. Connecting the gallery wings is a skylit open core with pumpkin-carpeted, zig-zagging ramps rising 70 feet to five exhibit levels.

Inside the 215,000-square-foot museum are the treasures on which youthful imaginations thrive -- fire engines and trains, dinosaurs and mummies, a cave, a cabin and a carousel, to name a few.

- more -



New Children's Museum
add one

In the Indiana Firefighters Gallery is a full-scale re-creation of an 1890s fire station complete with a horse-drawn steamer, hand-drawn pumper, operating alarm system and shiny brass fire pole. Nearby, five motorized fire engines, displays of other apparatus and huge photomurals trace the history of firefighting.

The 55-ton, wood-burning Reuben Wells locomotive stands beside the wooden platform of a gingerbreadly bright yellow and red railway depot, reminiscent of the Victorian era. In the late 1800s, the Reuben Wells was the "engine that could," for it steamed up and down the steepest railroad grade in the United States, on the bluffs of the Ohio River near Madison, Indiana. In the museum setting, visitors may peer inside the powerful engine and stroll through a furnished caboose of the same era.

A simulated Indiana limestone cave with 120 feet of cold, dark, damp passageways is the focal point of the natural science hall. Emerging from this world of stalactites, stalagmites and underground streams, museum-goers may visit the turtle pit, greenhouse and Nature's Garden, a walled outdoor learning area of native Indiana plant communities. There's even a Discovery Desk with exhibit drawers, games and scientific equipment for individual in-depth exploration of natural science.

A 34-foot replica of a Tyrannosaurus Rex dinosaur rules the Story of Our Earth exhibit, also inhabited by spectacular reproductions of other prehistoric creatures and real dinosaur bones for touching. The gallery story continues with exhibits depicting the Emergence of Man and Ancient Egypt. Here the nearly 3,000-year-old mummy Wenuhotep rests in a colorful and elaborate re-creation of a 1,300 B.C. tomb.

- more -



New Children's Museum
add one

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New Children's Museum
add three

seats arranged in semi-circular fashion.

Activities abound in the new facility, with craft classes, hobby clubs, scout badge classes, parent-child workshops, fairs and nature hikes scheduled. Programs for special audiences include a variety of in-depth and behind-the-scenes learning experiences offered as a benefit of museum membership.

Museum treasures are restored and conserved in a sophisticated laboratory, and nearby storage rooms have individual temperature and humidity controls to provide proper environments for precious artifacts made of materials ranging from wood to metal to leather to fur.

A separate entry, away from automobile traffic, is provided for children on tour with school classes. Long a service of The Children's Museum, interpretation of exhibits through participatory tours continues to be an important museum service in the new facility.

From the beginning, The Children's Museum has considered education its primary purpose. While most museums originate from the nucleus of some private collection or the gift of a large sum of money, The Children's Museum grew from only the idea of enthusing and educating youngsters.

When The Children's Museum opened December 6, 1925, a museum especially for children certainly was a novelty, for there were only two others in the world.

The infant institution's first homes were modest -- a carriage house followed by a park shelter house. In 1927 the museum moved "temporarily" into a 35-room mansion belonging to one of its founders. Nineteen years later, literally bursting with exhibits, collections and activities, The Children's Museum moved to its present site just 30 blocks north of



New Children's Museum
add four

the center of the city.

Despite the addition of several galleries, lack of space again became a critical problem in the early 1970s. Tours had to be turned away, and only 10 percent of the museum's collections could be exhibited. A new facility was mandatory.

So nearly ~~four~~ years ago the people of Indianapolis limbered up their collective youthful enthusiasm and combined it with grown-up skills like organization, research and evaluation to provide a new home for The Children's Museum.

One of the nation's largest foundations, Indianapolis-based Lilly Endowment, Inc., pledged \$3.5 million to the project, contingent upon the commitment of an equal amount from other sources. In just six months the challenge was met, but contributions did not cease. By July, 1973, pledges and payments to The Children's Museum Challenge Fund neared \$8.8 million, and a new Children's Museum to delight everyone who is, or ever was, a child was assured.

##



Info

RE: Overview of New Museum Building

CONTACT: Angie Woytinek, Polly Jontz

GENERAL INFORMATION

The entirely new Children's Museum will open to the public on Saturday, October 2, 1976. Previews and grand opening events are planned September 24 through October 3. The museum is closed presently to complete construction, landscaping and exhibit installation.

The new museum will be the largest children's museum building in the world. It contains over 200,000 square feet of space.

The eight exhibit halls range in size from 8,000 to 11,000 square feet each. On October 2, five exhibit halls will open to the public. Other exhibit halls scheduled for future development will house special temporary exhibits at the opening.

The new facility consists of four building modules surrounding an open center core with a ramp rising 70 feet to varying gallery levels.

The architect is Wright, Porteous and Lowe, Inc. The construction manager is Geupel DeMars, Inc.

