



Thank you for applying to the Martin M. Sacks Memorial Fund, a fund of The Foundation for Enhancing Communities. Tell your story clearly and concisely. Attachments are required; follow all directions. Failure to answer questions, utilize this template, or attach required documents will disqualify your application. **Answer all questions using information that applies to the project seeking support of grant funds.** Contact Jennifer Strechay, Program Offer for Community Investment, at 717-236-5040 or jstrechay@tfec.org with questions.

APPLICANT SNAPSHOT

Applicant Organization Name

Lykens Valley Children's Museum

Provide your organization's name as currently recognized by the IRS

- Check box if the Applicant Organization Name above is a "Doing Business As" name and the provided 501c3 letter states a different name. To be recognized by the "Doing Business As" name, attach ONE legal document using the provided name. If not provided, TFEC will utilize the 501c3 name.**
- Check box if the Applicant Organization uses a Fiscal Sponsor and provide name here**
Click or tap here to enter text.

Project Title

Lykens Valley Children's Museum Valley Strong Initiative Project

Project Title must match title listed throughout application and online

Name, Title, Email, Phone of Executive Leader

Lisa Ditty, Executive Director/Board President, lykensvalleychildrensmuseum@gmail.com, 570-809-6379

All contracts and notifications of grant status will be addressed to the individual provided here

Applicant Organization's Physical Address

33 S. Market Street, Elizabethville, PA 17023

Applicant Organization's Address for Mailed Communications

PO Box 719, Elizabethville, PA 17023

All contracts and notifications of grant status will be sent to the address provided here

Name, Title, Email, Phone of Contact Completing Application

Lisa Ditty, Executive Director/Board President, lykensvalleychildrensmuseum@gmail.com, 570-809-6379

If application questions arise, this individual will be contacted by TFEC staff

Areas to be served as part of the project; check all that apply

City of Harrisburg Immediate Surrounding Areas of the City of Harrisburg Other

Counties to be served as part of project; check all that apply

Cumberland Dauphin Perry

Projected Number of Individuals to be served by project

150	Total number of ADULTS served
300	Total number of CHILDREN (ages 17 and under) served
450	Total number of ALL INDIVIDUALS served by the project

If above data is not appropriate to project, be sure to fully state the audience type and numbers to be served in Question 2 of the Impact Narrative

Organization’s Mission Statement: Do not exceed this page

To provide an interactive play and hands-on learning museum where we provide a child-centered environment to inspire children’s creativity, curiosity, imagination and a love for life-long learning. We are building a community supported place where play and learning are forever connected for all the children and families in Lykens Valley and beyond.

Organization History: Do not exceed this page

The idea for this hands-on learning museum started with two mothers who saw a need for something both educationally beneficial and fun within the Valley for families to enjoy closer to home. The Lykens Valley Children’s Museum(LVCM) opened its doors in October 2018 and since then they have welcomed over 2,000 visitors to explore and learn. Through their hands-on exhibits which include dramatic play areas, STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Mathematics) and other fun hands-on learning exhibits to help in early childhood development. The LVCM is run by an all volunteer team and is currently only opened 8 times a month.

The LVCM continues to add exhibits and stations to the museum since it has opened its doors 21 months ago. When they opened their doors, they had simple, yet engaging exhibits; a dinosaur fossil dig pit, a carwash made from pallets, a simple store and about 8 STEM and Art stations. Through the months they have added a boat with sounds that children can fish from, an interactive farm to market display, an out of this world space theme exhibits and coming in early fall an interactive space shuttle full of hands on learning possibilities. Visitors will now find over 30 stations to explore. The LVCM team is always looking for ways to bring more interactive fun learning to the museum goers that they serve.

With COVID-19 crisis and closures, the LVCM wanted to continue to serve their families and was able to create and give away 320 take home packs that allowed children to explore through learning during this trying times. Being closed has caused hardships to the LVCM just like it has in numerous other small businesses. With mobile museum events cancelled and doors closed, the LVCM continue to focus on their mission the children and families in our community.

The LVCM is small right now, but they are making a big impact in the lives of those who come through their doors. Through programs like the Valley Strong Initiative Project it will make an even bigger impact to the LVCM and to those who they serve. The board and volunteers goals is to have a museum that will serve this community for years to come.

Recent Grant History: Do not exceed this page

Did you apply for and receive a grant from the Martin M. Sacks Memorial Fund in 2019? Yes No

If so, state the project’s name, amount awarded, and describe the current status of the project that was awarded funds in 3-4 sentences or less. If “no” type NA.

