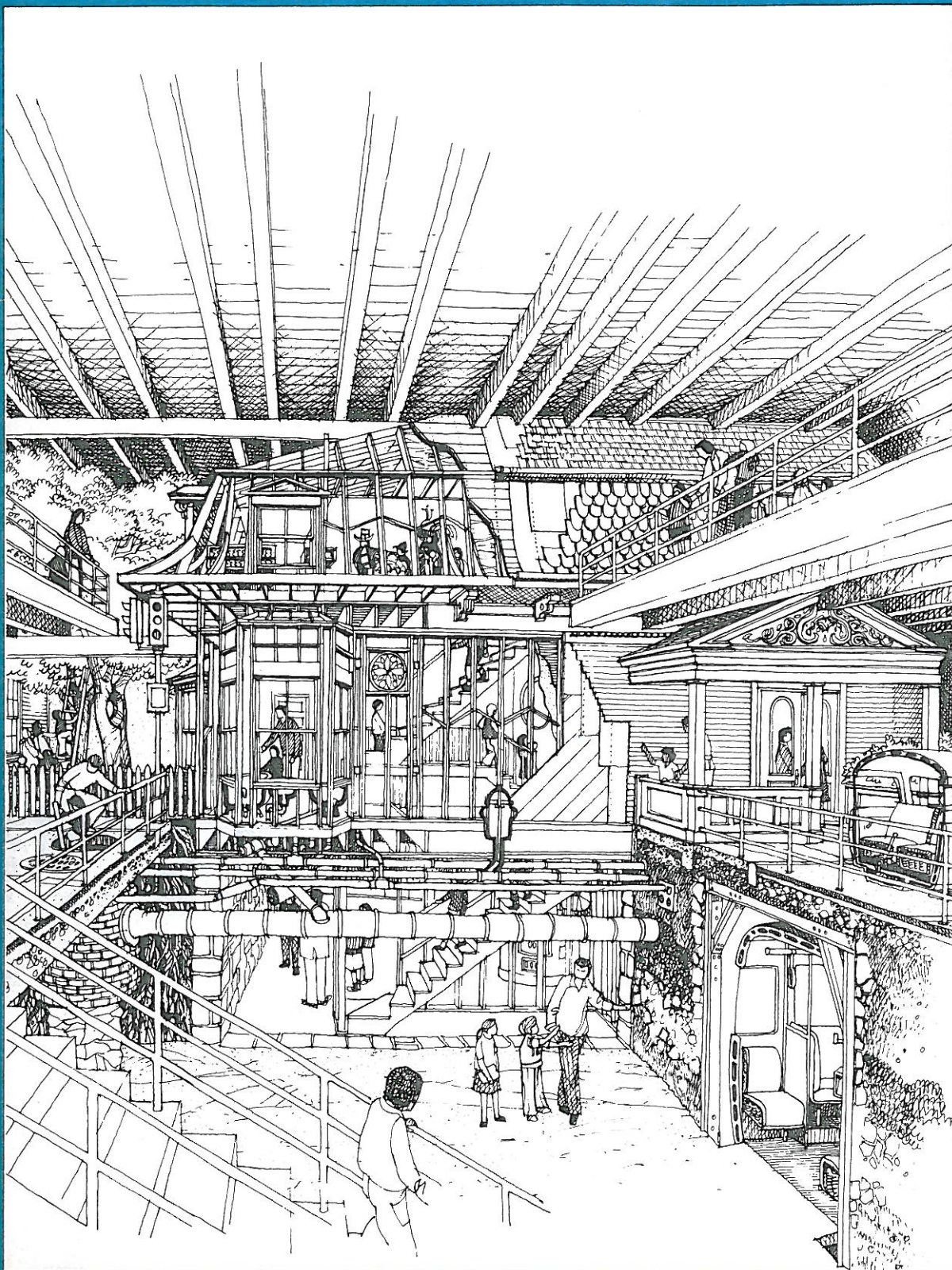


THE **children's museum** 1979 WINTERNEWS



special museum wharf edition





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The Children's Museum newsletter is published quarterly for members and friends of The Children's Museum, Boston.

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Send address change with old label to Children's Museum, Public Relations Office, Jamaicaaway, Boston, MA 02130

## jan/feb/mar at the children's museum

### New exhibit

Kurzweil Reading Machine uses advanced computer technology to convert print to speech. Kids learn how a visually impaired person "reads" by placing a typed page in the machine, which reads it out loud.

### Current exhibits

Computers, Living Things, Japanese Home, Solid Waste, Playspace, Work, Zoetropes, Through the Looking Glass, Video, WKID-TV, Grandmother's Attic.

