![neighborhood NORTH MUSEUM OF PLAY]

Neighborhood North Museum of Play Annual Report

November 2021

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MUSEUM OF PLAY

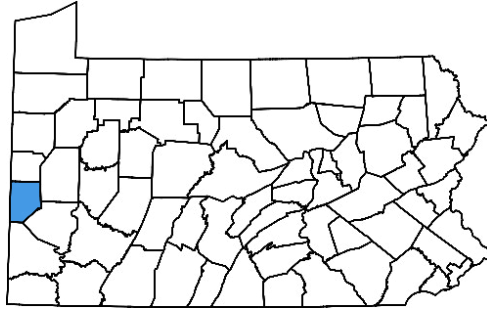### neighborhood NORTH
MUSEUM OF PLAY

Neighborhood North Museum of Play (NNMP) is Beaver County's first children's museum where you'll find a unique space designed to foster curiosity, learning, and connection. Neighborhood North envisions our diverse communities strengthened by families through playing, making, and innovating together.

Bridging the school and home environments, the child- and family-centered play of a children's museum positively influences language, problem-solving, and socio-emotional skills, impacting children's ability to learn in all areas for years to come.

Our Area of Focus

Name of Area: **Beaver County**

Population Represented
163,929

Land Area (sq mi)
434.71

Population in Poverty
11.7% (U.S. 10.5%)

Median Household Income [2019]
$57,807

The specific mission of NNMP is to promote quality education through programming and resources.

NNMP promotes no poverty and gender equality, supporting the health of the community and its residents.

These categories are part of the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The SDGs, established globally, provide a common framework to help organize stakeholder efforts at all levels (local, regional, national, and international) and from all sectors (government, nonprofit, corporate, and citizen) toward a more equitable and vibrant world.

4 QUALITY EDUCATION

5 GENDER EQUALITY

1 NO POVERTY

2 ZERO HUNGER

The Challenge

Building a neighborhood where everyone has the chance to imagine their own future.

Beaver County has some of the highest performing school districts in the State, but it also has some of the lowest. Aliquippa, Ambridge, Big Beaver, and Rochester Area school districts, for example, have high percentages of their students scoring "below basic" on PSSA exams. And in many schools, those with learning disabilities, English language learners, or those who are economically disadvantaged do not do as well as their counterparts.

According to the National Equity Project, educational equity will be achieved when "each child receives what they need to develop to their full academic and social potential." Contributing to this divide is inequitable funding for schools, and the fact that most resources for education are directed towards traditional schools. Yet students spend 80% of their time outside of school, which means high-quality creative out-of-school time programs like children's museums can almost double the amount of time available for students to explore art and STEM content in experiential, collaborative learning environments. Creating a collaborative educational ecosystem that supports intergenerational learning will be at the heart of creating equity for all of our learners.

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"

I appreciate the time and effort that was given to (my children) while at the Learning Pods. They really loved it and the staff.

- Kristina Hauser, parent

"

The Need for Investment

County poverty rate	Households with children	County vs. nation medial household income
11%	**21,526**	**-9%**

Children in Beaver County who are food insecure	People below poverty level	Percentage of students with a disability in County
15.9%	**19,693**	**15.7%**

Our Impact

Playful beginnings create hopeful futures.

At Neighborhood North Museum of Play, we listen, observe, and work along-side kids and families to understand their needs and interests. We have learned that programs that are great elsewhere are not always culturally appropriate in Beaver Falls. We have a longterm vision for the Museum and our work, but have adapted to changing circumstances and needs. As strong project managers, during the pandemic, we managed 3 Learning Pod sites and developed a museum in a re-purposed space. The need for racial equity drives our work.

In 2020-21, we created more accessible education/arts opportunities for at-risk learners during COVID.

Making an Impact

187
Low income K-5th graders participated in Learning Pods

90%
of students in the cohort passed the academic year

10%
participating students received honors

98%
Learning Pod participants were African-American

" We were incredibly grateful that our foster son was able to have enriching learning opportunities, diverse and loving friendships, and a community beyond our home. The learning pod was a true gift to him (and us) in a very difficult season. "
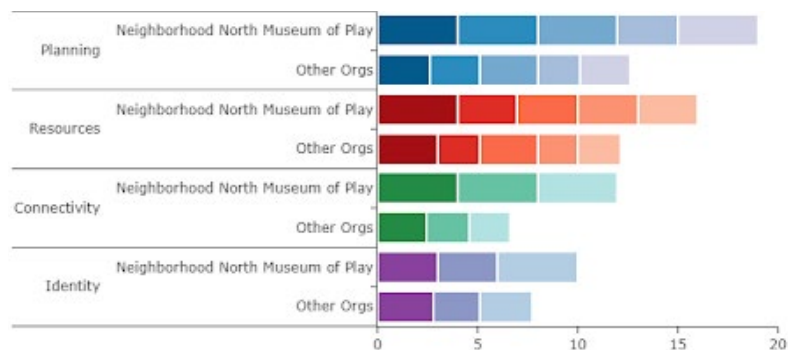
- Beaver Falls parent

Our Capacity

How we grow together.

Located midway between Pittsburgh and Youngstown, Beaver Falls is the ideal geographic location to serve Beaver, Butler and Lawrence Counties. This fall, we have opened our preview space, Neighborhood North @ The Vault, in an old bank building in the heart of downtown Beaver Falls. However, in partnership with the Beaver Falls Community Development Corporation, the long-term goal of Neighborhood North is to create a community museum/library campus that will link the Carnegie Free Library with the iconic News Tribune Building. This new educational campus will serve as a place of community connection and as a catalyst for creative learning and economic development and innovation, right in the heart of the business district.

When viewing electronically with internet access, this block will lead to additional online content.

The Organizational Assessment Tool (OAT) above measures key indicators of an organization's development. The results highlight an organization's strengths and provide insight on needs for improvement and show capacity comparatively to other organizations.

NNMP works to bring the museum out into the community. As such, these key indicators support the organization's community engagement efforts, demonstrating a capacity to excel in advancing community engagement through playful learning.

Our Needs

Neighborhood North Museum of Play is seeking support to further its impact. As such, we are seeking...

...breaking down the barriers to education innovation.

We want to implement a new vision of education in the face of long-standing outdated views of education.

...to seize upon the moment to advance child equity.

With racial injustice revealed by the pandemic, we want to ensure children of color are treated equitably.

...achieve a level of sustainable funding for the museum.

We want to expand our learning beyond the four walls of the museum to bring learning where the residents are.

Call to Action

To continue its significant impact, the NNMP is seeking the following support. Can you help?

Volunteer.

There is a place for everyone to help! Whether your gift is reading to a child, preparing a meal, creating art, or administrative tasks, we have endless ways for people be part of our community.

Be an Advocate or an Ambassador.

Partner with us to help both elected officials and our community's families understand the urgent need to advocate for more arts education in our region. Be an ambassador to help us connect as many families as possible with the fun, creative programming at Neighborhood North.

Make a Financial Investment.

To impact as many families as we can, we need financial support for administration, development, and marketing capacity.

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About the
Sustainable Development Goals

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) are 17 interlinked goals that provide common language and measurement of critical topics all communities face in working toward a more equitable and vibrant world.

There are four principles that guide these goals: they are universal; they merge all forms of sustainability; they ensure no person is left behind; and they require active engagement from all stakeholders.

Nonprofits, businesses, elected officials, and citizens can all benefit from a deeper, shared understanding of the conditions in their community, what is being done to improve them, and how resources are being invested.

Neighborhood North Museum of Play
www.neighborhoodnorth.com

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