



MT PLEASANT  
**DISCOVERY**  
MUSEUM

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## **REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS**

### **MOUNT PLEASANT DISCOVERY MUSEUM EXHIBITION DESIGN & FABRICATION**

Qualifications Due:  
June 29, 2018

# **Request For Qualifications - Rocket Climber**

**Organization:** Mt. Pleasant Discovery Museum

## **Overview:**

The Mt. Pleasant Discovery Museum aims to create a world where educational discovery enhances the life of every child. Our mission is to enhance the community by inspiring creativity, learning, and curiosity.

The goal of this RFQ is to further our mission statement and education through creativity; we hope to build upon our museum's ability to offer this type of environment by building a rocket climber that aligns with the Next Generation Science Standards.

This RFQ is for a complete design and construction of the exhibition's interactive/hands-on displays, lighting, other components, and materials.

## **About the Museum:**

A group of visionaries, motivated by their own children and a collective enthusiasm for play-based education, came together to imagine a space for kids, families, and schools that is FUN and educational.

These individuals visited countless museums, surveyed hundreds of people, researched regions like the Central Michigan area, joined the Association of Children's Museums, and consulted with local educators. Being convinced that this was the right thing to do for our Mid-Michigan region, they began their quest to open a children's museum with a 6-county regional focus that will inspire children and families.

Upon reaching 501(c)3 nonprofit status in 2009, the ranks grew with hundreds of interested people donating dollars and time. We have a working Board of Directors, a broad-base of donors, and have worked tirelessly to provide fun, hands-on activities for children and their families and caregivers.

The Discovery Museum is located on a 2.4 acre parcel near Morey Courts and the Isabella County Events (ICE) Arena in a 12,000 sq. ft. facility. The environment celebrates child-centric, fun activities and includes a large greenhouse where families can congregate and be surrounded by the natural world, even when it's snowing outside!

## **Deliver Qualifications to:**

Mt. Pleasant Discovery Museum

5093 E. Remus Rd.  
Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858  
(989) 317-3221

**For More Information:**

The Request for Qualification, dated May 21, 2018, is by request only. For additional information or assistance, contact:

Liz Conway  
Executive Director  
(989)-317-9010  
Liz@mpdiscoverymuseum.org

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**Preferred method of communication:** Email

## **Project Goals & Target Audience:**

The Mt. Pleasant Discovery Museum is seeking to build a multi-story, gross motor, air and space rocket climber to be located in the silo section of our facility. It has affectionately been named the 3, 2, 1... Blast Off! by our Youth Advisory Board. It is our intention to use this exhibit to engage children on characteristics of space such as gravity, planet alignment, astrology, and space machinery. Most importantly, we want the exhibit to align with the Next Generation Science Standards while being a safe and secure climbing structure. With such a big attraction, we hope to increase both museum membership as well as positive reputation within the community as being an interactive learning environment for children ages 0-10 and their parents/caregivers.

## **Timeline:**

RFQ issued: May 21, 2018  
Qualifications due: June 29, 2018  
Interviews: July 2018  
MPDM Board Mtg: July 20, 2018  
Vendor Selection: July 20, 2018

## **Museum Membership Profile (2017):**

**Total Visitors:** 45,444  
**Total Members:** 734

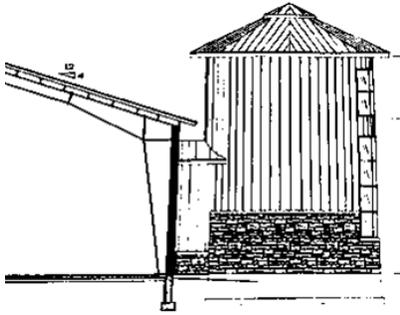
**33%-** Isabella County  
**28%-** Other Counties  
**13%-** Midland  
**10%-** Gratiot  
**7%-** Clare  
**5%-** Mecosta  
**4%-** Montcalm

**Age range:** 1 month—10 years

## **Sitemap:**

Below is a reference of space in which the rocket would be build.

Dimensions: approximately 8 ft. entry door, 19 ft. diameter, cylinder, 26 ft. tall  
Hallway leading up to the hallway is approximately 19 ft long, and 11 ft wide



Contractor shall visit site and verify all dimensions noted in this RFQ. Contractor shall assume all responsibility for obtaining and verifying all measurements.

### **Budget— Assets & Labor:**

Total project cost not to exceed \$150,000

All design, installation, and warranty elements listed shall be included.

### **Exhibit Content Analysis:**

**1. Developmental Domains:** Does this exhibit stimulate the whole child? Are there elements of the exhibit that engage large movements such as crawling, lifting, cranking; do parts of the exhibit encourage the child to use and refine fine motor skills? Will they find cognitive challenges? Is there opportunity for social interaction and cooperation? Is there any way that they will use their imaginations? Will language and/or literacy skills be improved?

**2. Different Age Learners:** We know that people learn differently at different stages in their lives. Based on this knowledge, it is important to study how each age group will use each exhibit. In the first two years, learning tends to be very sensorial: children learn with all their senses. Their museum experience tends to be quite physical: what does this sound like; what does that feel like; look at that! A rich sensory experience maximizes the learning experience for this age group. Children from three to five years are problem solvers. They approach the environment with a shifting paradigm, from moving 'what does this place do?' to 'what can I do in this place?' Plenty of opportunities for open-play, imaginative play, and opportunity to test out developing social skills help to ensure a good experience. For our younger visitors, we would like to build this exhibit with Head Start's Framework for Early Childhood Development in mind:

- Approaches to Learning
- Social and Emotional Development
- Language and Literacy
- Cognition
- Perceptual, Motor, and Physical Development.

