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City of Dover, New Hampshire

DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

April 16, 2021

To Whom It May Concern:

The City of Dover along with Dover's School District and the Children's Museum of New Hampshire are pleased to present this Implementation Plan as the next step toward becoming a Voyage Mark II community. The City strives to be innovative and demonstrate a strong commitment to provide world-class municipal opportunities for our exceptional community.

I can assure that the City, School District, and Children's Museum of New Hampshire will work collaboratively to bring events, groups, students, and families to the Voyage Mark II installation to provide them with a thought-provoking experience testing their feeling of relativity. The Children's Museum intends on providing both guided and self-guided tours to the installation, schools will add this into their curriculum and can walk from schools to the installation site. The City has already added the experience into our upcoming wayfinding signage to be installed in the surrounding area.

We intend on using School Impact Fees to fund the installation and expect to have buy-in from the School Board and City Council by the end of the month.

Please review the following implementation plan and do not hesitate to contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,

Donna P. Benton, AICP
City Planner
Dover, NH
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**An Implementation Plan for a *Voyage* Scale Model Solar System in
City of Dover, NH**

SECTION 1 – The Coversheet - Partner Organizations and Contacts

Date of Submission: April 16, 2021

Lead Organization

Organization Name: **City of Dover, NH**
Address: Municipal Building, 288 Central Ave, Dover, NH 03820
Organizational Point of Contact: Donna Benton, 603-516-6008, d.benton@dover.nh.gov

Partner Organizations

Organization Name: **Dover School District**
Address: 61 Locust St #409, Dover, NH 03820
Organizational Point of Contact: Dr. William Harbron, (603) 516-6800, w.harbron@dover.nh.gov

Organization Name: **Children’s Museum of New Hampshire**
Address: 6 Washington Street, Dover NH 03820
Organizational Point of Contact: Jane Bard, (603) 742-2002, jbard@childrens-museum.org

SECTION 2 – The Community

The City of Dover is the seventh oldest community in the country and first established in the state of NH as shown in 2023 when we celebrate our 400th anniversary. From historic mills in the downtown, to an exceptional school system, and outstanding parks and recreation amenities, Dover has been amongst the fastest growing communities in the state situated on the seacoast of NH. The community is nestled between the mountains and the ocean, close to the University of New Hampshire, Pease International Tradeport, and a station community for the Amtrak Downeaster, and home to the Children’s Museum of New Hampshire and the Woodman Institute.

The Dover School District is made up of approximately 4,200 students and 600 employees. Three elementary schools educate students in grades K-4; a middle school serves students in grades 5-8 and a high school and career technical center serves students in grades 9-12 from Dover, Nottingham and Barrington. The Dover Career and Technical Center provides students with an education that combines rigorous academic and technical study, preparing them for the world of work and continued education.

The Children’s Museum of New Hampshire has a mission to actively engage families in hands-on discovery and a vision to inspire all to become the next generation of innovator and creative thinkers.

Dover is excited for this opportunity as it fosters a visual STEM educational experience for all ages, engages the community and visitors to think larger by serving as a reminder of Earth’s place in space, and provides an amenity not available anywhere else in the region.

The proposed site for *Voyage* Mark II, along one of the newer segments of the Dover Community Trail. The Sun will be viewed from the new trailhead near Durham Road and Rutland Street and Pluto will be near Fisher Street. This location is walking distance from the downtown, museums, Transportation Center, and three schools as well as on the UNH Wildcat Transit bus route. Parking is available within walking distance but the City is looking at options to provide even closer parking or bus drop off locations as well. The trail allows for accessibility and to provide a linear view of the installation and is off main roads providing for extra safety.

The City of Dover, Dover School District, and the Children’s Museum of New Hampshire are excited for this opportunity to make Dover, NH a *Voyage* Mark II community.

SECTION 3 –Strategic Objectives In STEM

City of Dover Objectives:

The Voyage Mark II installation meets two important recommendations in the City’s Master Plan. One being providing an opportunity for public art, placemaking, and specifically a new installation “in Dover’s existing parks and facilities making them a top-notch destination for all visitors. Next, by meeting the Stewardship Recommendation to “develop and support opportunities for K-12 and secondary education students to engage in Dover oriented projects.”

