Building on our many accomplishments over the past 23 years, which 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
nelcm.org  (318) 361-9611
323 Walnut Street in Monroe, Louisiana 71201
Future Address:
2300 Sycamore Street in Forsythe Park
Monroe, Louisiana 71201

PLAY BOOK

LET’S GET MOVING
NELA Children’s Museum at Forsythe Park

DIRECTOR’S THOUGHTS

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

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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.
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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.

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**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)

**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

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
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.

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