



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
CITY OF BRIDGEPORT, CONNECTICUT
MARGARET E. MORTON GOVERNMENT CENTER
999 BROAD STREET
BRIDGEPORT, CONNECTICUT 06604
TELEPHONE (203) 576-7201
FAX (203) 576-3913

BILL FINCH
Mayor

February 25, 2015

State of Connecticut
Appropriations Committee
Legislative Office Building, Room 2700
Hartford, CT 06106

Re: The Discovery Museum and Planetarium

Dear State of Connecticut Appropriations Committee, Appropriations Conservation and Development Subcommittee,

As Mayor of the City of Bridgeport, I respectfully urge you to preserve funding for the Discovery Museum and Planetarium as a separate line item appropriation under the Department of Economic and Community Development, in lieu of subjecting it to competitive disbursement through the proposed change through the Arts Commission, as presented under the Governor's proposed Biennial Budget. Drastic cuts to the Discovery Museum's appropriation would negatively impact the Museum's ability to continue the work that it does to provide learning opportunities for many thousands of students statewide.

The Discovery Museum and Planetarium has been an important, multi-faceted, and valued educational resource for students and the Bridgeport community for many years, with more than 80 'STEM' programs, as well as numerous outreach projects which enhance the education of socioeconomically underserved children. Additionally, Discovery benefits visitors through engaging and educational exhibits, Planetarium shows, lectures, and a popular cultural heritage series that brings a large and diverse community together to celebrate and learn.

Please join me in recognizing the value the Discovery Museum and Planetarium brings to our State by preserving its appropriated funding level as a line item, and not through competitive grants. The proposed elimination of this line item would be extremely damaging to valuable and important educational resource.

Sincerely,

Bill Finch
Mayor

Stratfield PTA
1407 Melville Avenue
Fairfield, CT 06825

CT Tax ID #4344
Federal Tax ID # 06-6046111

February 28, 2015

Dear State of Connecticut Appropriations Committee, Appropriations Conservation and Development Subcommittee

Re: The Discovery Museum and Planetarium

I am writing to you as a 20 year Fairfield resident, an elementary school parent, and the Board of Education representative for the Stratfield PTA, The Discovery Museum and Planetarium has had a profound impact on me in all of those roles. I enjoyed programming at the museum as a single person, saw my children participate in enriching field trips, and last year I was part of the Discovery Museum's STEM programs career day as a female role model in horticulture. In short, I consider The Discovery Museum one of the intellectual and community assets that make the Fairfield Bridgeport area such a stimulating place to live, work, and raise a family.

The Discovery Museum and Planetarium are unique in that their location and scale have provided an accessible, affordable, museum experience to all members of the surrounding community regardless of socio-economic circumstances for over 50 years. The Discovery Museum continues to challenge itself by developing insightful community programming and exhibits that educate us about the natural world and asks us to look at our place within it.

On behalf of the Stratfield PTA, I urge you to preserve funding for the Discovery Museum and Planetarium as a separate line item appropriation under the Department of Economic and Community Development, in lieu of subjecting it to competitive disbursement through the proposed change through the Arts Commission, as presented under the Governor's proposed Biennial Budget. Drastic cuts to the Discovery Museum's appropriation would negatively impact the Museum's ability to continue the vital work it does for many thousands of students statewide by providing an exciting door to the worlds of science and technology.

I know firsthand how difficult the decisions of budget making can be, but the education and enrichment of our children is literally our future, so I again respectfully urge you to

preserve the funding for The Discovery Museum and Planetarium as a separate line item appropriation under the Department of Economic and Community Development. The Museum has helped develop a rich community for over fifty years and holds the keys to the continued development of our next generations of leaders in its innovative ongoing programming. Please support the Discovery Museum as the custodian of our future maintain its funding under the Department of Economic and Community Development.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Melanie Fox Carvallo". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Melanie" written in a smaller, more compact script, followed by "Fox" and "Carvallo" in larger, more prominent letters.

Melanie fox Carvallo
Stratfield PTA Board of Education Representative

**PULLMAN
& COMLEY, LLC**
ATTORNEYS

John F. Stafstrom, Jr.
850 Main Street
P.O. Box 7006
Bridgeport, CT 06601-7006
p 203 330 2210
f 203 576 8888
jstafstrom@pullcom.com
www.pullcom.com

February 27, 2015

Appropriations Committee
Appropriations Conservation and Development Subcommittee
Legislative Office Building, Room 2700
Hartford, CT 06106

Re: The Discovery Museum and Planetarium

To Whom it May Concern:

As a long-time resident of Bridgeport and supporter of the arts and science in my community, I know how important the Discovery Museum is to the greater Bridgeport community. The Discovery Museum is the collaborative partner to the Discovery Magnet School in Bridgeport, which is integral to science education for Bridgeport area students.

