



Renewing the Heart of Our Museum: First Floor Transformation at the Boonshoft Museum of Discovery

About us: The mission of the Boonshoft Museum of Discovery is to create and provide meaningful and entertaining learning experiences for curious minds to engage with natural history, science, and nature while honoring and preserving collections for future generations. With this mission in mind, the Museum **reaches approximately 250,000 children and adults annually**. This project takes place at the Boonshoft and has three components: the renovation of the first-floor exhibit space (including a water focused area,) a transformational upgrade to our existing planetarium software in the Caryl D. Philips Space Theater, and the addition of a universal changing room in the astronomy wing, which will allow for individuals who may not have been able to visit the museum in the past to have the proper accommodations to visit.

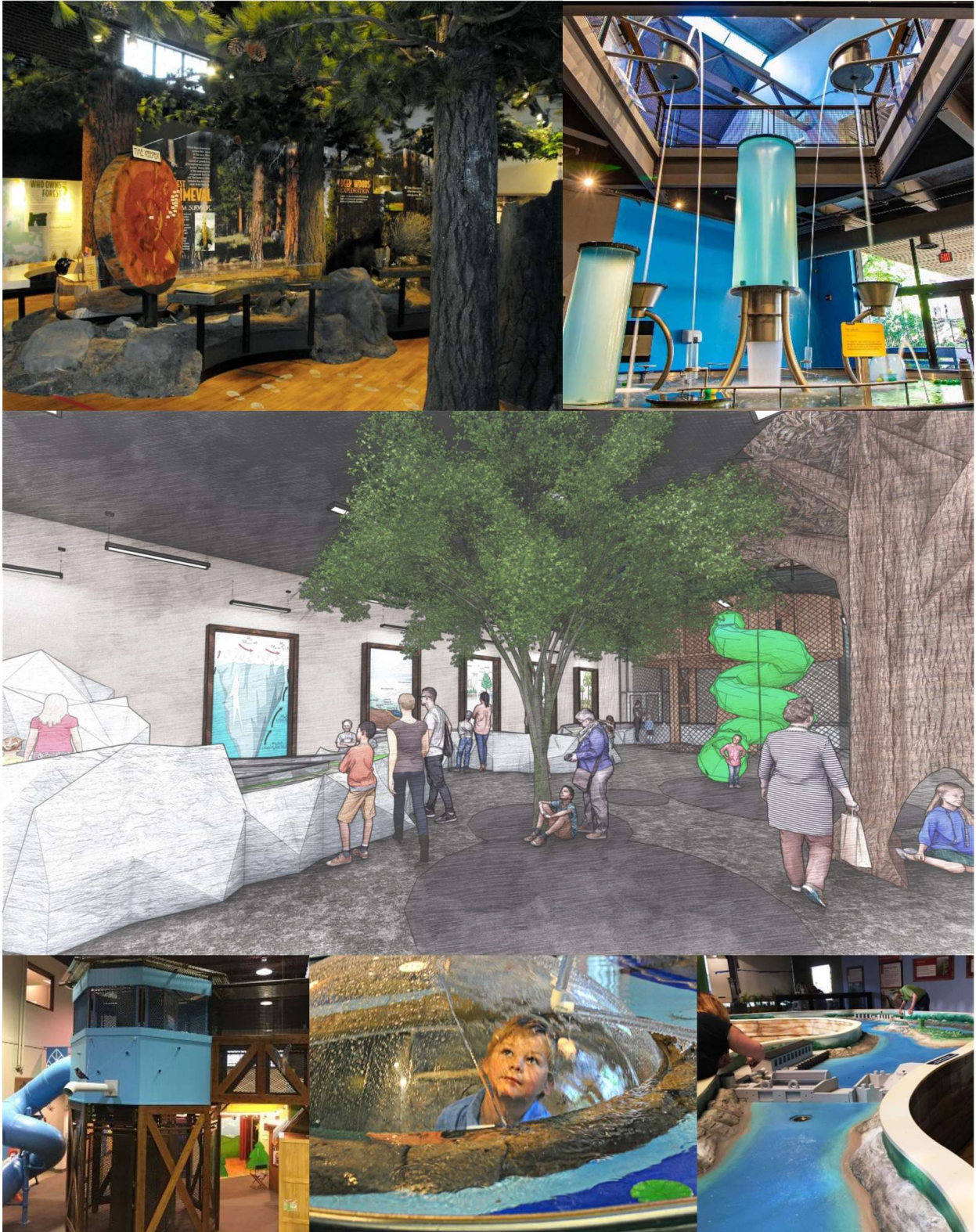
These initiatives collectively aim to enrich and expand the educational resources and opportunities offered by the Boonshoft Museum of Discovery. They focus on creating engaging and innovative learning experiences, ensuring accessibility and inclusivity, and promoting the region's valuable water assets, such as our rivers and aquifers, to the community.