School age children are more focused in their explorations. They have begun to think symbolically and can imagine and predict what might happen as a result of their explorations. They are highly social beings and enjoy working together to achieve a common goal. Adults are partners in play. They enjoy the museum experience in several ways: by observing; by facilitating; by interpreting; and, ideally, by learning new things themselves.

State Learning Standards: Do the various components offer something to the school district? Increasingly, school districts are being held accountable for children's academic performance. Field trips may be limited to facilities that can show that they are helping the schools achieve state and national learning standards, especially the Next Generation Science Standards (<https://www.nextgenscience.org/overview-topics>). While the museum is an informal learning environment and the schools are formal learning environments, it is wise to consider the state learning standards, and ensure that the museum experience is educationally sound. Testing the exhibit contents on a state learning standards matrix, one can often discover where small gaps exist and are easily rectified.

**3. Family Friendly Exhibits:** A great deal of research has been done by the Philadelphia/Camden Informal Science Education Center. They have developed a set of standards that they have found to help ensure that groups have a good learning experience in the museum, called 'the PISEC', this set of standards is helpful to keep in mind when developing exhibits ([https://www.fi.edu/sites/default/files/EvaluationResearch\\_4FamilyLearning1998.pdf](https://www.fi.edu/sites/default/files/EvaluationResearch_4FamilyLearning1998.pdf)).

Seven characteristics for family friendly exhibits are:

- multi-sided — family can cluster around exhibit
- multi-user — interaction allows for several sets of hands (or bodies)
- accessible — comfortably used by children and adults
- multi-outcome — observation and interaction sufficiently complex to foster group discussion
- multi-modal — appeals to different learning styles and levels of knowledge
- readable — text is arranged in easily understood segments
- relevant — provides cognitive links to visitors' existing knowledge and experience.

**4. Gender Differences:** As enlightened as we are as parents, educators and as a society, there are inconvertible differences between boys and girls in the way that they develop and learn socially, cognitively and physically. These differences are present almost from conception but begin to really make themselves felt around age five. After age five, boys and girls begin to separate in their interests, actions, and alliances. Gender issues within the children's museums environment are interesting. They both confirm and digress from the norm outside the museum setting. In many ways, the children's museum is a *freeing* experience. Looking at each exhibit and testing its components against what we know about boys and girls older than age 5 is a final check to ensure that this is a museum for all.

**5. ADA Compliance:** While the majority of the exhibit will include climbing, and therefore, not wheelchair accessible, the Mt. Pleasant Discovery Museum would like to have this exhibit built to allow for wheelchairs to access several major components of this exhibit.

**6. Client Responsibilities:** The Mt. Pleasant Discovery Museum will:

- Assist in research and selection dates
- Provide content and direction in implementation
- Be responsive and engaged in the project

### **General Contractor Scope of Services:**

Contractor will provide all materials, subcontractors, permits, and labor to complete all base building modifications as specified in the Construction Documents. Please refer to project specifications and construction documents for complete scope of work. (add whatever info is relevant to construction of rocket).

All materials, supplies, and exhibit components performed for the Mt. Pleasant Discovery Museum will be subject to final inspection. If the result of one or more of the tests indicates that any part of the exhibit is deficient in any respect, the Mt. Pleasant Discovery Museum may reject all or any part of the materials supplied under this contract.

In cases of disputes as to whether or not an item or service quoted or delivered meet specifications, the decision of the Mt. Pleasant Discovery Museum or authorized representatives shall be final and binding on both parties.

### **Guarantee and Warranty**

The contractor shall be responsible for any damage caused by themselves or their sub-contractor. Any damage to property shall be promptly repaired at the contractor's expense. After sufficient notification and if the contractor fails to make repair, the Mt. Pleasant Discovery Museum will have repairs made and charged to the contractor.

The contractor warrants all material and workmanship to be the highest quality, complying with the specifications and free from all defects whatsoever in workmanship and materials. Upon completion, the contractor shall provide a limited warranty on materials and workmanship. In the event of defects covered by warranty, the contractor shall promptly rectify the problem to the satisfaction of the Mt. Pleasant Discovery Museum.

### **General Instructions**

1. All applications are to be emailed by 5:00 pm on June 29, 2018 to [liz@mpdiscoverymuseum.org](mailto:liz@mpdiscoverymuseum.org).

2. Additional information or clarification of any of the instruction may be obtained from Mt. Pleasant Discovery Museum as listed above.
3. Any discrepancy in or omission from the specifications shall notify the Mt. Pleasant Discovery Museum in writing not less than five days prior to the scheduled opening of bids.
4. The Mt. Pleasant Discovery Museum will assume no responsibility for oral instructions or suggestion.
5. The Mt. Pleasant Discovery Museum shall award all contracts to the most qualified, responsible, responsive bidder as determined by the Board of Directors within 15 days of the application opening. The following items will be evaluated:
  - a. Performance history of designer and installer
  - b. Experience and knowledge of children museum exhibits
  - c. Development experience based on learning standards
  - d. Timeline of project
6. Please Submit
  - a. One-page letter of interest
  - b. Summary of recent design projects and how they relate to this project
  - c. List of 3 client references to include name and contact information
  - d. Overview of personnel involved in the project
  - e. Assessment of the firm's current workload and availability to devote time to this project
  - f. Timeline of project
  - g. A budget example for the project
  - h. Payment terms and conditions

We prefer that this content be emailed to [liz@mpdiscoverymuseum.org](mailto:liz@mpdiscoverymuseum.org) by June 29, 2018 at 5:00pm.