

IMAGINATION FACTORY CAMPAIGN

AUGUST 2019

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Newsletter

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THE IMAGINATION FACTORY CHILDREN'S MUSEUM

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN STARTS JULY 15 AND ENDS SEPTEMBER 15!

Iron Mountain will be home to an interactive and imaginative learning center through a new crowdfunding campaign, the Michigan Economic Development Corporation and local nonprofit, Our Place Community Center-Imagination Factory Children's Museum, announced on July 15. The campaign is being offered through the Michigan-based crowdfunding platform Patronicity. When the campaign reaches its crowdfunding goal of \$25,000 by September 15, the project will win a matching grant with funds made possible by MEDC's Public Spaces Community Places program.



The Imagination Factory Children's Museum will be the centerpiece of the new Our Place Community Center serving children, youth and adults throughout the local area, especially focusing on the 12 school districts/schools. This campaign will provide the funding needed to purchase and build museum exhibits creating a place where everyone belongs, and children can learn by doing. All ages will be able to gather and meet new friends. The nonprofit has worked to consult with community members to support a collaborative design process with inspiration from thriving children's interactive play spaces across the country. The Our Place Community Center will transform a vacant middle school into a thriving community gathering space. The Imagination Factory will occupy the upstairs creating 30 or more interactive exhibits within the space. The first meeting for interested volunteers is scheduled for the end of October.

Public Spaces Community Places is a collaborative effort of the MEDC, the Michigan Municipal League and Patronicity, in which residents can use crowdfunding to be part of the development of strategic projects in their communities and be backed with a matching grant from MEDC. "The Imagination Factory will engage the leaders of tomorrow and create a gathering space for the region," said MEDC Senior Vice President of Community Development Katharine Czarnecki. "We are confident that our campaign will enable the creation of an interactive learning children's museum to be open to the public at the end of 2019. As the exhibits are created, success in opening the doors of the Imagination Factory will be accomplished through the generosity of the Michigan Economic Development Corporation's Public Spaces Community Places (PSCP) grant program, our loyal community contributors and grant funders," said Barb Reisner, Co-Director of the Imagination Factory Children's Museum. "We are excited to be participating in the PSCP program that will double each donation when we hit our goal by September 15."

MEDC, Kathy Achtenberg 517.335.4590

For project details and to donate, please visit: patronicity.com/if

For updates: ourplacecc.org



EMPOWERMENT TEAM GETTING THE CRAFT TABLE READY



IZZY LOVES THE CELEBRATION CAKE



IMAGINATION FACTORY CAPITAL CAMPAIGN BLAST OFF EVENT

WE ARE READY!

Over 100 participants attended the Imagination Factory Capital Campaign BLAST OFF EVENT. Supporters included **Michigan Senator Ed McBroom** and **State Representative Beau LaFave**. Both Ed and Beau are amazing Michigan leaders who strongly believe in everyone's responsibility in helping children's school readiness, improving early literacy skills and encouraging interactive learning. Blast Off event leaders were also excited to have Empowerment Team leaders helping children with creative activities.

The **YOUTH EMPOWERMENT TEAM** will begin meeting again in September. All students in Grades 5 to 12 are invited to become involved in leadership roles at the Imagination Factory Children's Museum.

Special appreciation to all the Blast Off helpers who joined together in opening the doors of the Our Place Community Center to offer another wonderful event for families.



Rep. Beau, Kim & Jonathan



Senator Ed, Super Child & Barb

Grace



Leaders Who Make A Difference In The Lives of Children!

OUR PLACE-IMAGINATION FACTORY EMPOWERMENT TEAM



Alex, Amber and Super Children



Thanks Super Leader Abram!

AUGUST MEETINGS

MONDAY, AUGUST 5 @ 4:00
 OPCC-IF EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING
 1040 E. GRANT STREET, IM

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 28 @ 5:00
 OPCC-IF MEMBER MEETING
 217 W. HUGHITT STREET, IM