The need: Our museum's current first floor has been an educational cornerstone for nearly three decades. This comprehensive renovation project aims to ensure its lasting vibrancy. The transformation will include natural history interactive elements (water table representing Dayton's watershed, glacier-themed soft play areas, a mastodon rib themed climb through, and a water tower climb-on structure); object displays from our collections vault; and educational displays covering water conservation, its influence on businesses and recreational activities, and Dayton's innovative water history. The goal of this transformation is to increase longevity within our museum space and decrease potential safety risks with aged climb-on structures, while simultaneously restoring the original natural history concept of the museum. The new space will engage children and adults of all ages, inspiring them to continue further pursuit in science education and igniting a path for our future leaders of our community. Moreover, it will become a hub for knowledge about Dayton's river confluence and aquifer, with community partnerships involving local organizations such as the Miami Conservancy District, the Five Rivers Metroparks, the City of Dayton Dept. of Water, the University of Dayton River Stewards, and more.

The proposed upgrade to the Digistar 7 planetarium software represents a significant advancement in our educational outreach. In Dayton, where the Wright-Patterson Air Force Base and major health networks play pivotal roles, nurturing future STEM talent is a top priority. By adopting this updated software, we not only enhance our ability to deliver immersive astronomy content but also introduce compelling new programs spanning various disciplines. This software empowers us to establish remote connections with planetariums, experts, and students on a global scale, amplifying resources for Ohioans and creating diverse opportunities for community organizations and businesses. Our planetarium technology, leveraged for regular programming and special events, such as our annual Military Child Night and Super Science Saturdays (free admission days,) contributes to our mission of community support and engagement. Simultaneously, the addition of a universal changing room ensures the museum's accessibility to a broader audience, including individuals with unique needs. The overarching objective is to maintain the planetarium as a state-of-the-art facility for astronomy education and to make it inclusive and accommodating to all visitors.

The request: We respectfully request \$1.5M in public funding to support this critical transformation of the first floor of the museum.

First Floor Project Inspiration Photo/Rendering





**MONTGOMERY COUNTY
ADMINISTRATION BUILDING**

451 West Third Street
P.O. Box 972
Dayton, Ohio 45422-1326

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Judy Dodge
Deborah A. Lieberman
Carolyn Rice

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

Michael Colbert

October 31, 2023

Dayton Development Coalition
1401 S. Main St.
Dayton, OH 45409

Dear Dayton Region Priority Development and Advocacy Committee:

We are writing in support of priority PDAC ranking for the First Floor Transformation of the Boonshoft Museum of Discovery, which is operated by the Dayton Society of Natural History.

The Boonshoft Museum encompasses a multifaceted experience, combining a natural history, science, and children's museum, a planetarium and observatory, and an AZA- accredited zoo all within one facility. They offer observatory and planetarium shows and world-class exhibits, such as the Bieser Room of Wonders and the recently unveiled Paleo Lab, providing a dynamic array of interactive activities for families to explore together and engage in scientific discovery.

Their ambitious project to revamp the first floor of the museum promises to leave a legacy for future generations. It aims to increase visitor accessibility, enhance educational content, and tell the compelling story of Dayton's water resources and the value it brings to our community.

The Boonshoft Museum plays a crucial role in our community by providing a meaningful educational experience for adults and children alike. It is unlike any other museum in the state because it houses a children's museum, natural history museum, planetarium, zoo, and science center. They are also a leader in educational programming for children in the Miami Valley and around Ohio.

We strongly urge your support for this request, as it aligns with the museum's mission to promote education and engagement in the fields of science and nature.

Sincerely,

Deborah A. Lieberman
Commission President

Judy Dodge
Commissioner

Carolyn Rice
Commissioner



Dear Members of PDAC Committee:

I write today in support of priority PDAC ranking for the First Floor Transformation of the Boonshoft Museum of Discovery, which is operated by the Dayton Society of Natural History.

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This institution plays a pivotal role as a STEM education leader in our community. I strongly urge your support for this request, as it aligns with the museum's mission to promote education and engagement in the fields of science and nature.

As Mayor of Dayton, I am proud to have an asset like the Boonshoft Museum in the Dayton community. Continued investment in this community asset will help to ensure the museum's growth and sustainability for the future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Jeffrey J. Mims, Jr." in a cursive style.

Jeffrey J. Mims, Jr.
Mayor, City of Dayton



November 1, 2023

Dayton Development Coalition
Dayton Region Priority Development and Advocacy Committee
1401 S. Main St.
Dayton, OH 45469

Dear Members of PDAC Committee:

I write today in support of priority PDAC ranking for the First Floor Transformation of the Boonshoft Museum of Discovery, which is operated by the Dayton Society of Natural History.

