



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Contact: Joanne Pentangelo**  
**718-273-2060 ext 154**  
[jpentangelo@sichildrensmuseum.org](mailto:jpentangelo@sichildrensmuseum.org)

**Staten Island Children's Museum Awarded Prestigious Grant from the  
Institute of Museum and Library Services**

*New Outdoor Play exhibit will incorporate STEAM, and open-ended,  
nature-inspired play*

**September 18, 2014** -- The Staten Island Children's Museum has been selected a recipient of a 2014 Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) Museums for America grant. The award, which totals \$95,000, will be used by the museum to evaluate, fabricate and install a new "Outdoor Play Space" exhibit on the existing low-level 2,000 square foot roof-top terrace of its connector building. The museum will construct an exhibit incorporating natural elements; STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts and math) learning experiences; as well as opportunities for open-ended play.

The highly competitive process of obtaining this prestigious federal award required considerable planning from the Staten Island Children's Museum, and support from the local community, business and education leaders.

Con Edison is a supporter of the new exhibit. Mark Irving, Con Edison's director of public affairs says, "Con Edison is proud to be a partner in bringing the Outdoor Play Space project to life. Con Edison is committed to expanding STEAM education and bringing children quality outdoor and nature-inspired programming. As a long-time member of the museum board, I know I speak for my fellow board members in saluting the Children's Museum staff for winning this prestigious grant. We thank the Staten Island Community and all other funders for their support."

Major supporters of the exhibit include the Richmond County Savings Foundation and the Barker Welfare Foundation. Diane Senerchia, executive

director of the Northfield Bank Foundation which also provided funding for the exhibit echoed those sentiments, “The Northfield Bank Foundation is pleased and proud to be associated with such an exciting and timely new addition to the Children’s Museum.”

The Museum is currently testing several components of the Outdoor Play Space, including vegetable and fruit planting which benefits the Museum’s living collection, nature inspired games & music, and water painting on natural surfaces.

“It has long been the mission of the Staten Island Children’s Museum to nurture children’s curiosity and offer authentic, hands-on experiences. We continually strive to create excellent exhibits and programs which appeal to the learning styles of all children. The nature-inspired Play Space offers quiet space for reflective learning and observation of nature,” said Dina Rosenthal, executive director.

MLS Director Susan Hildreth said, “Congratulations to the Museums for America grantees. This year’s funded projects reflect the wide array of museum types in the country. In every case IMLS funds are supporting initiatives that advance an institution’s strategic plans for the benefit of the community it serves.”

The Staten Island Children’s Museum is located on the grounds of Snug Harbor Cultural Center & Botanical Gardens, 1000 Richmond Terrace, Staten Island, NY 10301. The Museum is open Tuesday through Friday, noon to 5 pm during the school year; 10 am to 5 pm weekends, summers and most public school holidays. For more information call 718-273-2060, email [info@sichildrensmuseum.org](mailto:info@sichildrensmuseum.org), or visit our website, [www.sichildrensmuseum.org](http://www.sichildrensmuseum.org).

The Staten Island Children’s Museum is housed in a building owned by the City of New York and its operation is made possible, in part, with public funds provided through the NYC Department of Cultural Affairs with support from the Mayor’s Office and the NYC Council. Significant operating support is also provided by the NYS Council on the Arts, Corporations, Foundations, the Museum Trustees and its Members.



The Garden Terrace