



**For Immediate Release**

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**Wonderscope Brings First Adaptive Treehouse to Kansas City's Children**  
*New Partnerships to Enhance the Fun and Learning at New Museum*

SHAWNEE, KAN. (May 5, 2020) Wonderscope Children's Museum announces KC's first Adaptive Treehouse will be built at its new museum, enhancing the mission to ensure that all children will have access to the museum's many educational exhibits.

The Adaptive Treehouse is made possible through a \$100,000 grant from Variety KC. "We are grateful for this special partnership with Variety KC and feel that the museum will offer families of children with disabilities an opportunity to have a fun and enriching experience," said Roxane Hill, Wonderscope Executive Director.

Surrounded by a make-believe forest with flowers doubling as musical instruments, the treehouse will be a magical place for children young and old. Wide ramps leading up to the treehouse will create accessibility for wheelchairs and walkers; soft surfaces will provide protection; and a communications board will stimulate creativity. Deborah Wiebrecht, Variety KC's Executive Director, explains the impact of these boards, "By pointing or even simply gazing at the various symbols and pictures on the board, even young kids or children with limited expressive language ability can clearly express their needs and wants. It's just one more way to remove barriers and make our playgrounds as inclusive as possible."

The forest and treehouse are one of several educational activities at its outdoor exhibit area. A garden, sand play space, and playground equipment will create hours of physical fun and exercise.

**A Kansas City Affair**

Thanks to the generosity of Kansas City businesses, Wonderscope's new museum will celebrate the city's history, heritage and culture. Currently, Union Pacific Railroad is sponsoring the Train that is part of the Crossroads exhibit. This exhibit focuses on Kansas City's crossroads of transportation from the Train to steamship to horse and carriage, and how these forms of transportation played an essential part in KC's history and commerce. Midwest Bus Sales, a division of the Kincaid Group, has donated an actual school bus that will be an indoor/outdoor exhibit. The bus should be installed by late May.

**Construction Update**

Despite these challenging times, the construction is on schedule. The McCownGordon construction team has continually kept the safety and wellbeing of workers as the highest priority. They have responded to the pandemic with strict adherence to CDC guidelines and incorporated additional safety measures on the jobsite.

The pre-engineered metal building structure and structural steel components are in place. The construction team is now working to close up the pre-engineered metal building with an energy saver roofing system and metal roof panels. Insulated colored wall panels will soon follow.

The team has also made a strong push to begin interior finish work by starting the layout for interior wall construction and overhead rough-in. The front lobby and entry way of the building have been framed out with metal studs, sheathing and blocking.

**INTERVIEWS AVAILABLE: Due to Covid-19 restrictions, interviews/video are not allowed at the construction site. Roxane Hill is available for video interviews as well as architectural renderings of the outdoor area and the treehouse. Please contact Tracey Mershon to schedule.**

**About Wonderscope Children's Museum of Kansas City**

Founded in 1989, Wonderscope Children's Museum of Kansas City provides imaginative, experiential STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts, math) exhibits and programs for ages 8 and younger, their parents, and educators from across the KC metro area. Its mission is to spark a lifelong love of learning through the power of play. To learn more, visit [Wonderscope.org](http://Wonderscope.org) or follow on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), or [Twitter](#).

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