The Boonshoft Museum encompasses a multifaceted experience, combining a natural history, science, and children's museum, a planetarium and observatory, and an AZA- accredited zoo all within one facility. They offer observatory and planetarium shows and world-class exhibits, such as the Bieser Room of Wonders and the recently unveiled Paleo Lab, providing a dynamic array of interactive activities for families to explore together and engage in scientific discovery.

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The University of Dayton's Fitz Center for Leadership in Community addresses community identified challenges by cultivating reciprocal, collaborative and inclusive partnerships and learning environments to catalyze a more healthy, just and equitable future for the Dayton region. The Fitz Center is built on sustained relationships with dozens of neighborhood, community nonprofit and government organizations and associations and serves as a connecting point and campus-wide partner for community partnerships, leadership, community-engaged learning and scholarship, and innovative solution-based strategies to civic needs through an asset based approach. We have a sustained partnership with the Boonshoft Museum of Discovery through several of our programs including the Rivers Institute/River Stewards and Public Humanities and Arts. Currently, students in the River Stewards Program volunteer at the Boonshoft through providing outreach and education around watershed stewardship through the River Mobile Exhibit. The first floor renovation of the Boonshoft is vital to our region because it is only source of robust preK-8 STEM education that deeply engages Dayton as a watershed and works to understand this as a resource and something to be cared for. I support the Boonshoft Museum of Discovery's application for PDAC funding enthusiastically and am excited for the impact it will have on children and families.

Sincerely,

Nancy McHugh, PhD
Executive Director
Fitz Center for Leadership in Community



409 E. Monument Ave.
Third Floor
Dayton, Ohio 45402-1260

Phone (937) 275-7275
Fax (937) 278-8849

metroparks.org

November 3, 2023

Dear Members of the PDAC Committee:

I write today in support of priority PDAC ranking for the First Floor Transformation of the Boonshoft Museum of Discovery, which is operated by the Dayton Society of Natural History.

The Boonshoft Museum encompasses a multifaceted experience, combining natural history, science, a children's museum, a planetarium and observatory, and an AZA-accredited zoo, all within one facility. They offer observatory and planetarium shows and world-class exhibits, such as the Bieser Room of Wonders and the recently unveiled Paleo Lab, providing a dynamic array of interactive activities for families to explore together and engage in scientific discovery.

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As CEO of an organization that strives to connect people with nature, our mission strongly aligns with Boonshoft Museum of Discovery's mission to engage with natural history, science, and nature, while honoring and preserving collections for future generations. The proposed project will enable Boonshoft to continue to provide a safe, educational experience to our community for many years. Thank you for your time and dedication to supporting initiatives that uplift our community. If you have any questions or require further information, please feel free to contact me at karen.hesser@metroparks.org or 937-275-7275.

Sincerely,

Karen L Hesser

Karen L. Hesser (Nov 3, 2023 14:31 EDT)

Karen L. Hesser, CPRP
Chief Executive Officer
Five Rivers MetroParks

CONSERVATION
EDUCATION
RECREATION



AULLWOOD GARDEN • CARRIAGE HILL • COX ARBORETUM • DEEDS POINT • EASTWOOD • ENGLEWOOD
GERMANTOWN • HILLS & DALES • HUFFMAN • ISLAND • POSSUM CREEK • BIKEWAYS • RIVER CORRIDORS
RIVERSCAPE • 2ND STREET MARKET • SUGARCREEK • SUNRISE • TAYLORSVILLE • WEGERZYN GARDENS • WESLEYAN

Hope Taft
2933 Lower Bellbrook Rd.
Spring Valley, OH 45370
ohiohoper@yahoo.com
937-848-2993

October 31, 2023

PDAC Committee
Dayton, Ohio

Dear Members of the PDAC Committee:

I write today in support of priority PDAC ranking for the First Floor Transformation of the Boonshoft Museum of Discovery, which is operated by the Dayton Society of Natural History.

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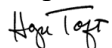
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This institution plays a pivotal role as a STEM education leader in our community as it reaches nearly 250,000 children and adults every year. It would like to reach even more and feel this first floor renovation can do that. This effort will take a space that has not been updated in nearly three decades and make it a state-of-the-art hands-on learning lab for Daytonians and beyond. It will become a destination for young families in the tri-state region.

As the co-founder of the Little Miami River Kleeners, the Little Miami Watershed Network and the Ohio Scenic River Association, I am aware of the value of water. Its preservation as a clean resource available to all must be brought home to visitors if we are to be a viable place to live, work and play in a warming climate. Water is Ohio's future valuable resource.

I strongly urge your support for this request, as it aligns with the museum's mission to promote education and engagement in the fields of science and nature.

Sincerely,
Hope Taft



First Lady of Ohio, 1999-2007