



News

A museum for growing children
The Children's Metamorphosis
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Met's Landlord Satisfied, but Children's Museum Needs Further Fiscal Improvements

August 27, 2007, Derry NH — With a few days left in its month-long "Save the Met" campaign, the Met today announced it has been successful in satisfying the landlord of the downtown Derry children's museum.

A debt of about \$30,000 in unpaid rent incurred over the past year caused landlord Derry Depot Square Holdings LLC to issue a Demand for Rent on July 18. The potential loss of occupancy from this legal process caused the Met to examine its financial situation, and the museum announced it would probably have to close on August 31.

Instead, an outpouring of community support led to the August 1st launch of the "Save the Met" campaign, with goals of raising \$50,000 to cover the back rent and other expenses, plus securing new corporate sponsors and board members to lay a better financial foundation. It appears the fundraising and board member goals will be met or exceeded, but corporate sponsorships still lag.

Nonetheless, after a review of the campaign's progress and the Met's plans last Thursday evening (8/23/07), the landlord's representatives decided that the campaign and pledges constitute an adequate response to the formal Demand for Rent. This ensures that the Met will not lose its occupancy on August 31.

"The landlord has expressed their support for the Met first by being patient with our growing debt and now by working with us through this unconventional but apparently successful campaign." said Tracy LaPlante, executive director of the Met. "Though rather

stressful at times, the process has dramatically improved our relationship with the landlord, and we hope to continue and build on this as the Met moves into a more financially-sound future.”

“The officials of the DDSH are impressed with the Met's campaign, and we're optimistic they will complete their plan and remain open,” said Joel Olbricht, president of the Derry Economic Development Corp., parent of Derry Depot Square Holdings. “We believe the Met is an impressive asset for downtown Derry, and we congratulate the Met board, sponsors, and companies that are helping to strengthen our community.”

The Save the Met campaign continues this week, and a final decision on the future of the children's museum will be announced on Friday, August 31. News and information on the many fundraising events, corporate sponsorships, and other ways to help is available on the campaign website at www.savethemet.org.

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