LET'S GET MOVING

NELA Children's Museum at Forsythe Park

PLAY BOOK

DIRECTOR'S THOUGHTS

We are so excited to announce that the Northeast Louisiana Children's Museum is beginning our plans to relocate.

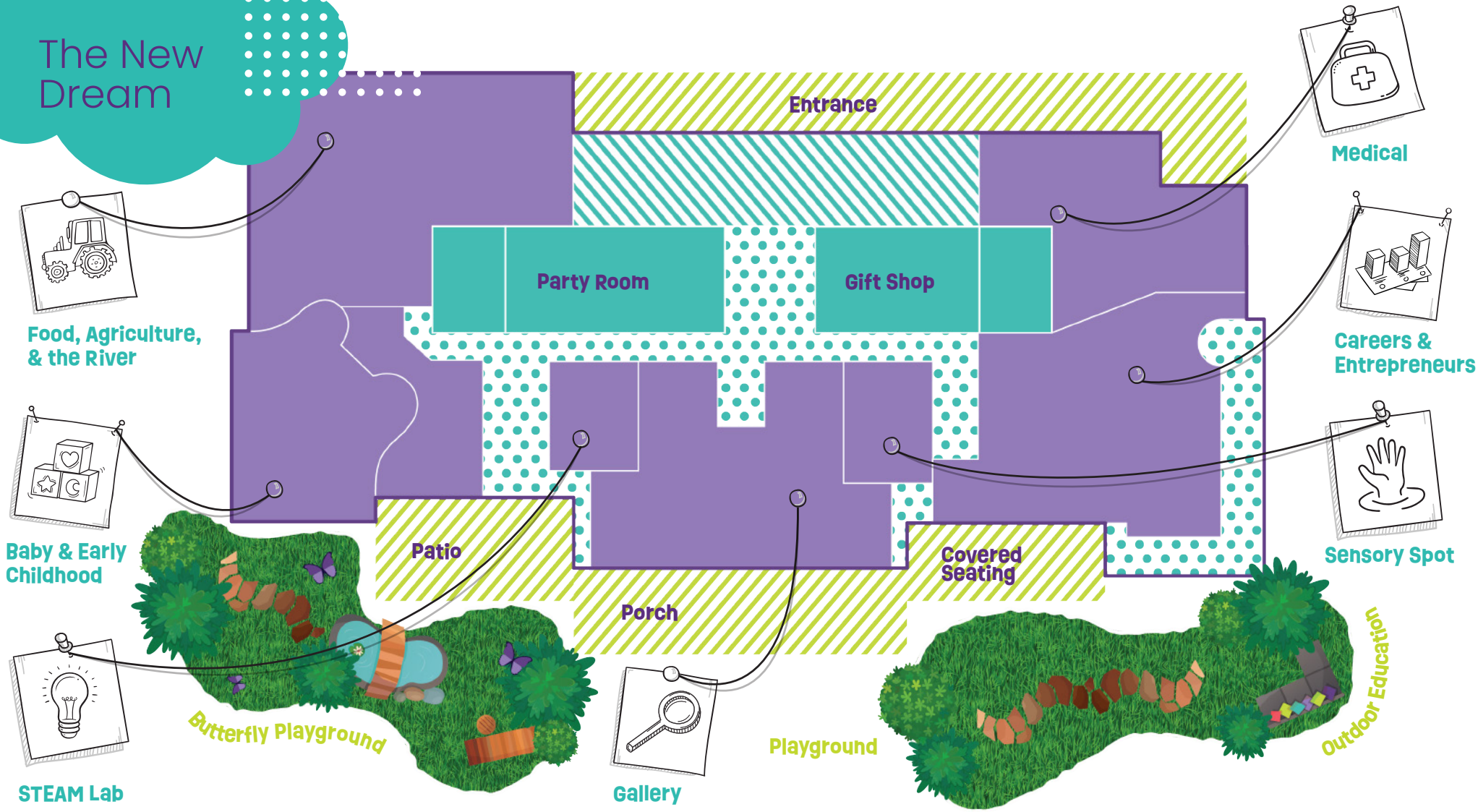
We are working to bring the "Big Purple Box of Fun" and learning to the heart of our community—beautiful Forsythe Park! Together, we are eager and committed to become an education destination for the children of our region in this historical part of Monroe.