EXHIBITS OPENING OCTOBER 2

Indiana Firefighters Gallery (first level exhibit hall)

This gallery includes a replica of an 1890s firehouse containing a horse-drawn steam pumper and a hand pumper. In addition to a variety of firefighting memorabilia, this exhibit houses five motorized fire engines. The Indianapolis Fire Buffs collection of firefighting apparatus was donated to the museum for this gallery.

The Reuben Wells (first level exhibit hall)

This area devoted to Indiana railroading has as its focal point the 55-ton Reuben Wells locomotive alongside the wooden platform of a replica of a Victorian railway station. With the wood-burning locomotive is a contemporary 19th century caboose and various railroading equipment.



The Children's Museum
add one

Natural Science (second level exhibit hall)

Exhibits relating to the elements and the environment include many small live animals and a Discovery Desk with specimens for in-depth exploration of related topics. The highlight of this area is a simulated Indiana limestone cave with 120 feet of cool, dark, damp passageways through typical cave formations.

Nature's Garden (outside second level exhibit hall)

This nearly 8,000-square-foot microcosm of the state's natural features is a walled outdoor learning area consisting of plant communities native to Indiana.

The Story of Our Earth (third level exhibit hall)

The highlights of this prehistory area are the giant replicas of three dinosaurs and two early mammals and the touchable exhibits of dinosaur bones.

The Emergence of Man (third level exhibit hall)

What we know about early man and how scientists learn about this subject are treated in this exhibit which includes skull comparison games.

Ancient Egypt--To Live Forever (third level exhibit hall)

Mummies depicting predynastic and dynastic burials are displayed, the latter in a simulated Egyptian tomb.

Americana: A Hoosier Home in the 1830s (fourth level exhibit hall)

This diorama depicting a "frozen" day in the life of pioneers on the frontier Midwest includes an authentic furnished log cabin which stood on the far northside of Indianapolis in the mid-1800s.

The Indianapolis Story (fourth level exhibit hall)

A multi-image slide-tape presentation highlighting the people, history, neighborhoods, businesses, fads and fancies associated with the city is shown continuously in a mini-theater.

The Carousel (fifth level exhibit hall)

Visitors may ride the 42 hand-carved wooden animals aboard the turn-of-the-century carousel which operated in Indianapolis' Broad Ripple Park from 1917 to 1956. Accompanying this exhibit is a restored merry-go-round band organ.

Toy Trains (fifth level exhibit hall)

Five trains run simultaneously with up to 10 more parked on the sidings of this nearly 1200-square-foot operating layout of Lionel 0-gauge toy trains. Scenery on the layout includes mountains, waterfalls, cities, towns, an industrial park, a train station and a circus.



The Children's Museum
add two

TEMPORARY EXHIBITS OPENING OCTOBER 2

Four special temporary exhibits will open with the new museum. One was assembled from a private collection, another from the museum's own materials. One is a traveling exhibit, while another features works created by children for the museum.

BEHIND THE SCENES

Education Wing

A special entry, away from automobile traffic, leads the way to orientation, craft and activity rooms for students touring the museum with their school classes and others participating in the museum's education programs.

Resource Center

Over 800 exhibit cases and kits are circulated free of charge by the Resource Center to Marion County schools and community groups.

Collections Wing

Rooms with individual temperature and humidity controls provide the proper environments for storage of artifacts not exhibited. A cataloguing room houses the records of the 40,000 objects in the museum collections, while a conservation laboratory is available for treating and restoring objects.

Exhibits Development Area

Artists' studios, an open work area, a darkroom and a print shop are utilized in preparing museum exhibits.

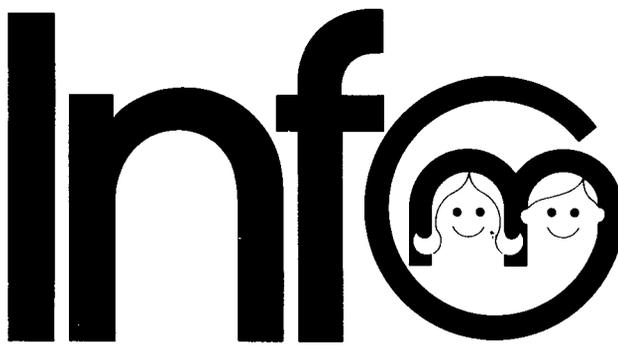
Library

Over 3,000 volumes related to the museum's collections and services are available for staff use and inter-museum loan.

AND NOT TO BE MISSED

Ruth Allison Lilly Theater

Opening with the museum is its new 360-seat theater with a free-floating thrust stage. Performing arts presentations scheduled for the theater include drama, dance, music, puppetry and films.



RE: Concept of a Children's Museum

CONTACT: Angie Woytinek, Polly Jontz

The Children's Museum, Indianapolis, is the third oldest and as of October 2, 1976, the largest children's museum in the world. It is highly respected in both the museum and educational fields.

As interpreted by this museum, the concept of a children's museum departs from the standard museum in essentially three ways:

(1) Exhibits are placed carefully to afford even the youngest a good long look, materials are presented in identifiable sequence, and where possible objects are placed outside of glass cases so they can be touched, felt and experienced.