I respectfully urge you to preserve funding for the Discovery Museum and Planetarium as a separate line item appropriation under the Department of Economic and Community Development, in lieu of subjecting it to competitive disbursement through the proposed change through the Arts Commission, as presented under the Governor's proposed Biennial Budget. Drastic cuts to the Discovery Museum's appropriation would negatively impact the Museum's ability to continue the work that it does to provide learning opportunities for many thousands of students statewide.

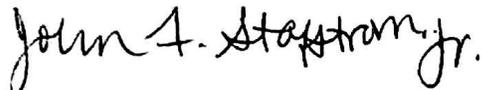
The Discovery Museum and Planetarium has been an important, multi-faceted, and valued regional resource for over 50 years, with more than 80 'STEM' education programs for our region's students, as well as numerous outreach projects which enhance the education of socioeconomically underserved children. With its focus on STEM, the Discovery Museum and Planetarium works to help our State meet the challenges of the achievement gap through working with educators to create and deliver learning experiences that are impactful, and that resonate with students long after they return to the classroom. Additionally, Discovery benefits visitors through engaging and educational exhibits, Planetarium shows, lectures, and a popular cultural heritage series that brings a large community together to celebrate and learn about diversity.

**PULLMAN
& COMLEY**_{LLC}
ATTORNEYS

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Please join me in recognizing the value the Discovery Museum and Planetarium brings to our State by preserving its appropriated funding level as a line item, and not through competitive grants. The proposed elimination of this line item would be extremely damaging to valuable and important educational resource.

Very truly yours,



John F. Stafstrom, Jr.

JFS:cs



Sacred Heart UNIVERSITY

ISABELLE FARRINGTON COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

February 27, 2015

Appropriations Committee
Legislative Office Building, Room 2700
Hartford, CT 06106

To: State of Connecticut Appropriations Committee, Appropriations Conservation and Development Subcommittee

Re: The Discovery Museum and Planetarium

As a faculty member at Sacred Heart University, I have worked closely with the Discovery Museum and Planetarium staff and seen the many unique benefits it provides to the wider community. I respectfully urge you to preserve funding for the Discovery Museum and Planetarium as a separate line item appropriation under the Department of Economic and Community Development, in lieu of subjecting it to competitive disbursement through the proposed change through the Arts Commission, as presented under the Governor's proposed Biennial Budget. Drastic cuts to the Discovery Museum's appropriation would negatively impact the Museum's ability to continue the work that it does to provide learning opportunities for many thousands of students statewide.

The Discovery Museum and Planetarium has been an important, multi-faceted, and valued regional resource for over 50 years, with more than 80 'STEM' education programs for our region's students, as well as numerous outreach projects which enhance the education of socioeconomically underserved children. With its focus on STEM, the Discovery Museum and Planetarium works to help our State meet the challenges of the achievement gap through working with educators to create and deliver learning experiences that are impactful, and that resonate with students long after they return to the classroom. Additionally, Discovery benefits visitors through engaging and educational exhibits, Planetarium shows, lectures, and a popular cultural heritage series that brings a large community together to celebrate and learn about diversity.

Please join me in recognizing the value the Discovery Museum and Planetarium brings to our State by preserving its appropriated funding level as a line item, and not through competitive grants. The proposed elimination of this line item would be extremely damaging to valuable and important educational resource.

Sincerely,

Velma Heller

Velma E. Heller, Ed. D.
Assistant Professor,
Coordinator of Field Experiences
hellerv@sacredheart.edu



SACRED HEART UNIVERSITY

Appropriations Committee
Legislative Office Building, Room 2700
Hartford, CT 06106

To: State of Connecticut Appropriations Committee, Appropriations Conservation and Development Subcommittee

Re: The Discovery Museum and Planetarium

On behalf of the Isabelle Farrington College of Education at Sacred Heart University, I respectfully urge you to preserve funding for the Discovery Museum and Planetarium as a separate line item appropriation under the Department of Economic and Community Development, in lieu of subjecting it to competitive disbursement through the proposed change through the Arts Commission, as presented under the Governor's proposed Biennial Budget. Drastic cuts to the Discovery Museum's appropriation would negatively impact the Museum's ability to continue the work that it does to provide learning opportunities for many thousands of students statewide.

