



Press Release

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For Immediate Release

Children's Museum of Fond du Lac Awarded Prestigious Grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services

Fond du Lac, Wis (August 17, 2011) – Thanks to a \$71,000 grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) the Children's Museum of Fond du Lac will develop **Amazon Adventures**, an education outreach program for area third grade students and teachers. Planning and piloting of the program will take place during the 2011 / 2012 school year, with a full roll out planned for the 2012 / 2013 academic calendar. During the two year grant period, **Amazon Adventures** will be provided to up to 33 schools within a 30-mile radius free of charge. Through discussions with local elementary teachers and compilation of survey responses, CMFDL identified a need for hands on learning aids that support math, science and social studies.

"**Amazon Adventures** will offer a multi-discipline approach that will engage students physically and mentally in learning 21st century skills such as global awareness, critical thinking and creativity. By providing teachers with innovative shared resources, CMFDL is demonstrating its commitment to advancing educational initiatives in support of our next generation of leaders," says Andrea Welsch, CMFDL Executive Director.

Funding for **Amazon Adventures** is made possible by the Museums for America grant program, the largest grant program offered by the IMLS that supports projects and ongoing activities that build museums' capacity to serve their communities. Obtaining a federal award takes considerable planning from the requesting organization and support from the local community, business and education leaders. The Institute received 481 grant applications requesting \$53.7 million in funds. After careful review of the applications, 160 grants were awarded totaling \$18.8 million, with a combined match requirement of \$32 million.

Several area leaders and educators provided support for the development of CMFDL's shared educational program. "In these challenging economic times, it is important to keep education as a key goal for improving our communities and our children's future," said Congressman Tom Petri of Wisconsin's 6th Congressional District, in a letter to the IMLS.

Museums for America grants strengthen a museum's ability to serve the public more effectively by supporting high-priority activities that advance the institution's mission and strategic goals. Museums for America grants are designed to be flexible: funds can be used for a wide variety of new or ongoing museum activities and programs, such as improvement of institutional infrastructure, planning, management of collections, public access, professional development, purchase of equipment or services, research and scholarship, public programming and

exhibitions, development and/or implementation of education programs, or efforts by museums to upgrade and integrate new technologies into their overall institutional effectiveness.

“We are pleased to support museums through investments in high-priority, high value activities that benefit communities throughout the US. These museums, small and large, will help to educate and inspire the public for years to come,” said IMLS Director, Susan Hildreth.

The Institute of Museum and Library Services is the primary source of federal support for the nation’s 123,000 libraries and 17,500 museums. The Institute's mission is to create strong libraries and museums that connect people to information and ideas. The Institute works at the national level and in coordination with state and local organizations to sustain heritage, culture, and knowledge; enhance learning and innovation; and support professional development. To learn more about the Institute, please visit www.ims.gov.

The Children’s Museum of Fond du Lac is located downtown at 51 Sheboygan Street. It is open from 9 am to 5 pm Tuesday through Thursday, 9 am to 7 pm on Friday and 10 am to 4 pm on Saturday and Sunday. General admission is \$4.25 for those ages one and older, members are admitted free. Membership packages range from \$25 - \$110. For more information, please visit www.cmfdl.org.

