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Connecticut Humanities Council Grant Will Help Save Precious Museum Collections

WEST HARTFORD, Oct. 20, 2008 – The Children's Museum has received a \$5,000 grant from the Connecticut Humanities Council. The grant was made through the Council's Heritage Revitalizations Fund in collaboration with the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving. This grant provides funding to conduct a much-needed collections assessment - an evaluation of the many natural history, archaeological, and historical objects owned by The Children's Museum.

This assessment and the resulting action plan for preserving and caring for these collections will be key to the Museum's move to a new location in 2010. The Children's Museum is contracting professional firm Museum and Collector Resource, LLC of Concord, Mass., to lead the assessment effort.

"Museum collections are at risk during a big move like ours. It is important that we enlist the expertise of professionals to make sure that the Museum's and Connecticut's heritage is carefully cared for during this transition. This grant allows us to do that and we are very grateful that the Connecticut Humanities Council has invested in The Children's Museum," said Kevin Sullivan, President and CEO of The Children's Museum.

One of the largest humanities councils in the nation, the Connecticut Humanities Council (CHC) nurtures thoughtful exploration of history and literature along with the cultural benefits of both. CHC's reading programs benefit Connecticut citizens of all ages by opening up the

world of books to children, encouraging reading as a family activity and engaging adults in thought provoking book discussions. CHC's new \$1.7 million Heritage Revitalization Initiative seeks to stabilize Connecticut's heritage organizations and position them for success while bringing the state's past directly to the public through an online encyclopedia of Connecticut history, the infusion of Connecticut history topics in the social studies curriculum and the creation of new media materials on our past. This year, CHC will produce or fund more than \$3 million in cultural programming and enrich the lives of residents and visitors statewide.

The Children's Museum provides science exhibits and educational programs for younger children and families and has over 210,000 visitors annually. The Children's Museum, Travelers Science Dome at the Gengras Planetarium, and Roaring Brook Nature Center in nearby Canton, Conn., are among Connecticut's top attractions. More information is available at www.TheChildrensMuseumCT.org. The Children's Museum is located at 950 Trout Brook Drive in West Hartford.

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