Dover School District Objectives:

Becoming a Voyage community directly relates to three out of four of Dover School District’s essential goals from its current Strategic Plan:

- Goal 1: The Dover School District will improve educational outcomes for students by effectively engaging with the broader community.
- Goal 2: The Dover School District will develop and sustain a culture that is characterized by optimizing social, emotional, civic, physical, and rigorous academic learning.
- Goal 3: The Dover School District is committed to continued investments in infrastructure to support student learning inclusive of facilities, technology, safety, and security.

Dover School Super Intendent states, “The development and implementation of the Voyage Mark II offers a wonder interactive educational exhibit for the Dover School District students and the Dover Community. The project will provide an educational resource that will be welcome addition to the District’s science program. It will assist our students in having a realistic view of the solar system. In addition families can use the exhibit to build upon their child’s learning experience. This is exciting opportunity for the Dover community and region.”

Children’s Museum of New Hampshire Objectives:

The Voyage Mark II installation also meets the Children’s Museum of New Hampshire Core Values of “Always Learning, Collaborative and Connected, Inclusive, Joyful, and Eco-conscious”. Specifically, the Museum’s Strategic Plan acknowledges the goal of “Explore options to expand our footprint or physical presence in the community through partnerships with businesses & educational partners”.

The Children’s Museum of New Hampshire President states, "The Voyage Mark II exhibition will be a powerful, complimentary educational experience for the over 100,000 visitors the Children's Museum of NH receives annually. The Museum would promote self-guided exploratory for visiting families and lead guided experiences for school and family groups in conjunction with educational programming."

Immediate STEM Action Items to Accomplish:

- Include “Interpretative Path” in new wayfinding signage in the immediate vicinity of the installation for visitors to passively enjoy on their own
- Create guided tours and self-guided tours from the Children’s Museum discussing the solar system as a whole, specific space expeditions, concepts of distance and relativity
- Add field trips to the installation into the lesson plans in place to meet the science curriculum for multiple grades in the Dover School District. Lesson plans would also include pre-visit and post-visit discussion items
- Link Dover’s Voyage Experience webpage from the Dover’s website
- Partner with the Community Trail Advisory Committee and local adopt-a-trail section sponsors to maintain the installation in a pleasant and inviting environment
- Advertise this opportunity through press releases, social media, and other forums throughout the region and state

SECTION 4 – Proposed Community Engagement

The central objective of the Implementation Plan is to engage the community in our local *Voyage* experience by welcoming residents and visitors to experience the Voyage Mark II in Dover. Most likely the first, and possibly only Voyage Experience in the state and even New England.

Dover School District and the Children’s Museum of New Hampshire stand as partners and will assist in educational programming for children of all ages. The school district can bring their curriculum to the site by foot (three schools are within walking distance) and by bus. The lessons can take place before, during, and after the visit. Lessons beyond the obvious solar system, energy, math and science lessons can also occur such as installation, accessibility for all users, Geographic Information Systems, relativity, etc.

The Children’s Museum can create a guided and/or self-guided walking guide for patrons to walk or drive to the Voyage Mark II site to experience the solar system in an extremely accurate scale in person and hold events educating patrons about the solar system and relativity. Events can be on-going or for special orbital events to witness such as planet viewing.

The Voyage Mark II experience will be there to greet trail users unexpectedly but also as its own destination along the Community Trail which sees about 500 users a day. Given that this is the only Voyage Mark II installation planned in New England, visitors from around the region can come view the installation in Dover along the Community Trail.

Being so close to space-grant University of New Hampshire, a partnership can be created to bring UNH students to give STEM-based presentations at Voyage Mark II site and encourage collaboration between multiple organizations.

Financial

Costs:

\$37,500	baseline cost
\$5,500	Upgrade Package A—Customization
\$3,950	Upgrade Package B—Name Engraving
\$1,300	Shipping
\$1,300	Installation
<u>\$10,450</u>	<u>Extra stock</u>
\$60,000	Total

Funding:

On April 12, 2021, the School Board will receive an update on the intent for this installation and be asked to endorse the expenditure of school impact fees. On April 28, 2021, the City Council will vote on the allowance of the expenditure of school impact fees to cover the funding for the Voyage Mark II installation.