In the past we have partnered with The Discovery Museum and Planetarium to develop several grant proposals. Several years ago we were finalists for a large NASA grant. The grant would have provided well over a million dollars in funding and would have also involved over twenty-five school districts from Norwalk to New London, including several priority school districts. Due to Federal Budget limitations the grant funding was withdrawn. Another grant, Take Flight: From the Wright Brothers to Tranquility Base - A Middle Level STEM Unit," was cooperatively developed and submitted as part of the Teacher Quality Partnership Grant program. Take Flight: From the Wright Brothers to Tranquility Base - A Middle Level STEM Unit." This grant highlighted claims that Gustave Whitehead, a Bridgeport native, made man's first powered flight in Connecticut on August 14, 1901, well before the Wright Brothers. It also traced the unique role Connecticut has played in the development of manned flight. By utilizing the Discovery Museum contacts we were able to partner on this grant with Hamilton Sundstrand, as well as United Technologies. Unfortunately this grant proposal did not receive funding.

Currently, the Discovery Museum provides more than 80 'STEM' education programs for our region's students, as well as numerous outreach projects that enhance the education of socioeconomically underserved children. With its focus on STEM, the Discovery Museum and Planetarium works to help our State meet the challenges of the achievement gap through working with educators to create and deliver learning experiences that are impactful, and that resonate with students long after they return to the classroom. Additionally, Discovery benefits visitors through engaging and educational exhibits, Planetarium shows, lectures, and a popular cultural heritage series that brings a large community together to celebrate and learn about diversity.

Please join me in recognizing the value the Discovery Museum and Planetarium brings to our State by preserving its appropriated funding level as a line item, and not through competitive grants. The proposed elimination of this line item would be extremely damaging to valuable and important educational resource.

Sincerely,

Paul W. Massey
Assistant Professor
Isabelle Farrington College of Education
Sacred Heart University



MetroCrops, LLC
269 Silvermine Ave
Norwalk, CT 06850
(203) 642-4016
MetroCrops.com

February 26, 2015

Appropriations Committee
Legislative Office Building
Room 2700
Hartford, CT 06106

To: State of Connecticut Appropriations Committee
Appropriations Conservation and Development Subcommittee

Re: The Discovery Museum and Planetarium

I respectfully urge you to preserve the funding for the Discovery Museum and Planetarium as a separate line item appropriation under the Department of Economic and Community Development.

Converting funding for the Discovery Museum into a competitive disbursement through the Arts Commission, as presented under the Governor's proposed Biennial Budget, will drastically impact the Discovery Museum's ability to continue the work that it does to provide learning opportunities for thousands of students statewide.

The Discovery Museum and Planetarium has been an important, multi-faceted regional resource for over 50 years. With more than 80 educational programs in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) for our region's students, the Discovery Museum and Planetarium helps our State meet the challenges of the achievement gap. The Discovery Museum works with educators to create and deliver learning experiences that resonate with students long after they return to the classroom.

I am hoping that you will acknowledge the value of the Discovery Museum and Planetarium to our State by preserving its appropriated funding as a line item. Elimination of this line item will be extremely damaging to this valuable, important educational resource.

Sincerely,

Nancy L. Domyan
Member, MetroCrops, LLC

Outdoor Ventures Group

1700 Post Road, Suite C-16
Fairfield, CT 06824
203 260 4111
info@outdoorventures.us

CREATORS OF AERIAL ADVENTURE COURSES
www.outdoorventures.us

Appropriations Committee
Legislative Office Building, Room 2700
Hartford, CT 06106

To: State of Connecticut Appropriations Committee, Appropriations Conservation and Development Subcommittee

Re: The Discovery Museum and Planetarium – Critical To ‘STEM’ Education

I respectfully urge you to preserve funding for the Discovery Museum and Planetarium as a separate line item appropriation under the Department of Economic and Community Development, in lieu of subjecting it to competitive disbursement through the proposed change through the Arts Commission, as presented under the Governor’s proposed Biennial Budget. Drastic cuts to the Discovery Museum’s appropriation would negatively impact the Museum’s ability to continue the work that it does to provide learning opportunities for many thousands of students statewide.

The USA is in critical need of boosting ‘STEM’ (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) education. The Discovery Museum and Planetarium does exactly this for Connecticut’s children. It is something in which our State can take great pride.

The Discovery Museum and Planetarium has been an important, multi-faceted, and valued regional resource for over 50 years, with more than 80 ‘STEM’ education programs for our region’s students, as well as numerous outreach projects that enhance the education of socioeconomically underserved children. With its focus on STEM, the Discovery Museum and Planetarium works to help our State meet the challenges of the achievement gap through working with educators to create and deliver learning experiences that are impactful, and that resonate with students long after they return to the classroom. Additionally, Discovery benefits visitors through engaging and educational exhibits, Planetarium shows, lectures, and a popular cultural heritage series that brings a large community together to celebrate and learn about diversity.

