



To complete the Application for Funding Cover Page type into the provided fields. Use your preferred word processing program to answer all other questions. **A complete application consists of the Application for Funding Cover Page; a narrative of five pages maximum (exclusive of attachments) answering the questions below; and the required attachments.** Completed applications may be emailed to grants@tfec.org or mailed to The Foundation for Enhancing Communities, PO Box 678, Harrisburg, PA 17108-0678. Emailed applications must be submitted by 4pm on the deadline date. Mailed applications must be postmarked by the deadline date. Contact Jennifer Strechay, Program Offer for Community Investment, at jstrechay@tfec.org or 717-236-5040 with questions.

Name of Organization Lykens Valley Children's Museum

Name, Title, Email, Phone of Executive Leader Lisa Ditty, Executive Director/Board President,
lykensvalleychildrensmuseum@gmail.com, 570-809-6379

Organization Mailing Address PO Box 719, Elizabethville, PA 17023

Website www.lvcm.org

Name, Title, Email Phone of Application Contact Lisa Ditty, Executive Director/Board President,
lykensvalleychildrensmuseum@gmail.com, 570-809-6379

Amount of Funding Requested \$4,254.79

Purpose of Funding Request Art Brought to Life Exhibit Project

Briefly describe your organization

- A. Mission, purpose, and history.
- B. Service population and geographic area served, including demographics.
- C. Current programs, activities, and accomplishments.

Briefly describe the project for which you are requesting funding

- A. Project goals, objectives, and planned activities/events.
- B. Project timetable and budget. *The project budget is separate from the organization budget.*
- C. Constituency served or targeted population.
- D. Other funding sources and amounts.
- E. Project benefits and anticipated results.
- F. Description of how project differs from similar projects in geographic area served.

Required Attachments

- A. Board of Directors List.
- B. Applicant organization's current budget.
- C. First page of the applicant organization's most recent 990. If 990 is not available, provide the most recent audit or financial statement to meet this need.
- D. 501(c) (3) Letter or proof of application.
- E. Copy of your registration with the Pennsylvania Bureau of Charitable Organizations.

Please Note: Letters of support are not required, but are accepted. If your project represents a partnership or is 100% dependent upon participation by an organization presented in your application, provide a letter from each

organization that confirms their agreement to participate. If your project utilizes a Fiscal Sponsor, follow the Fiscal Sponsor instructions at <https://www.tfec.org/grants/the-childrens-home-foundation-fund-grant-guidelines/>.



33 S. Market Street
PO Box 719
Elizabethville, PA 17023

Organization Description

A. Mission, Purpose, History

The Lykens Valley Children's Museum Mission: 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.

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 museum opened its doors in October 2018 and since then we have welcomed over 2,000 visitors to explore and learn. Through our hands-on exhibits which include dramatic play areas, STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) and art activities, and other fun learning exhibits to help in early childhood development, visitors of all ages are leaving the museum having learned something new. The Lykens Valley Children's Museum (LVCM) is an all-volunteer ran organization and is currently only open 8 times a month. With continued growth the LVCM hope to be open more and be able to hire staff later in the future.

B. Service population and geographic area served, including demographics

LVCM serves the immediate communities in Dauphin County. In rural 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. LVCM also serve residents of Cumberland, Perry, Northumberland, Snyder and Schuylkill counties. Nearly 50% of the families in Dauphin, Northumberland and Schuylkill Counties are on free or reduced lunch.

C. Current Programs, Activities and Accomplishment

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. 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 320 take home packs that allowed children to explore through learning during this trying times. Been 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 community.

Proposed Project

A. Brief Description of the proposed project:

The museum is growing and is filling a much-needed outlet for children in the community and beyond, but the need for more exhibits to expand the learning experience is ongoing. The Art Brought To Life exhibit project will allow children to create artwork on one of the provided tablets and then watch their artwork come to life on an interactive wall display. For example, for the month of May 2021, the LVCM will be debuting a new theme “Dive Into Learning” with exhibits inspired by the deep blue sea. The Art Brought To Live exhibit interactive drawing station will have various ocean animals that the children can design and create. Once they are done with their artwork it will be displayed on the interactive wall that will have a background of an interactive ocean scene. The children and families can watch as the artwork comes to life and they can make the ocean animal swim around the scene. The scenery itself will be interactive too, touch plant to make it move, make a blowfish become puffy and other various interactions. There would also be fun ocean facts that will pop up on the screen too. The ocean theme is just one theme the LVCM would have, other ideas would be of dinosaurs, the city, nature and space could be added later.

B. Goals and Objections of this Project:

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. More museum goes to explore art and learn through art. The goal is to have an additional 100 families at the museum the first month that the Art Brought To Life exhibit is open.
- b. The first three months that Art Brought To Life exhibit is operationally the museum’s team is planning on hosting three special art programs to emphasis art and life.

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 of art 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.

C. Timeline for implementation of the project:

December 2020: *(Or earlier if approval is granted sooner)* Begin the process to work with LumoPlay to begin planning the first two themed artwork and scenery. Work with local high school art departments to help with the designs. Continue to raise funds for remaining amount of the project.

March-April 2021: Installation will begin and be completed.

May 2021: Special reveal and tours for all funders and volunteers of this project. Exhibit will be open for all to explore with the first theme being Oceans. This exhibit will continue to expand through the end of the year with new themed artwork to create with and will be a key exhibit for years to come.