NA

PROJECT SNAPSHOT

1. Capture your project and the community need it seeks to address in 200 words or less.

The LVCM has created a fun environment where learning is as easy as play with a strong emphasis on STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering Art and Mathematics). STEAM needs to be where the children are. In school, after-school; during the summer, and in our local communities. Also, STEAM needs to be introduced at a young age when they are most curious. Between 2017 and 2027, the number of STEAM jobs will grow 13 percent, compared to 9 percent for non-STEAM jobs—with positions in computing, engineering, and advanced manufacturing leading the way (Economic Modeling Specialist International 2017.) We want to ensure that the families, that we serve, are ready!

LVCM serves the immediate communities in Dauphin County. In Northern Dauphin, communities encompass 4 school districts (Halifax, Millersburg, Upper Dauphin, Williams Valley), with a population of just over 31,000 people with almost 1 out of 4 families living 200% at or below the poverty level.

PROJECT NARRATIVE

Answer questions 2-10 clearly and concisely; no limit.

2. Describe the proposed project, the geographic area it will serve, and the audience to be served; state why this audience was selected. You **MUST** use and complete the following statement within your answer, "Grant funds will be used to _____".

Grant funds would be used towards funding the LVCM Valley Strong Initiative Project, which will provide free admissions to underprivileged families who cannot afford admission into the LVCM and bring in special program events into the museum for all to explore.

The Valley Strop Initiative Project would also help with special programming for 2021 for the LVCM. Which could include Mr. Mike with his Dinosaur game, Ryan the BugMan, SkyDome Planeatirum, family paint nights, STEAM events among other special guests/events. With the free admission tickets this will allow more families access to the programming.

Now more than ever, the children need guidance and support to propel them into adolescence and adulthood. Nearly 50% of the families in Dauphin, Cumberland, Perry, Northumberland and Schuylkill Counties are on free or reduced lunch.

Albert Einstein said it best "Play is the highest form of research." But today, at school and at home, children have less time for unstructured play, instead children are entertained by television or other means, but relying on television, movies, and video games, children are pulled away from real imaginative play, and children today desperately need to play and explore their world with their hands and imagination.

It is the desire of the Lykens Valley Children's Museum that they can be an oasis for those young learners in these challenging times and continue to bring joy of learning as they grow up. Afterall children are the future and if we want a bright future for them, we need to prepare them for the future with learning through play.

The LVCM encourages families of all demographics to come to the museum and want all to enjoy the benefits of learning through play. They want to help children in early education development and want to be an additional resource for parents, grandparents, caregivers. Children are the future and we want to help our school districts, our families and children to get there and be successful. We encourage social interaction not just between adults

and children, but between the children AND the adults that come through our doors. The LVCM believes together we are building a stronger community and thus a stronger tomorrow.

The Valley Strong Initiative project will open up the museums doors to the families and caregivers who cannot afford to bring their children to the museum.

DATES & LOCATIONS

3. When and where will the project take place? List dates and locations as appropriate in chronological order. State if provided dates/locations are confirmed, estimated, or to be determined.

All events will take place at the LVCM and admission tickets will only be accepted at the LVCM.

Special events will be held throughout 2021. Example Mr. Mike with the Dinosaur game would come to visit in either Feb/March.

The free admissions would be available until the funding has been completely used.

ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES

4. Does the project involve partnerships, collaborations, service, or affiliations with other organizations that will strengthen the project? If so, LIST their name(s) and corresponding role(s) within the categories below OR if this does not apply to you, state why your project would be best positioned for success as a single organization.

SINGLE ORGANIZATION STATEMENT: The LVCM will be working with local social services to identify families that would use the admissions.

PARTNERSHIPS: *We are equally invested in providing this project and success is dependent upon all organizations and shared roles although one entity serves as the applicant for this grant. Our application includes a letter from each partner that states their role in this relationship.*

Click or tap here to enter text.

COLLABORATIONS: *We are working with other organizations to make this project happen, but we serve as the lead organization for this grant opportunity and our project success is enriched by, but not dependent upon, our collaborators. An additional letter is NOT required, but may help the application.*

Click or tap here to enter text.

SERVICE: *Our project will serve these organizations and cannot take place without their commitment to accept service. Our application includes a letter from each organization (this includes schools) that states their intent to participate.*

Click or tap here to enter text.

AFFILIATIONS: *Our project may be affiliated with these organizations in some way, but is not 100% dependent upon their participation. An additional letter is NOT needed.*

Click or tap here to enter text.

COMPARABLES

5. Are other organizations in your service area providing services that are similar to your proposed project? If yes, state their names or services and explain how your project differs. If no, state NA.