As a 2013 CERC “Top Economic Project” winner, Outdoor Ventures’ two Connecticut Adventure Parks (Storrs & Bridgeport) simultaneously support our State’s leadership in environmental awareness, generate Connecticut jobs and drive tourism to our State. The Discovery Museum & Planetarium property is home to our Bridgeport Adventure Park.

Please join me in recognizing the value the Discovery Museum and Planetarium brings to our State by preserving its appropriated funding level as a line item.

Sincerely,



Bahman Azarm
President



NEIGHBORHOOD STUDIOS

OF FAIRFIELD COUNTY

formerly the Music and Arts Center for Humanity (MACH)

Executive Director

Frank Derico

Appropriations Committee

Legislative Office Building, Room 2700

Hartford, CT 06106

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Bruce Cooper

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Anne Phillips

Joan Rosenbaum

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Pegeen Rubinstein

Gina Levon Simpson

Jacqueline Woods

To: State of Connecticut Appropriations Committee, Appropriations Conservation and Development Subcommittee

Re: The Discovery Museum and Planetarium

On behalf of the Neighborhood Studios of Fairfield County, I respectfully urge you to preserve funding for the Discovery Museum and Planetarium as a separate line item appropriation under the Department of Economic and Community Development, in lieu of subjecting it to competitive disbursement through the proposed change through the Arts Commission, as presented under the Governor's proposed Biennial Budget.

I am very pleased to be writing this letter in support of the Discovery Museum and Planetarium, and its annual Black History Month Celebration. Every year, the Discovery Museum contributes to the furtherance of black historical education with its celebration of the various scientific and social contributions made by a wealth of African Americans, as well as, people of African descent. Including but not limited to, inventors, teachers, researchers, performers, writers, and the list could go on! They accomplish this wonderful feat by choosing programming that highlights the contributions made by the above-mentioned individuals, in fields ranging from science to the arts. This event is known and recognized annually throughout Bridgeport and its surrounding towns and cities, as a significant celebration of Black History.

Planetarium shows and interactive science demos, allow children to delve into the world of science in a more personal manner that is sure leave a lasting effect throughout their lifetime and also to encourage them to seek after careers, such as, educators, scientists and doctors.

The museum provides various learning opportunities to countless students throughout the state and severe cuts to the Discovery Museum's appropriation would leave a negative effect, not only on the museum but also throughout the community at large.

Officers

Harold Levine

Chairman

Please join me in recognizing the value the Discovery Museum and Planetarium brings to our State by preserving its appropriated funding level as a line item, and not through competitive grants. The proposed elimination of this line item would be extremely damaging to valuable and important educational resource.

Laurie Gross

Vice Chair

Neighborhood Studios is proud to support The Discovery Museum and Planetarium and all of its educational endeavors within the community.

Pegeen Rubinstein

Vice Chair

Sincerely,

Gabie French Allen, Arts Academy Director

Neighborhood Studios of Fairfield County

391 East Washington Avenue

Bridgeport, CT 06608

gfrench@nstudios.org

Robert Frost, Jr.

President

Dorothy N. Freedman

Secretary



girl scouts of connecticut

Girl Scouts of Connecticut

Central Office

340 Washington St.
Hartford, CT 06106
860-522-0163
Fax 860-548-0325

Service Centers

www.gsofct.org
800-922-2770

Bridgeport

87 Washington Ave.
Bridgeport, CT 06604
203-334-3145
Fax 203-696-3821

Lebanon

175C Clubhouse Rd.
Lebanon, CT 06249
860-423-5502
Fax 860-423-7953

Middletown

27 Washington St.
Middletown, CT 06457
860-347-5768
Fax 860-346-2575

North Haven

20 Washington Ave.
North Haven, CT 06473
203-239-2922
Fax 203-239-7220

Torrington

663 East Main St.
Torrington, CT 06790
860-482-4495
Fax 860-489-8936

Waterbury

171 Grandview Ave.
Suite 102
Waterbury, CT 06708
203-757-1340
Fax 203-591-1729

Wilton

529 Danbury Rd.
Wilton, CT 06897
203-762-5557
Fax 203-762-0688

February 25, 2015

Appropriations Committee
Legislative Office Building, Room 2700
Hartford, CT 06106

To: State of Connecticut Appropriations Committee, Appropriations Conservation and Development Subcommittee

Re: The Discovery Museum and Planetarium

As the Program Initiative Manager in STEM for Girl Scouts of Connecticut, I respectfully urge you to preserve funding for the Discovery Museum and Planetarium as a separate line item appropriation under the Department of Economic and Community Development, in lieu of subjecting it to competitive disbursement through the proposed change through the Arts Commission, as presented under the Governor's proposed Biennial Budget. Drastic cuts to the Discovery Museum's appropriation would negatively impact the Museum's ability to continue the work that it does to provide learning opportunities for many thousands of students statewide.