D. Budget

Item or Service	Description of item or service	Requested grant funds		Total Cost
LumoPlay	Programming And License	\$0.00		\$13,698.00
Equipment for the interactive wall	Computer, tablets, projector, paint, camera	\$3,754.79		\$4,056.79
LVCM Valley Strong Initiative	Provide 200 free admissions to underprivileged families	\$500		\$1,000
	Total Requested Funding	\$4,254.79	Total cost of project	\$18,754.79

E. Constituency served or targeted population

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 has created a fun environment where learning is has easy as play with a strong emphasis on STEM and Art! STEM needs to be where the children are. In school, after-school; during the summer, and in our local communities. Also, STEM needs to be introduced at a young age when they are most curious. Between 2017 and 2027, the number of STEM jobs will grow 13 percent, compared to 9 percent for non-STEM 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!

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. We believe together we are building a stronger community and thus a stronger tomorrow.

F. Other funding sources and amounts

The LVCM 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.

- a. Arts for All Partnerships Grant: \$4,800 requested.
- b. Greater Harrisburg Community: \$9,700 requested.

G. Projected Benefits and Anticipated Results

Through this project the LVCM will be able to give 200 admission tickets to the museum to families that would not be able to afford admission otherwise. This will allow the families to enjoy the new exhibit 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 35% over the first three months of the exhibit opening.

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.

H. Description on how your project differs from similar projects in geographic area

The LVCM does not know of any organizations that have a similar project within their service area. They are aware of the children programs at Ned Smith Center and offered at the Gallery on the Square in Millersburg. But currently none offer this kind of interactive art display. There is a similar exhibit at the Crayola Experience in Easton, PA, but this exhibit is nearly 100 miles away from the LVCM.

Resources/Works Cited

Scholastics, *What Happened to Kindergarten*, Jen Scott Curwood



*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

July 31, 2020

To Whom It May Concern,

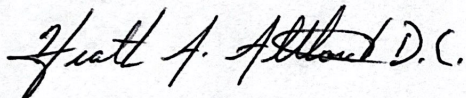
I am writing this letter in support of the application of the Lykens Valley Children's Museum. I have been a supporter of the museum and have personally know members of their board of directors for many years. I have seen the immense value that the museum brings to the children of the Northern Dauphin County community. As a local businessman and a member of numerous local organizations I truly believe in the mission of the children's museum.

The Lykens Valley Children's Museum has worked hard to provide a safe, educational, and fun learning environment for local children and their families. The museum recently took the initiative to find ways to support the children of the region during the pandemic and economic shutdown by working with local businesses to provide learning packets that were distributed to over 320 children.

As a nonprofit organization the museum is always looking for the best ways to create new and engaging learning experiences. I have seen firsthand how the museum has effectively utilized support from local businesses. The museum is made up completely of volunteers who give freely of their time, talents, and resources toward the greater good of trying to provide something remarkable and of immense value for the children of the Lykens Valley and surrounding communities.

As a lifelong member of this community and businessman I see how truly fortunate we are to have the Lykens Valley Children's Museum in our area. I would hope that you would see the merits in coming along side and supporting this tremendously altruistic endeavor.

Sincerely,



Dr. Heath A. Altland, DC
Altland Chiropractic, LLC
(717) 692-2349

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,

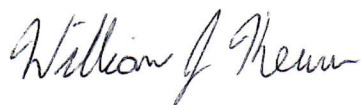
I am writing in support of the application of the Lykens Valley Children's Museum. I am currently the Technology Education Teacher at Millersburg Area School District. I am well acquainted with the museum as I have volunteered my time on several projects for the museum.

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 cursive script that reads "William J. Kerr".

William J. Kerr
Technology Education Teacher
Millersburg Area School District

Operational Expenses 2020

43% of total budget

Expense	Monthly	Total
Rent	\$700.00	\$8,400.00
Electric	\$250.00	\$3,000.00
Oil (Oct-Mar)	\$1,200.00	\$7,200.00
Insurance	\$52.00	\$624.00
Storage Unit	\$25.00	\$300.00
	Total:	\$19,524.00

Administrative Expenses

12% of total budget

Expense	Monthly	Total
Office Supplies	\$100.00	\$1,200.00
Printing Expenses	\$150.00	\$1,800.00
Cleaning Supplies	\$100.00	\$1,200.00
Advertising	\$80.00	\$960.00
Admission to events	\$50.00	\$300.00
	Total	\$5,460.00

Exhibit Expenses

15% of total budget

Name of exhibit	Months	Estimated cost
Chilling to Learn	Dec-Jan	\$800.00
Let's Explore the Dinosaurs	Feb-Mar	\$800.00
Get Out and Learn	April-May	\$800.00
Dive Into Learning	June-July	\$1,500.00
Launch Into Learning	August-Sept	\$800.00
Fall Into Learning	Oct-Nov	\$800.00
Carnival/Fair themed	Dec-Jan	\$1,500.00
	Total	\$7,000.00

Special Expenses

30% of total expenses

Expense	Total
Scholarship funds set aside to help underprivileged families to come to museum with 500 free admissions	\$2,500.00
STEM special events	\$3,500.00
Special Family events	\$2,000.00
Open House events	\$1,000.00
New Building Funds	\$5,000.00
	\$14,000.00

Estimated Revenue

	Monthly	Total
Admissions	\$500.00	\$6,000.00
Birthday Parties	\$600.00	\$7,200.00
Small Groups	\$600.00	\$7,200.00
Special Events	\$300.00	\$3,600.00
Total Revenue		\$24,000.00
Goal Numbers for Year		
Revenue is 51% of the money needed		

Total Budget

	Totals
Operating Costs	-\$20,724.00
Exhibit Costs	-\$7,000.00
Admin Costs	-\$5,460.00
Special Expenses	-\$14,000.00
Total Budget	-\$47,184.00
Revenue	\$24,000.00
Need to raise	-\$23,184.00