(2) Bright and vivid colors are used to capture attention and labels are written in easily understood, contemporary language.

(3) Education justifies every object, activity and event. There is a purpose behind each display, a story to tell with each exhibit, an idea to unfold in each gallery.

Children's museums are found primarily in the United States, with over 40 such institutions belonging to the American Association of Youth Museums. These organizations vary greatly in subject and scope. The Children's Museum, Indianapolis, essentially is a social culture museum, while others are nature centers, activity centers or junior affiliates of art, history or general museums.

##



RE: Children's Museum History

The 1920s saw the concept of a museum especially for children introduced to Indianapolis. In 1924, Mrs. John N. Carey, an active participant in Indianapolis civic affairs, visited the Brooklyn Children's Museum and returned to Indianapolis determined that the youngsters of her city soon would have a museum of their own. Her enthusiasm drew three other civic-minded women to the cause, and with the help of children who contributed treasures belonging to their parents and grandparents, the Children's Museum opened its doors on December 6, 1925, in the tiny carriage house behind the Propylaeum near 14th and Delaware Streets.

The Children's Museum is somewhat unusual among youth museums due to its emphasis on social culture. It seems fitting that the children, particularly those from the city's ethnic neighborhoods who gave artifacts from varied cultures, should have determined the nature of their own museum.

The Indianapolis Children's Museum, the third oldest such museum in the world, grew as rapidly as the children it served, necessitating a move to the Garfield Park Shelter House in 1926 and another move to the 1150 North Meridian Street home of its founder in 1927.

The 1930s ushered in the Depression and a new role for the Children's Museum. Here whole families could find entertainment without cost, and countless leisure hours were spent at the museum. Despite the hard times, the museum's growth continued. In 1933, the Children's Museum

- more -

Children's Museum History add one

Guild was formed. Today this organization numbers 70 active and over 200 associate volunteers who each year contribute over \$25,000 and nearly 9,000 hours to the museum. The 1930s also saw the inception of a service of loaning portable exhibits of small items from the museum collections. This response to the hard times, which often prevented school classes from visiting the museum, was aided by the Depression, for many artists who fabricated the exhibits were employed through the "Children's Museum Project" of the WPA. Greatly expanded, today this service circulates 1,000 exhibits.

The 1940s saw the museum once again, due to its rapid growth, in search of a new home. The search culminated with the purchase of the Parry home at the corner of 30th and Meridian Streets, and on December 6, 1946, the Children's Museum celebrated its 21st birthday in new quarters. The publicity generated by the museum's move to this new home brought in a great many new artifacts, and already in 1948 the museum began constructing the first of several additions to accommodate its growing collections.

The 1950s saw museum activities increase several fold. Scout merit badge classes were initiated, performing groups came from outside the city; the museum produced a weekly television show; skilled artisans demonstrated their crafts in the museum galleries. And the museum continued to "add on" to meet the needs of its growing crowds.

The 1960s saw a number of significant developments in the museum history. To the collections in 1961 came a log cabin which stood on the city's north side in the mid 19th century, and in 1968 the 55-ton Reuben Wells locomotive took up residence in the Children's Museum. In 1964 the Children's Museum Guild sponsored the first Haunted House, a highly successful 10-day fund raising event which continues today, drawing nearly 70,000 visitors each year.

The 1970s have been highlighted with planning and construction.

The contribution of a spectacular collection of toy trains called for yet another addition, and a pilot gallery for physical science was opened.

In 1971, the Children's Museum was among the first two dozen museums in the country, and the first in Indianapolis, to be accredited by the American Association of Museums.

But the problems of inadequate space continue to mount, until in 1972 teachers requesting tours for 18,000 students had to be turned away and only 10 percent of the museum's collections could be exhibited.

In December, 1972, the Children's Museum embarked on a \$7 million capital fund drive. Lilly Endowment, Inc., pledged its largest single grant, \$3.5 million, to the project, contingent upon commitment of matching funds from other sources. In just six months, the community had met the challenge, but contributions continued until the Challenge Fund exceeded \$8.7 million.

On September 26, 1973, ground was broken, and on November 14, 1974, the building topped out. Grand opening of the new building, the largest children's museum in the world, is October 2, 1976.

FOUNDING: December 6, 1925

FOUNDERS: Mrs. John N. Carey, Miss Faye Henley, Miss Florence H. Fitch, Miss Eliza Browning (often included, Murray A. Dalman)

LOCATIONS: Propylaeum carriage house, near 14th and Delaware Streets, from founding until early 1926
Garfield Park Shelter House, early 1926 until late 1927
Carey home, 1150 North Meridian Street, late 1927 until early 1946
Parry home, 30th and Meridian Streets, late 1946 until present

DIRECTORS: E. Y. Guernsey, founding until early 1926
Arthur Carr, 1926-1942
Grace Golden, 1942-1965
Mildred S. Compton, 1965 to present