Department: Facilities Management **FM 107**
Date: March 24, 2015

Future Pima County Bond Election Proposed Projects Template

Project Name: Tucson Children's Museum, Inc., dba Children's Museum Tucson

Location: Carnegie Library, downtown Tucson

Scope:
Funding will be used for the remodel and construction of an expanded Children's Museum Tucson. The expanded facility will allow the Museum to increase its public program area to include galleries with interactive exhibits, and dedicated space for school tours and Early Childhood Education programs. The additional space will provide opportunities for expanded specialty programming such as community events, cultural festivals and educational camps. The expansion will also include outdoor exhibits, public program space and food service options, allowing the community to utilize the common areas beyond the museum hours of operation. These improvements are necessary, as the Museum has seen explosive growth in attendance: an 82% increase over the last six years. The added space will allow the Museum to better serve the needs of the community by expanding collaborative relationships and educational programming while strategically introducing exhibits in the areas of Early Childhood Education, Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics.

Benefits:
The Children's Museum Tucson (CMT) is a nonprofit 501(c) (3) organization providing fun, play based, interactive, hands-on learning experiences for children and their families. Focused on providing age appropriate development and learning opportunities for children through the power of play, the Children's Museum Tucson has been in operation at its current location in the City's original Carnegie Library building since 1991. With respect to the expanded Museum, benefits to residents of Pima County include:

- Local Community
  - Education - An expanded facility will create significantly greater opportunities for the Museum to increase the educational benefits to the community – all of which are critical to creating a 21st century work force.
    - Early Childhood Education
      - School readiness programming for pre-school aged children.
      - Physical fitness/health and wellness learning opportunities for kids under 5.
      - Collaborative partnerships with area pre-schools and special-needs providers.
    - Adventure Learning School Tours (field trips) for kids in elementary school
      - Instructor-led curriculum designed to enhance classroom lessons, based on the new Common Core and State Academic Standards.
    - Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics (STEM).
      - New STEM based exhibits (and associated school tours).
      - Expanded STEM programming, such as *STEAM Sundays*, where STEM and Art based activities are offered every Sunday during the summer with reduced admission to the Museum, providing accessibility regardless of economic means.
    - More Arts & Culture – Improved and expanded exhibits that provide our community's children with exposure to a diverse and well-rounded curriculum focused on arts and culture.

- Community Events - The Museum will feature even more prominent community events focused on critical topics such as literacy, science, health and wellness.
- Collaboration - An expanded facility will allow the Children's Museum Tucson to expand the types and frequency of partnerships we have with over 100 non-profit organizations in Pima County. With dedicated community space, the Museum will be a hub of family-focused, collaborative events and programming.
- Quality of life - An expanded Children's Museum will improve the quality of life in our community for families with children.

- Tourism
  - An expanded Children's Museum will allow the Museum to nearly double in size and offer new hands-on, educational, interactive exhibits, making the Museum more attractive as a destination for tourists visiting Tucson and Southern Arizona.
  - A new facility will feature gift shop and food service outlets, increasing potential sales tax for the county.
  - Greater attendance at the Museum will yield more visitors to downtown Tucson and have a positive impact on income for area restaurants and shops as well as visitation to other attractions in the area.

A revitalized and expanded children's museum will remain accessible to the residents of Pima County in a downtown location with proximity to major roads, access to parking and a wide variety of food and retail choices. The new facility will also be fully accessible to individuals with disabilities.

An expanded Children's Museum Tucson is necessary to continue serving the needs of our growing community for the next 25 years and beyond. The Museum will be an effective educational and developmental resource where children and their families can learn, grow and discover in a family focused and educational environment.

Costs: **$10,000,000.00**

Bond Funding: **$5,000,000.00**

Other Funding: Private Sector

Fiscal Year Project Start and Finish Date: TBD

Project Management Jurisdiction: Pima County

Future Operating and Maintenance Costs: Children's Museum Tucson will pay costs.

Regional Benefits:
Regional Benefits: CMT's geographic focus is Southern Arizona, primarily Pima County, where 83% of Museum visitors reside. 43% of all school group participants are from low-income families and more than 40% of general admissions are from low-income areas. The museum offers reduced or free admission on 10% of our open days. During these days, the percentage of low-income families increases from 40% to over 80%. Through dedicated underwriting, CMT also works directly with Title 1 school groups to offer free field trips with transportation. Title1 schools have 50% or more of their students qualify for reduced or free lunch programs under Federal guidelines. Statistics regarding ethnicity are recorded for school and community group participants. Annual records show 43% of CMT visitors are Hispanic, 42% Caucasian, 4.5% African American, 3.5% American Indian, and 2% Asian.

Supervisor District of Project Location: District 5 – Richard Elias