### Friday night series

See the best in local entertainment for children -- puppets, musicians, magicians, and storytellers -- every Friday at 7:30. Performance and museum admission is \$1.25. Call the What's Up Line for schedule.

### Hours and admission

Visitor Center:  
Tuesday-Thursday, 2-5;  
Friday, 2-5 & 6-9; Saturday, Sunday, and Boston school holidays, 10-5. Closed Monday.  
Children (3-15) and senior citizens, \$1.50; adults, \$2.50; children under 3 and members free. Friday night is

Family Night and admission is just 50 cents per person. All groups of 10 or more must make advance reservations.  
Resource Center: Museum Shop and Recycle, Tuesday-Sunday, 10-5, and Friday, 6-9;  
Resource Library, Tuesday-Saturday, 10-5;  
Kit Rental Department, Monday-Saturday, 9-5.

### Travel information

The museum is on the Jamaicaaway (Route 1) by Jamaica Pond. By public transportation, take the Arborway car

on the Green Line from Park Street or the Arborway bus from Copley Square to Burroughs Street in Jamaica Plain. (Check the MBTA for availability.) The museum is at the end of Burroughs Street.

### cover

City Slice, a three-story exhibit now under construction in Museum Wharf, will give kids an X-ray view of city streets and buildings. Illustration by Herb Kashian.



# what's up line 426-8855



With an opening date now selected -- Sunday, July 1 -- and major renovation of Museum Wharf, our new waterfront home, in its final stages, life for the museum staff has become hectic.

Although the location of exhibits within the building is now firm, lots of details remain, and exhibit developers, designers, and managers can be seen poring over exhibit models, artists' renderings, floor plans, and cross-section drawings.

Actual construction of some exhibits has been underway for some time. Three new Zoetrope tables were recently installed in Jamaica Plain Visitor Center, a new panoramic desk appeared in WKID-TV, and the old green barn is stuffed with new pieces for the Giant's Desk.

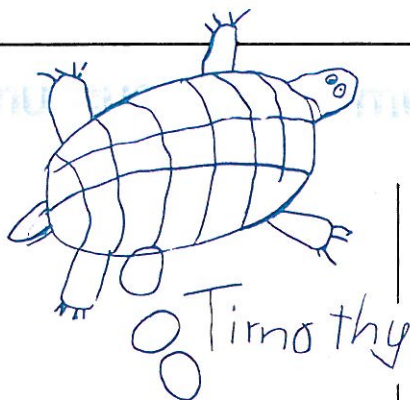
Computers, Meeting Ground, Factories, and the new dolls and doll houses exhibit are now being fabricated, and when one of Museum Wharf's elevators is completed in early February, crews will move in to begin installation work.

With all this attention on our new site, don't forget the Visitor Center in Jamaica Plain is still going strong with old favorite exhibits and tryouts for new ones. We're planning a grand closing party for April vacation week (April 14-22), our last week in Jamaica Plain. Don't miss it!

## wharf update

What will it be like when we open at Museum Wharf? Let's take a visit with Director Michael Spock.

“Museum Wharf is easy to reach since it's right off the Central Artery and the Mass



Pike extension and just three blocks from South Station and the MBTA's Red Line. There are several parking lots within easy walking distance; in addition, the Museum of Transportation will be running a shuttle service with its antique vehicles to and from Quincy Market.

However visitors reach the area, the landmark to guide their arrival will be the forty-foot high Hood Milk Bottle.

The park in front of Museum Wharf will be a lively place to gather. Jugglers, mimes, and street musicians will entertain; and a play area for young children will be developed. There will be plenty of seating for having a bite to eat from McDonald's or the Hood Bottle; looking at downtown Boston, the bustling harbor, and Logan Airport; or just comfortably watching the busy scene.

Visitors will enter Museum Wharf near the giant glass elevator that whisks visitors up the outside of the building to the Museum of Transportation. Just inside the building, admission tickets will be on sale.

Even if the Museum is crowded, there'll be no waiting lines because the computer will estimate when visitors can get in and will print reserved tickets. While visitors wait, they can visit the Museum of Transportation, the

Tea Party Ship, or the New England Aquarium; eat in one of the building's restaurants, or browse through the Museum Shop.

The Children's Museum lobby is one flight up, and here the Giant's Desk has been re-created complete with telephone, lunch box, bulletin board, and assorted junk that could have been emptied out of anyone's pocket -- except that it will all be twelve times life size.