Building on our many accomplishments over the past 23 years, that include delivering innovative exhibits, programs, and experiences that support hands-on, play-based learning for children and their families, the Northeast Louisiana Children's Museum is entering a new phase in its journey. This opportunity to relocate will strengthen our community and increase the quality of life for the families who live and visit here.

We ask that you join us as we develop conceptual plans with architects, engineers, and exhibit designers to construct a new museum.. We are ready and focused on the challenges ahead. As always, thank you for supporting, visiting, and participating in the creation of a place for imagination, discovery, and exploration for children and their families in Northeast Louisiana.

My Best,
Melissa Saye
Founder/Director

The New Dream



The new, relocated Children's Museum will be an engaging place for the children and families in our community to explore, discover, and learn. Permanent galleries and exhibits along with hands-on interactive programs will entice and engage children, making it a unique place that brings together families and communities for meaningful interaction.

The exhibit galleries will embrace the diverse culture of our region, as well as expand programming and outreach opportunities, providing a rich learning experience that sparks a sense of wonder. The Children's Museum will always be a place for play and possibilities-a happy place where children can learn about science, technology, art, music, history, and nature through hands-on, interactive exhibits that nurture curiosity, build knowledge and fuel imagination.

Economic Impacts of Children's Museums

380
Children's Museums in the United States

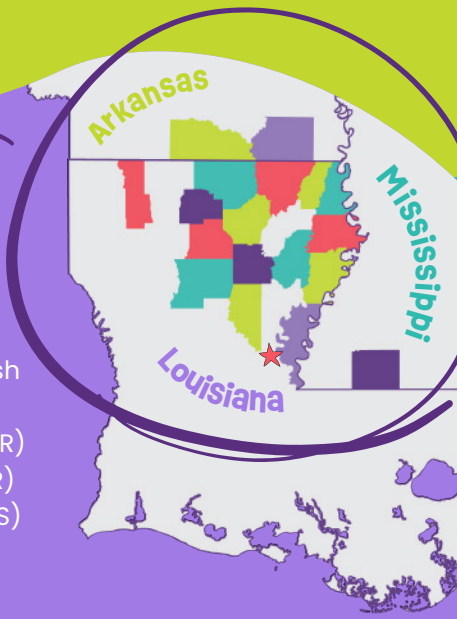
$2.0 Billion
In Paid Salaries

57,281
Jobs Supported

$5.5 Billion
Contributed to National Economy

Parishes & Counties Served

Caldwell Parish
Concordia Parish
East Carroll Parish
Franklin Parish
Jackson Parish
LaSalle Parish
Lincoln Parish
Madison Parish
Morehouse Parish
Ouachita Parish
Richland Parish
Tensas Parish
Webster Parish
West Carroll Parish
Winn Parish
Ashley County (AR)
Union County (AR)
Amite County (MS)



Social & Educational Impacts of Children's Museums

Children's Museums are local and regional destinations, educational laboratories, community resources and advocates for children and families. They are a cornerstone for tourism, academic success, and development of a future workforce.

Children's Museums Are:

- Places which develop foundational skills, especially during the first years of life when brain development is essential.
- Respectful of childhood with a balance of STEAM focused exhibits and programming set at a child's pace.
- Environments where families are able to connect in meaningful ways.
- Uniquely positioned to reverse stigma and discrimination with their non-threatening, hands-on approach to learning.

Reference: Association of Children's Museums

We will continue to be a place where all are welcome and where our commitment of providing a safe environment for children and families of all abilities and backgrounds will remain our mission: a place where children can experience the diversity of our region and provide vital resources for schools in northeast Louisiana.

The Children's MUSEUM

Where learning is fun!

nelcm.org (318) 361-9611

323 Walnut Street in Monroe, Louisiana 71201

Future Address:

2300 Sycamore Street in Forsythe Park

Monroe, Louisiana 71201