



Date: 5 March 2021

To: Chairperson Marcelia Nicholson., Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors
Chairperson Jason Haas, Committee on Finance and Audit
Chairperson Sheldon Wasserman, Committee on Parks, Energy, and Environment

From: Ellen Censky, President/CEO, MPM

CC: Kelly Bablitch, Chief of Staff, County Board
Janelle M. Jensen, Senior Committee Coordinator, Office of the County Clerk
Kelsey Evans, Committee Coordinator, Office of the County Clerk

**Subject: Report from the Milwaukee Public Museum
Requested report of progress toward a new building**

The Mission of the Milwaukee Public Museum is to inspire curiosity, excite minds and increase desire to preserve and protect our world's natural and cultural diversity through exhibitions, educational programs, collections and research.

Over the course of the past five years, MPM has made the case that the best and most financially sustainable way to protect and preserve the County's collections and to make them accessible to the public for whom they are held in trust, is to build a new building to exhibit, conduct research on them, and store them. This is a report on that progress.

Funding: Our funding model is based on a public/private partnership to build this new museum. While we have a defined affiliation with the county, we fundamentally serve the people of the whole state. The County's collections come from every single county in this state. Our visitors come from every single county in this state and school children from 44 of the 72 counties visit the museum on field trips. We hear from people across the state about the influence and inspiration that MPM has had on their lives and their children's lives. Thus, MPM feels strongly that the state funding should support the County's efforts to preserve the museum. As such, in September, the museum submitted an application to the Wisconsin Department of Administration for bonded funding in the 2021-2023 budget. We were successful in making it into the Governor's proposed budget for \$40M. We are working with legislators currently to stay in the budget as it is passed in June. In addition, as required by the Amended Lease and Management Agreement with the County, the Museum has secured the \$5 million of funding for its Relocation Strategy related to the new site, building and exhibits as of December 31, 2020. We are currently in discussions with County administrators and staff about different timing and mechanisms of funding from the County. Finally, MPM completed a campaign feasibility study and has committed to raising private funds to support the future museum. Private funds will make up the majority of the project's budget.

Property: After assessing more than 150 potential sites, MPM found the perfect site for the museum. The site meets all the criteria that the Board of Directors and management of the Museum established for the museum's home, including size, adjacency to vibrant development but most importantly, accessibility for the whole

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community and state. We were committed to staying in the area that we have been in for our nearly 140 year history. That site is on the corner of 6th and McKinley. The site is on bus lines and 6th Street serves as a corridor through the north and south sides. It is also adjacent to an exit off of I43, providing easy access for visitors from across the state. On February 18th, an entity affiliated with the Relocation Strategy finalized the purchase of the land and buildings currently on the site.

Move: MPM has set the timeline for starting construction in late 2022/early 2023 and completion in late 2025/early 2026. We are still on track with the project.