FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CMT eyes Downtown expansion with purchase of building
Relocation of offices, program space will allow Museum to grow

Tucson, AZ (March 31, 2023) – Children’s Museum Tucson|Oro Valley is launching a $15 million capital project that allows the Museum to expand while remaining an anchor destination in Downtown Tucson for families.

The first phase of the five-year project was the purchase today of the office building at 130 S. Scott Ave., which previously housed the offices of the Udall Foundation. The building sits diagonally to the northwest from the Museum’s downtown location in the historic Carnegie Library building at 200 S. 6th Ave. The Museum will relocate its administrative offices and expand its program and event space, which will allow more birthday parties and school tours at the Museum.

“We have high demand for events, so we know we need to grow to meet the needs of our community,” said CMT Executive Director Hilary Van Alsburg. “While we investigated other options, we are thrilled this opportunity allows us to grow in place. We are in our fourth decade in the Carnegie, and we are excited to be able to stay here and draw even more visitors to Downtown Tucson’s only attraction dedicated to families and children.”

The Museum plans for a phased fundraising campaign over the next five years. The Museum’s leadership team and Board of Directors has spent many years developing a master plan for improving the Museum experience for all visitors. Collaborations with the City of Tucson and many community partners ensure a wide variety of community support. The Museum is thrilled to have the support of Rio Nuevo in making this first phase possible. A Challenge Grant from the Connie Hillman Family Foundation matches donations to the first phase of the campaign – $1 for every $2 raised up to $400,000 – through the end of this year.

- More -
Swaim Architects, Creative Machines and Sí Charro are the Museum’s partners in designing the CMT campus concept. This initial design concept will include a new entry on the north end of the Carnegie property with a café, dedicated gift shop and Science Garden.

“We look forward to working with community stakeholders, visitors and our neighbors,” Van Alsburg said. “Opportunities for the public to provide input are built into the project to ensure the newly expanded Museum is visionary and creates an iconic destination that represents our community authentically.”

The Museum closed on the building at 130 S. Scott Ave. on Friday, March 31. Renovations to that building are expected to be completed within a year. The full expansion is planned in stages over the next 5 years.