

Subject: Children's Museum building receives Silver LEED certification

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Children's Museum of Pittsburgh Becomes a Certified "Green" Building

(April 13, 2006) PITTSBURGH--Children's Museum of Pittsburgh has received a Silver LEED Certification from the U.S. Green Building Council, certifying that the facility, which expanded in November 2004, was designed and constructed using recycled materials and resources and features that promote a sustainable site, conserve water, utilize energy efficiently and provide a healthy environment during and after construction.

The Children's Museum of Pittsburgh is the largest museum in the nation to receive Silver LEED certification.

"The vision and dedication of our staff, board and the expansion's architect Koning Eizenberg Architecture in preserving and achieving the concept of a green museum, despite design changes and impediments, was critical to the success of our project," says Children's Museum Executive Director Jane Werner. "Like nurturing children, building with green principles is an investment in the future that creates a tangible example of how to best serve our environment and the community."

Some of the features of the Children's Museum that contribute to its "green" complexion are:

- 100% sustainable energy – wind generated, hydro-electric and solar powered
- No-irrigation landscaping and roof garden
- Dual flush toilets, low flow urinals and aerators at all faucets to reduce water consumption
- Recycling of office material and food packaging in the Café
- Museum programs that use recycled materials such as scrap wood, paperboard and plant material to create works of art
- Building materials with high quantities of recycled materials and materials that are locally manufactured and/or locally harvested
- Repurposing items such as converting an old bowling alley into a slide
- Displaying hundreds of building artifacts and stained glass windows salvaged from historic properties by the Pittsburgh History and Landmarks Foundation both inside and outside the facility
- Wood certified as harvested from forests managed in a sustainable fashion
- Certified low-emitting adhesives, sealants, paints, carpets and composite wood (formaldehyde free and having low volatile organic compounds thus reducing off gassing to near zero levels)
- Diverting more than 50% of construction waste to recycling companies
- Maintaining 100% of the existing building shell and more than 50% of the interior walls and ceilings of the Buhl Planetarium building

The Children's Museum has also strived to be a leader in the green arena by sharing its experiences and guiding discussions about the importance of green design for museums at the national level through conferences and publications.

The Museum opened its expanded facility on November 6, 2004, growing to four times its former size and expanding from the Allegheny Post Office Building into the adjacent Buhl Planetarium building with a new connecting building. The new facility honors the neighborhood's illustrious history while celebrating its bright future.

Children's Museum of Pittsburgh is located on the historic North Side at 10 Children's Way, Allegheny Square. The Museum's hours are Monday through Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Sunday from noon to 5:00 p.m. Admission is \$5.00 for adults, \$4.50 for children 2-18 and senior citizens. Children under two are free. For more information, please call the Children's Museum at (412) 322-5058 or visit www.pittsburghkids.org.

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