Other children's museum in PA do have special guests at their museums and also do offer free admissions. The closest children's museum to the LVCM is Lewisburg Children's Museum which is about an hour drive from the LVCM and Whitaker Center which is about 45 minutes from the LVCM.

ASSESSMENT & IMPACT

- 6a. What will project success look like? Provide a brief overview of the project's key outcomes, outputs, and/or other results of success.

The LVCM overall goal is to create a fun learning environment where families come to explore and learn through play.

The objections of this project are:

- a. To make the museum more accessible to families and caregivers who cannot afford the museum's \$5 a person admission cost.
- b. Under this program there will 450 free admissions available.

The goals of this project are:

- a. To have children and families explore new concepts, theories and senses. The belief is that this will increase appreciation and knowledge as families explore more deeply together.
- b. For children to have the opportunity to interact with other children and for families to bond with each other.

- 6b. How will project success be measured and documented (i.e.: how will you know the project is successful? Are you collecting value statements, numbers served, surveys, photos, before and after images, or using other methods)?

Through this project the LVCM will be able to give 450 admission tickets to the museum to families that would not be able to afford admission otherwise. This will allow the families to enjoy the special guests along with everything else the museum as to offer to the families.

Measure of success of this program will be an increase the LVCM admissions by 25% over the course of the year.

Impacts of the project: As in all the LVCM exhibits is the hope is that it creates lifelong learners who will have the resources to succeed in life. Other impacts:

- a. Increase social interaction among children in a world of technology and isolation this is a must needed impact.
- b. Family social interaction and bonding.
- c. Help build on key developmental skills in toddlers, preschool and elementary age children.

FUNDING & SUPPORT

7. If this proposal is not funded at the level requested, will you be able to implement the project as stated? Explain as needed.

The LVCM will ask for donations to the Valley Strong Initiative from businesses and individual donors to see that the program will happen in some manner.

8. This grant opportunity will not fund 100% of any project. Restate the amount you are seeking and describe other funding sources and amounts.

The LVCM is currently seeking \$1,000 from the Martin M. Sacks Memorial Fund Grant. They are also seeking , funding from other grants through the TFEC. The LVCM is also seeking private donations and business sponsorships. Currently this is the first grant they are working on for this project.

9. Did the applicant organization end its most recent fiscal year with a budget surplus or deficit? If so, briefly state the amount of the surplus or deficit and how the surplus may be used (i.e. is it earmarked for another program) and/or how the deficit may be handled.

The budget for 2019 ended in December with a surplus which was used during the museum mandatory shutdown for COVID-19 crisis.

ACCESS & INCLUSION

10. As a community foundation, TFEC fosters a climate of purposeful inclusion that values diversity of gender, age, race, ethnicity, national origin, range of abilities, sexual orientation, and socio-economic status. Please state how your project will be made accessible to all individuals who qualify for participation in the project and describe any accommodations, modifications, technologies, or services you will offer to ensure that all eligible participants experience the best possible services or outcomes.

The LVCM is open to all who want to Learn Through Play!

BUDGET WORKSHEET

Complete the Budget Worksheet below; a Project Total is required.

ITEM OR SERVICE <i>Examples include: Contracted Services, Equipment, Personnel, Supplies; list your own as appropriate.</i>	DESCRIPTION OF ITEM OR SERVICE	REQUESTED GRANT FUNDS <i>Indicate where funds sought through this grant opportunity will be applied.</i>	OTHER FUNDING SOURCES <i>State the names and amounts of all other funding sources.</i>	PENDING, COMMITTED, OR RECEIVED <i>Using a P, C, or R, indicate the status of all funding sources.</i>	\$ TOTALS <i>Add across to provide a total for each row. Total columns as indicated in bottom row.</i>
LVCM Valley Strong Initiative	Free admission to families in need.	\$500	GHCF Benjamin Franklin Trust \$200 Other donations \$1550	P	\$2,250.00
Speical Events	Special guest throughtout the year	\$500	Business sponsorship \$800 GHCF Benjamin Franklin Trust \$500		\$6,800.00
		\$	Emerging Philanthropist Program Grant \$5000 (Special Events)		\$
		\$			\$
		\$			\$
		\$			\$
		\$			\$
		\$			\$
		\$			\$

TOTALS	\$1,000.00	\$8050.00		\$9050.00
	Total: Requested Grant Funds	Total: Other Funding Sources		PROJECT TOTAL