Thousands of Girl Scouts in Connecticut have benefitted from the NASA curriculum that is thoughtfully delivered by the museum's NASA-trained educators. The Discovery Museum is a valued partner that girls, leaders, and families count on to provide unique educational programming. Where else can a girl travel to the moon and Mars in a state-of-the-art facility on a mission to establish a permanent community in space while developing leadership, communication and problem-solving skills that prepare her for future STEM careers?

The Discovery Museum and Planetarium has been an important, multi-faceted, and valued regional resource for over 50 years, with more than 80 'STEM' education programs for our region's students, as well as numerous outreach projects which enhance the education of socioeconomically underserved children. With its focus on STEM, the Discovery Museum and Planetarium works to help our State meet the challenges of the achievement gap through working with educators to create and deliver learning experiences that are impactful, and that resonate with students long after they return to the classroom. Additionally, Discovery benefits visitors through engaging and educational exhibits,

Planetarium shows, lectures, and a popular cultural heritage series that brings a large community together to celebrate and learn about diversity.

Please join me in recognizing the value the Discovery Museum and Planetarium brings to our State by preserving its appropriated funding level as a line item, and not through competitive grants. The proposed elimination of this line item would be extremely damaging to valuable and important educational resource.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Ellyn Savard".

Ellyn Savard
Program Initiatives Manager
Girl Scouts of Connecticut

BRIDGEPORT CHAPTER



THE POWER
to make a
DIFFERENCE

CELEBRATING 60 YEARS

Appropriations Committee

Legislative Office Building, Room 2700

Hartford, CT 06106

To: State of Connecticut Appropriations Committee, Appropriations Conservation and Development Subcommittee

Re: The Discovery Museum and Planetarium

On behalf of Jack and Jill of America Inc., Bridgeport Chapter, I respectfully urge you to preserve funding for the Discovery Museum and Planetarium as a separate line item appropriation under the Department of Economic and Community Development, in lieu of subjecting it to competitive disbursement through the proposed change through the Arts Commission, as presented under the Governor's proposed Biennial Budget. Drastic cuts to the Discovery Museum's appropriation would negatively impact the Museum's ability to continue the work that it does to provide learning opportunities for many thousands of students statewide.

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Please join me in recognizing the value the Discovery Museum and Planetarium brings to our State by preserving its appropriated funding level as a line item, and not through competitive grants. The proposed elimination of this line item would be extremely damaging to valuable and important educational resource.

Sincerely,

Rosie Jones-Clarke
President

February 26, 2015

Adele Hodges
550 James Farm Road
Stratford, CT 06614

Appropriations Committee
Legislative Office Building, Room 2700
Hartford, CT 06106

To: State of Connecticut Appropriations Committee, Appropriations Conservation and Development Subcommittee

Re: The Discovery Museum and Planetarium

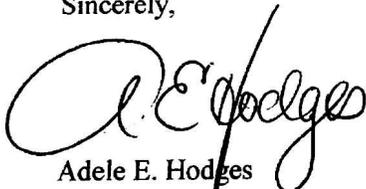
I am writing this letter on behalf of Discovery Museum and Planetarium in an effort to request that you to preserve funding for the Discovery Museum and Planetarium as a separate line item appropriation under the Department of Economic and Community Development. This will be in lieu of subjecting it to competitive disbursement through the proposed change through the Arts Commission, as presented under the Governor's proposed Biennial Budget.

Any drastic cuts to the Discovery Museum and Planetarium's appropriation would negatively impact the Museum's ability to continue the work that it does to provide learning opportunities for many thousands of students statewide. Each year the Museum hosts several cultural and historical celebrations. These events, which are heavily attended by students as well as adults in the community, will also be at risk if funding is drastically cut.

Over the past three years I have had the opportunity to assist the staff as a volunteer on numerous projects, including their Black History, Flag Day, and Freedom Trail celebrations. I use to frequent the Museum during my school years and they have given me a great opportunity to reconnect. I am extremely impressed with their STEM educational program opportunities and their ability to reach out to students and adults throughout the State while remaining relevant and interesting.

I request that you will reconsider making any change in funding and funding line appropriation for the Discovery Museum and Planetarium. It is a tremendous asset to this community and the State.

Sincerely,



Adele E. Hodges
Colonel USMC (retired)