Here, also, is the Sit Around, a small ampitheatre designed for puppeteers, magic shows, and sing alongs. Once inside the museum, the first exhibit will be Meeting Ground, an exploration of common cultural themes, celebrations, food, and music of Boston's



West Indian, Irish, Italian, and Puerto Rican communities.

Next, there's a collection of exhibits especially designed for preschoolers: Water Play, Living Things, a measuring arcade, a play structure, and for older visitors wanting to learn more about their early years, Before You Were Three, an exhibit on child development.

A three-level space



similar to the Jamaica Plain Visitor Center is next. The centerpiece of this space will be City Slice, an X-ray view of how buildings are constructed, how toilets and utility services work, and how trees and other things grow beneath the soils of back yards. But before exploring City Slice, kids can make their own spinning tops on the assembly line of a factory and learn about ancient tools and technology in Small Science.

The frame house in City Slice will actually be a three-story Grandparent's House. In the basement, children will be able to pound nails at grandfather's work bench, play games in the first floor parlor and churn butter in the kitchen, and try on old clothes in the attic. From the first floor they'll also be able to walk out onto the street and climb down a telephone company manhole or learn how a traffic light works.

Across the street, a series of adult work settings -- a neighborhood convenience store, garage, health center, and office -- allow kids to use the tools of these adult trades.

On the next level up, kids will be able to use one of the twelve terminals connected to our Digital computer, make their own movies, and work in WKID television station.

Moving away from the street level of City Slice, visitors will enter an exhibit on Native Americans that will help them understand how the old ways, beliefs, and crafts are reflected in the contemporary



life of Indians.

Next is Ruth Green's extraordinarily rich collection of toys, dolls, and doll houses, and then a changing exhibit space, in which will open What If I Couldn't? . . . This popular exhibit allows nondisabled children to simulate handicaps and reach an understanding of the problems of disabled children.

Finally, in undeveloped space at the other end of the building, visitors can watch five Japanese carpenters reassembling a two-story Japanese artisan's house and shop that has been contributed by Boston's sister city, Kyoto.

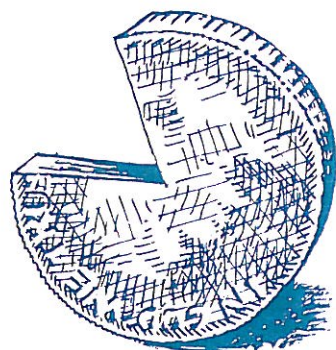
Each exhibit will be highlighted with a kiosk directing visitors to the in-depth resources available for studying each topic further. If, for example, kids are turned on to turtles and want to find out more about how they live and whether they make good pets, they can return to the Children's Museum lobby and go to the Resource Center Study on Living Things. Here they will be able to look through books on turtles, examine selected specimens from the collection, and find out about other exhibits, courses, and nature centers in Eastern Massachusetts. They'll even have a chance to talk to Marion Carey,

our staff member who knows a lot about reptiles.

We hope that everything will be informative, fun, and organized for your convenience. We can hardly wait to see it all. How about you? "

*Uli Spach*

Director



## capital coffers

Talking of fundraising, our capital campaign soared to a total of \$2,875,875 in late November -- that's more than 82 percent of our \$3 1/2m goal.

Largest of the recent grants is \$200,000 from the National Endowment for the Humanities. Along with other capital gifts, the three-for-one Challenge Grant will be used to pay off the humanities-related half of construction costs and to establish four mini endowments for staff specialists.

Other grants to The Children's Museum include \$25,000 from the Hazen Foundation and \$47,753 from the U.S.-Japan Friendship Commission. The Hazen grant will be used to develop programs about life in the city; the Friendship Commission grant will fund travel



expenses for our curator of Japanese resources, Karen Zien, and documentary filming of the installation of our two-story Japanese artisan's house and shop.

Recent joint grants to both museums include \$5,000 from the Massachusetts Charitable Society; second gifts from Sun Life Assurance Co. of \$1,000, Commercial Union Assurance of \$5,000, and Eastco of \$4,000; and \$10,000 from the Sagamore Foundation.

In other fund-raising news, 58 friends of the museum spent the fall soliciting some 160 prospects for gifts in the \$500 to \$5,000 range. The solicitors were armed with the Rainbow Wish Book, an imaginative catalog of museum programs that need funding.

As of late November, \$19,000 had been raised from 18 individuals; Director of Development Carolyn Harrigan hopes to eventually raise \$100,000 from this effort.

Finally, the Board's Executive Committee organized a second comprehensive round of solicitation by trustees and corpora-

tors of each other in order to meet the board's goal of \$700,000. Kyra Montagu headed up the Capital Campaign solicitations; Dorothy A. Wilson headed up Annual Giving by the board.