*33 S. Market Street
Elizabethville, PA 17023*

Board of Directors

Lisa Ditty: President -Retired US Navy

Christina Reiner: Secretary – Upper Dauphin Middle School Reading Specialist

Deana Twigg: Treasurer -Williams Valley High School Special Education

Erin Schaffner -Geisinger Radiologist

Andrew Ditty- Fairfield Middle School History Teacher and Army Veteran

Justin Zigner – IT specialist for Hearth and Home Technology and Army
Veteran

Carsonville Hotel
3776 Powells Valley Road
Halifax PA 17032
717-362-9379
carsonvillehotel@gmail.com



July 20, 2020

To Whom It May Concern,

It is our honor to provide this letter of support for Lykens Valley Children's Museum in their pursuit of a grant from your organization. We have been a supporter and contributor of their mission since the establishment of the museum. The programs and services they provide are valuable to children of all ages in our community. Not only do they offer valuable programs at their location, Lykens Valley Children's Museum also put together Learning Packs To Go for children to use while at home.

We can't think of a more deserving local organization to receive these funds.

Warm Regards,

Dennis & Taryn Morgan

Dennis & Taryn Morgan
Owners
Carsonville Hotel, LLC

July 31, 2020

To Whom It May Concern,

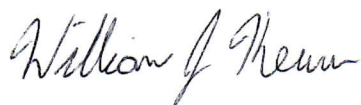
I am writing in support of the application of the Lykens Valley Children's Museum. I am currently the Technology Education Teacher at Millersburg Area School District. I am well acquainted with the museum as I have volunteered my time on several projects for the museum.

Mrs. Lisa Ditty and the board members have worked extremely hard to create a space for the children to learn, explore, and grow that is a fun and safe environment. The staff has created an engaging experience for the children through play that utilizes and encourages the children's creativity and imagination. There is a lot of care taken when planning individualized experiences for the children, such as the dinosaur theme or the live streaming of the NASA rocket launch during the space theme event. The staff can also tailor activities for groups that have rented the museum for gatherings such as birthday parties.

The staff have done a wonderful job of turning the rented location, formerly a dance hall, into a joyous location where children can come and learn using a variety of toys, technology, and more importantly their imaginations. The board members and staff have purchased and received donated toys and equipment which they have utilized in various educational stations and activities. These stations and activities can be customized to a wide variety of age groups for open hours or can be set for planned events.

The benefit of the children using the toys, technology, and their imaginations will only enhance their social well being and allow them to bring what they have learned into school as well as their everyday lives. I hope you find this endeavor worthy of your support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "William J. Kerr". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

William J. Kerr
Technology Education Teacher
Millersburg Area School District

2020 MARTIN M. SACKS MEMORIAL FUND SIGN & SUBMIT FORM

Provide signatures from the applicant organization, below. Both organization representatives must sign.

By providing your original OR digital signature below, you agree that the provided information in this application is true to the best of your knowledge and may be submitted for review. Completion of this form is one component of your Complete Application.

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	President/CEO	_____	Lisa V. Ditty
		Ink Signature	Digital Signature
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Board President	_____	Lisa V. Ditty
		Ink Signature	Digital Signature

REQUIRED ATTACHMENTS TO BE UPLOADED & SUBMITTED BY 4PM IN THE DEADLINE DATE

All grant materials must be submitted through the TFEC online application system by 4pm on the deadline date. This grant opportunity does not utilize delivered or mailed materials.

- Complete Application:** Applicant Snapshot, Project Snapshot, Project Narrative, Budget Worksheet, and Sign & Submit Form with original or digital signatures.
- Board of Directors List:** Professional affiliations (ie: work positions and/or titles as applicable) must be included.
- No more than TWO letters of support with original or digital signatures. LETTERS OF SUPPORT ARE OPTIONAL FOR THIS GRANT OPPORTUNITY but must be received by the deadline date.** Letters of support from the applicant organization's Board of Directors will not be accepted. Identical form letters are discouraged.
- If you have indicated PARTNERSHIP with or SERVICE to other Agencies as stated in Question 4, you must include letters with original or digital signatures documenting the relationship.** A letter of Partnership or Service may also serve as a letter of support if support is expressly stated.
- Applicants who utilize a FISCAL SPONSOR** must include a letter signed by the Executive Leader of the Fiscal Sponsor organization indicating agreement to serve as the Fiscal Sponsor. An original or digital signature is required.
- IRS 501(c)(3) determination letter**
- 1st Page of Applicant Organization's Most Recent 990.** If 990 is not available, upload applicant organization's most recent audit or financial statement to meet this requirement.

QUESTIONS

If you should have any questions regarding this form or TFEC grant opportunities, contact Jennifer Strechay, Program Officer for Community Investment, at jstrechay@tfec.org or 717-236-5040.