

Cat-Fish II on display aside Conny the Whale

WEST HARTFORD, Conn (December 29, 2014) – Conny, the iconic whale outside The New Children’s Museum, just got company. Meet Cat-Fish II, an innovative catamaran designed to help Third World fishermen build a safe, reliable, seaworthy catamaran with recycled 55-gallon oil drums so they can fish offshore in deeper waters and be more productive in feeding their families.

Design plans for building the catamaran will be given to humanitarian groups such as The Peace Corps to assist in building, or distributing the plans, wherever a boat is needed.

Sponsored by Oil Drum Art, an art movement to raise awareness about the environment and energy crisis, the Cat-Fish II project is designed for people in some of the poorest regions of the world and will significantly improve food gathering offshore.



Arrival of the new exhibit supports The New Children’s Museum’s commitment to move full STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts, and mathematics) ahead into the future by inspiring creativity and lifelong learning. STEAM is a nationwide movement that integrates art and design with Science, Technology, Engineering and Math – the STEM subjects.

Oil Drum Art Vice President David Murphy of West Hartford designed a catamaran that used recycled 55-gallon oil drums for pontoons. The concept was submitted as an artwork to the Oil Drum Art Board where it was approved and financed for construction. The prototype will be given to a fishing village in Haiti.

The first prototype was built by Hartford high school students as part of “Our Piece of the Pie” after-school program under the supervision of designer David Murphy and boat builder, Paul Gemme.

Cat-Fish II will be on display at The New Children’s Museum through Spring 2015.

The museum is home to over 100 live animals, including the now famous Fennec foxes, hands-on science exhibits, out-of-this-world digital planetarium shows, and programs for younger children and families. The Children's Museum and Roaring Brook Nature Center are the region's premiere destinations for science and nature exploration.

The Children's Museum is located at 950 Trout Brook Drive in West Hartford and at Roaring Brook Nature Center in Canton. More information is available at www.TheChildrensMuseumCT.org.

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