



miami children's museum
 play • learn • imagine • create

May 31, 2018

Division of Cultural Affairs
 Florida Department of State
 R.A. Gray Building, 3rd Floor
 500 South Bronough Street
 Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0250

Dear Grant Panelists,

On behalf of Miami Children's Museum, I am pleased to submit this application for a General Programming Support grant. Support from the Division of Cultural Affairs is instrumental in helping us continue our mission to provide the families of South Florida with arts and culture programs. As you know, nonprofits depend on state funding to leverage other federal and local government grants as well as contributions from corporations, foundations and individuals. Receiving funding from the Division of Cultural Affairs affirms our position as a highly rated nonprofit arts and culture institution.

This past year, 445,000 individuals visited the Museum. Through our Very Important Potential (VIP) Program, we provided 52,000 individuals with free admissions, summer camp scholarships, field trips, ongoing arts residencies for children with autism. The Museum is a national model and recognized leader in innovative and interactive education for children and families. Our 17 galleries are filled with learning activities focused on art, culture, community, and communication. Our primary audience is children under eight years old, with a secondary audience of children ages 8-12. For our youngest visitors and participants, the Museum is their first introduction to the arts and sciences. Our interactive exhibits and hands-on programs foster imaginative and creative thinking and promote skills that support school readiness.

Thanks to the support of our entire community, the Museum is in the process of a major renovation of all of our exhibits. This much needed revamping of the exhibits and internal spaces of the Museum started with the installation of energy efficient lighting throughout as well as a solar array on the roof made possible by a grant from the Department of Energy. During the current phase of the renovation, we have been making our way through the Museum galleries to install cutting-edge innovative educational exhibits. We began with the installation of a gesture interactive in the main area of the Museum and moved out from there. The newly redesigned Music Makers Gallery, made possible in partnership with the New World Symphony, features an interactive Symphony Room and was supported by a grant from the Institute of Museums and Library Services. The newly opened Kirk Foundation Art Museum Gallery includes a makers space and exhibits that teach children about the six elements of art. These galleries along with our new Snoezelen Room for children with sensory processing issues have enhanced the arts experience for all of our visitors. Photos of each of these new galleries are included in the application uploads.

Thank you for reviewing our application and for your support of Miami Children's Museum.

Sincerely,

Deborah Spiegelman
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