



Discovery Center
502 SE Broad Street
Murfreesboro, Tennessee 37130
615-890-2300

To: Mayor Ken Moore and The City of Franklin
From: Children's Museum Corporation of Rutherford County
Date: January 30, 2017

Re: Letter of Interest for improvement and/or development of City-owned property

On behalf of the Children's Museum Corporation of Rutherford County dba Discovery Center, I am authorized to submit this Letter of Interest declaring intent to investigate the feasibility of acquiring City-owned property located along the Harpeth River south of Mack Hatcher Parkway and west of Franklin Road. Discovery Center proposes the development of an approximately 45,000 square foot children's museum with outdoor classroom space.

We further understand that this Letter of Interest does not in any way constitute an obligation or commitment on the part of either the Company or the Commission.

Children's Museum Corporation of Rutherford County has over 30 years of a strong and successful operation of a hands-on children's museum in neighboring Rutherford County. The Children's Discovery House was chartered in 1986 as Children's Museum Corporation of Rutherford County. After an extensive grassroots campaign, a building was purchased and renovated at 503 N. Maple Street, exhibits and programs were gradually created, and Children's Discovery House opened on March 3, 1987. The 4,500 square foot facility hosted 11,000 in its first year. After several years, the current site was overflowing with exhibits and visitors, resulting in the need to search for a new home. In the late 1990's, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers identified Murfree Spring wetlands as the best location for interpretative and educational activities. As a result, in partnership with U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, State of Tennessee, Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency, City of Murfreesboro, local corporations and numerous civic groups, the Children's Museum Corporation of Rutherford County built the new museum next to Murfree Spring in 2002. The Board of Directors, along with Congressmen Bart Gordon, was able to raise nearly \$3 million to construct the building and exhibits. In 2007, the museum added a 9,000 sq. ft. addition with the generous support of the Christy Houston Foundation. Discovery Center at Murfree Spring is now 30,000 square feet and serves over 120,000 visitors annually.

Discovery Center is currently in discussions with Tuck Hinton Architects to develop museum schematics and site plans for a new campus in Franklin. We would provide said drawings as soon as they are approved by Discovery Center's Board of Directors. Discovery Center acknowledges that the development would be required to meet all city standards, including Zoning Ordinance, International Building Code, Stormwater Ordinance, Subdivision Regulations, and all floodplain requirements and construction standards.

Thank you in advance for your consideration. If you have any questions or need any additional information, please feel free to contact me at tmacdougall@exploredc.org or (615) 890-2300 ext 223. You may also contact Jennifer Neal, Director of Grants, at jneal@exploredc.org or (615) 890-2300 ext 236.

Sincerely,

Tara MacDougall
President & CEO