## banking business

All the work that's now going on requires a substantial amount of money to pay for such things as staff and consultants' salaries, exhibit materials, and construction bills -- money that must be paid out before all the fund-raising is complete and pledges come due.

To meet the project's financial obligations, members of The Children's Museum and Museum of Transportation's finance committees worked with Dan Prigmore, our project manager, and several Boston banks to develop a package of long- and short-term loans.

First, a mortgage was secured from the Charlestown Savings Bank when Museum Wharf was purchased in the fall of 1975. At the same time, a line of credit was secured with the Brookline Trust Co.

to meet short-term cash needs. This credit has been periodically drawn on and paid back.

Last winter, under the strong leadership of the Charlestown Savings Bank and with the coparticipation of the Suffolk Franklin Savings Bank, an agreement was worked out to secure an expanded long-term mortgage when construction is completed next summer.

Finally, to cover renovation costs this year, New England Merchants National Bank put together a group of commercial banks -- New England Merchants, First National, State Street, and Shawmut -- to collaborate on a construction loan which will be paid off with the permanent loan next year.

All these financial transactions are complicated but a necessary part of a project of this scope. We're most grateful to these community spirited banks for the vital role they have played in providing the working funds for Museum Wharf.

## 3,200 cups to go

Members of the museum's design and production department take a well-deserved coffee break with a newly finished piece for the Giant's Desk exhibit at Museum Wharf. The two hundred gallon coffee mug, 37 inches high and 40 inches in diameter, was designed by John Spalvins, right, and constructed by Wendy Wilson, left. Other members of the D&P crew are, standing from left, Juris Ozols, Agnes DeBethune, Andy Merriell, Ed Glisson, and Angela Battisto; sitting, Jane Torchiana and Signe Hanson.





# the children's museum / winternews

## Kids look at health

The museum's exhibit designers, writers, and graphic artists are getting some healthy competition this winter from sixth, seventh, and eighth graders at the Phillis Wheatley School in Roxbury and the Champlain Middle School in Dorchester.

Cameras, sketch pads, and notebooks in hand, these students are visiting community health centers, interviewing health professionals, and documenting what they see. The resulting exhibit will be put on display in their schools and then moved to Museum Wharf for our July opening.

Judging from our previous "Kids Look At Work" exhibit about a restaurant and its supplier, we can expect some lively murals and succinct descriptions of just what doctors, nurses, X-ray technicians, dental assistants, and lab workers do in a health care center.

This project is one of twenty-one in Boston and Springfield in which paired cultural institutions and schools are developing career education programs under a grant to the Cultural Education Collaborative from the U. S. Office of Education, Office of Career Education.

## New kits

The Resource Center's Kit Rental Department has two exciting new kits for teachers and representatives of organized groups.

"What If You Couldn't? . . ." is an elementary school program about handicaps, developed by the museum with WGBH, Boston.

It helps the mainstreaming of handicapped children into regular classrooms by



encouraging children to see handicapped persons as people first and handicapped second. The kit is useful in changing attitudes about the handicapped in teachers and other adults, too.

Activities include simulations of handicapping conditions, experiences with remedial devices, and role-playing exercises.

"What If You Couldn't? . . ." contains an introductory unit with units on each of six disabilities: visual impairments, hearing impairments, mental retardation, learning disabilities, emotional problems, and orthopedic handicaps.

It's available for rental in complete form for \$45.00 for one month or in subunit kits that include the introductory unit and two disability units at \$15.00 for three weeks. The complete kit is also available for purchase from SEE, Inc., 3 Bridge St., Newton, Massachusetts.

"Project Burn Prevention" is a set of graduated materials for grades K-1, 2-3, and high school, developed collaboratively by

Shriner's Burns Institute-Boston Unit, Education Development Center, and Massachusetts General Hospital.

A third of Americans who die each year from burns are under fifteen, and burns are the leading cause of accidental death in the home for children under four. Many of these deaths could have been prevented if children and adults had known how to respond quickly to the situation.

The kit shows children how to protect themselves and others.

Throughout, the emphasis is on recognizing potential hazards and acting to prevent them or to minimize burns.

Materials include booklets, cassette recordings, case studies, posters, filmstrips, and hands-on materials; a teacher's guide is also included.

Price range is from \$2 to \$5 for a two week rental period.

A limited number of experimental versions of the kit are available for purchase from EDC, 55 Chapel St., Newton, Massachusetts.

Inquiries and reservations for "What If You Couldn't? . . ." and "Project Burn Prevention" should be made to the Kit Rental Department at 522-4800, ext. 43.

