

## **PRESS RELEASE**

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### **CONTACT**

Caitie O'Neill

Marketing Manager

810-237-3443

[coneill@sloanlongway.org](mailto:coneill@sloanlongway.org)

## **SLOAN MUSEUM ANNOUNCES PLANS FOR RENOVATION AND EXPANSION PROJECT AT GROUNDBREAKING CEREMONY**

Flint, MI – June 12, 2019 – Sloan Museum held a groundbreaking ceremony for its renovation and expansion project and announced plans to transform the destination into Sloan Museum of Discovery, set to open in 2021. For more information, visit [DiscoverSloan.org](http://DiscoverSloan.org).

The \$26.5 million project is funded through grants and donation from foundations, corporations, and individuals. Genesee County Arts Education and Cultural Enrichment Millage funds cannot be used for capital improvement projects like this one.

Major donors include the C.S. Mott Foundation, the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation, the Hagerman Foundation, General Motors, Jeff and Annette Rowe, the Whiting Foundation, the Graff Family Foundation, Community Foundation of Greater Flint, the Isabel Foundation, the Consumers Power Foundation, the Hurand Family, and the Serra Family Foundation.

The project is 85% funded, and the organization is seeking funds through a Million Dollar Match. All contributions made before December 31, 2019 will be matched 2 to 1 by the C.S. Mott Foundation, up to one million dollars.

### **RENOVATION AND EXPANSION PLANS: SLOAN MUSEUM OF DISCOVERY**

#### **New Exhibit Spaces**

The new Sloan Museum of Discovery will include reimagined Flint history galleries, a hands-on science Discovery Hall, and an Early Childhood Gallery. The Flint history exhibits will present inclusive stories, designed with the flexibility to more frequently change displays. The Discovery Hall will engage visitors in earth and physical science exploration, featuring a 3-story Spaceship Earth exhibit, a Maker Space, water tables, and much more.

A new Vehicle City Gallery will bring rotating exhibits of historic vehicles inside Sloan Museum—formerly housed at Buick Gallery. Sloan Museum's Perry Archives will also move inside the main museum, allowing for increased access to research services. The Flint Genealogical Society will have access to a reading room adjacent to the Perry Archives.

A new temporary exhibit gallery will accommodate taller exhibits. For example, the dinosaur exhibit presented at Courtland Center Mall in summer 2018 will fit inside the building.

### **Expanded Educational Program Capacity**

Three new Learning Lab classrooms will increase capacity for field trip programs from 60,000 students served per year to about 90,000. The Early Childhood Gallery is being developed in collaboration with Genesee County Head Start, and will become the premiere resource for play-based learning for ages 0 to 6, designed to prepare children for Kindergarten.

### **Accessibility**

Sloan Museum's renovation and expansion includes two new, highly visible entrances and a café, providing easier access to the museum. While the old entrance was difficult to find, new stairs and ramps from the parking lot will allow visitors to easily enter and exit. The café space will enable visitors to spend a full day at the museum, rather than having to leave for lunch.

### **COMMUNITY FEEDBACK SESSIONS**

While construction of the building begins, exhibit development planning continues, in partnership with community members. Over the past three years, Sloan Museum has sought community input in the planning process through focus groups, advisory groups, and meetings with organizations, community groups, and individuals.

Now, Sloan Museum is hosting Community Feedback Sessions around Genesee County, in an effort to raise awareness about and engage more people in the exhibit development process. **The next event will be held at Sylvester Broome Empowerment Village, Friday, June 14, from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.**

Refreshments will be served. Those who would like to attend should RSVP to [marketing@SloanLongway.org](mailto:marketing@SloanLongway.org).

### **SLOAN MUSEUM AT COURTLAND CENTER MALL**

Throughout the renovation project, Sloan Museum will continue to present rotating traveling exhibits, over 30 historic vehicles, and a play area for families at Courtland Center Mall. The *Robot Zoo* traveling exhibit is on display now through September 8. General admission is free for Genesee County residents. Non-resident tickets are \$8 for adults, \$7 for seniors 60+, and \$6 for kids ages 2-11.

### **ABOUT SLOAN MUSEUM**

Together with partner organization Longway Planetarium, Sloan Museum inspires youth, families and patrons to discover, explore and value science, technology and history through engaging learning experiences. Sloan Museum is a member organization of the Flint Cultural Center Corporation and is supported in part by the C.S. Mott Foundation, Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs, and the National Endowment for the Arts. Sloan Museum is funded in part by the Genesee County Arts Education and Cultural Enrichment Millage. Your tax dollars are at work. Follow Sloan Museum on Facebook and Instagram @SloanMuseum.

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