

DRAFT PROSPECTUS: Introduction

The following are first drafts of the introductions to four prospectus. I am well into the development of subsequent sections ranging from Audience through Problems & Questions. (See "Prospectus Outline") I'll get parts or all of these sections to you as they jell. In the meantime, jot your comments in the margins.

Boston Muse

The artistic and educational needs of many Boston children and adults are often poorly served by the large, established cultural institutions. Boston Muse would be an amalgamation of the talents and resources of several organizations (Institute of Contemporary Art, the Children's Museum, Boston Center for Adult Education, Theatre Company of Boston, Community Music Center, Boston Film Center, Summerthing) interested in offering a broad spectrum of exhibits, performances, technical and consultation services, materials, equipment and facilities to individuals and groups in support of neighborhood and centralized grass-roots cultural expression in the arts and education.

Children's Place

The needs of metropolitan children (ages 5-12) and their concerned adults (parents, teachers, group leaders) are unevenly served by a variety of promising but underfunded and poorly coordinated programs. Children's Place would bring together child-centered services from non-profit organizations (the Children's Museum, Children's Zoo, Community Music Center, a children's dance group, a children's theatre, a puppet theatre, Cellar Door Cinema, a children's library, a children's art program, Scouts and Boy's and Girl's Clubs, a Y, a playground, a clinic, a day care center, a school, a teacher training program, curriculum and toy development groups), along with professional offices (orthodontists, pediatricians, child psychiatrists and psychologists, speech therapists) and commercial ventures (toy store, children's clothing and furniture store, bike shop, hobby shop, coin and stamp store, sporting goods store, pet shop, book store, penny arcade, hot-dog stand, ice cream parlor, family restaurant, automat) in one central facility that would generate enough excitement, programmatic diversity and financial strength to allow carefully tailored services to be sent out to individual neighborhoods and schools throughout the metropolitan area.

### Museum of Man

Harvard is being subjected to considerable internal and outside pressure to turn some of its resource outward in support of general community needs. Attention has been focused on the University Museums as a potentially useful interface with the public. In recognition of its community obligations the Peabody Museum of Anthropology has a long range plan to build a separate "Museum of Man on the banks of the Charles" to serve as the public exhibit and interpretive complement to the research museum and library it is developing within its present campus facilities. They believe the research facilities and collections must first be put into good order before they can tackle the public museum, but the pressure is on to see some results in the community program now. This dilemma could be resolved if the Children's Museum combined its exhibit, curriculum and programmatic talents with Peabody's collections and scholarly resources, under the Harvard sponsorship, to create a nationally important "Museum of Man" that would help explain to children and adults the important story of how man's cultures have grown in different ways to meet common human needs in response to interaction with their various physical and social environments; and how these environments in turn have been modified by man's cultures.

### City as a Museum

Boston frequently appears to both its visitors and residents as a bewilderingly unmanageable and even hostile environment. The city's rich, but scattered human, cultural, historic, governmental, commercial, financial and physical resources are difficult to grasp, much less rally together to help solve our multiplying problems. If the city experience is to become a happier one, some way must be found to make these resources more understandable and responsive to individual needs. Operating out of a central orienting and coordinating facility (using the talents and resources of the Children's Museum, Institute of Contemporary Art, Summerthing, Architectural Heritage, Harvard-MIT Joint Center for Urban Studies, Freedom Trail Foundation and others) the City as a Museum would, through the sponsorship of publications, tours, dispersed exhibits, neighborhood festivals, interpretive plaques, special events, television programs, curriculum units, teacher's training programs, store-front centers, research projects and collaborative efforts with other organizations and communities, help explain the city - its geographic dimensions, its natural and social history, its people, its government, its current and future opportunities and problems, and how decisions are made -- so that the city would be a more manageable experience for the touring visitor, the growing child, the citizen and the suburbanite using it.