



## AAHPERD *Evening at the “City Museum”*

701 N 15th St, St Louis

**Sponsored by AAHPERD, Just Dance, &  
Fuel Up to Play 60**

*A night at the museum takes on a whole new  
meaning when it’s a night at the **City Museum***

**Wednesday, April 2, 2014  
7:00 p.m.-10:00 p.m.**

Explore the unexpected at this exciting, interactive museum...an eclectic mixture of playground, funhouse, surrealistic pavilion, and architectural marvel made out of unique objects. Join your peers for a fun-filled evening discovering the first three floors of the City Museum’s most popular attractions. Feel, touch, climb on, and play in the various exhibits. This warehouse of wackiness includes 4,000 square-feet of man-made caves and tunnels; an enchanted forest; aquarium; working shoelace factory and shoe shaft slides which run through the center of the museum; MonstroCity, a “monstrous montage of monkey bars” that includes two Saber 40 aircraft fuselages, a fire engine, castle turret, and a handful of four-foot tall wrought-iron Slinkies. ***(Each convention registrant will receive one admission ticket in their registration packet. Tickets must be presented for admittance. Closed toed shoes required! Food and beverage will be available for purchase.)***

There was no blueprint for City Museum. Discover some of the history of the museum...



It was not meticulously mapped, planned, or organized. It was—and still is—an inspired piece of artwork, gaining force as each piece is added or changed. And although many of its components “used to be” something else, they are now, completely, pieces of City Museum.

The building that houses City Museum was once a busy **shoe factory** and warehouse in St. Louis’ Garment District. After the decline in domestic garment production, the area became nothing more than empty warehouses and underutilized buildings. In 1993, Bob Cassilly and a partner purchased the full city block that encompasses the City Museum building. Bob Cassilly saw potential in the solid construction, high ceilings, and

polished concrete floors—and the 96,000 square feet of raw space provided ample room. He decided the International Shoe building was the perfect foundation for his vision of a “city within a city.” It would be full of activity day and night, with offices, factories, art studios, living space, and entertainment venues—much like it is today.

Construction of what eventually came to be City Museum started in January of 1995 when the first pieces of steel were dragged into the first floor parking garage to build a fish tank.

## **CITY MUSEUM:**

### **1<sup>ST</sup> FLOOR**

**Ticket Windows** City Museum’s ticket window and gift shop was originally the façade for the St. Louis Title Company building at 804 Chestnut Street. The façade, which was built in 1897, was held in storage for 11 years before being donated to City Museum by the Landmarks Association of St. Louis. Matching terra cotta borders the first-floor bathroom. The relief panel below the ticket counter is a copy of a famous piece by Renaissance sculptor Luca Della Robbia. The terra cotta was made by the St. Louis-based Winkle Company.

**Stainless Steel Wall** These metal containers were originally food service pans, but were then adapted for reuse as mouse cages by Washington University. In 1996, the museum purchased 1,100 of the pans from the university. Bob Cassilly used the pans to repeat identical movements, creating both texture and movement in the overall effect of the wall. The aesthetic effect of repeating masses of identical units is used throughout the museum.

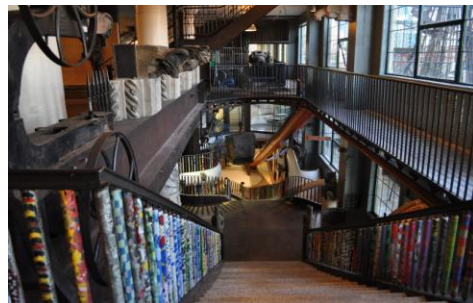


### **Grand Staircase**

The granite staircase was removed from the abandoned City Hospital at 1515 Lafayette. The hospital opened in 1845 to serve the poor of a then cholera-infested city, and was open for 140 years before overcrowding and questionable sanitary conditions led to its demise. When City Museum removed the stairs in 1996, the hospital was slated for demolition. However, demolition was avoided and the building was redeveloped

into the Georgian Condominiums—and thankfully, they haven’t asked for their stairs to be returned.

The balusters up the main staircase and around the first floor mezzanine are original pieces of the City Museum building. They were once used as rollers in the mile-long conveyor system used to transport shoes throughout the building. The handrail from the second to third



floor is made from an overhead crane rail from the Stupp Brothers Bridge Company at 3800 Weber Road.

**Caves** Construction of the original caves was completed for the museum's opening in 1997. The Enchanted Caves and the shoe shaft were completed in 2003. Four types of cement products were used to build the caves: poured wet concrete, pre-cast panels, shotcrete (wet concrete forced through a hose), and gunite (a cement sprayed dry through a hose and mixed with water at the nozzle). Finishing touches like faces and creatures were carved by hand. A large percentage of the caves are made from recycled concrete that was excess or rejected from other jobs, which had to be used quickly before they dried.

**Puking Pig** Now serving as the tipping tank to the tidal wave cave, the "Puking Pig" was once an expansion tank for a boiler system in the Elder Manufacturing Company at 703 North 13<sup>th</sup> Street. Its axel system came from a 1880s fire pump.

### MEZZANINE

**Elevator Wall** The wall surrounding the elevator's entrance to Lizard Lounge is covered with printing presses from the former St. Louis Globe Democrat at 129 Haven Street. If you look closely, you can decipher some words used in the Globe's original stories.

**Enchanted Forest** The Missouri tree trunks and branches were painted with colorful creatures by Linda Horsely. The tiled soft-shell turtle was designed by Bob Cassilly and tiled by Jeff Lockheed of Venice Café. This turtle became the inspiration of the Cassilly-created Turtle Park, located in the Dogtown neighborhood across from the South entrance of the St. Louis Zoo.



**Hollow Tree Bridge** This 44-foot Sycamore tree was already hollow when it was found in Jefferson County. It grew into its twisted and unique shape to compensate for damaged parts of the trunk.

### 2<sup>ND</sup> FLOOR

**Saint George** Originally from Saint George's Catholic Church in Southeast Chicago, this classic depiction of Saint George slaying the dragon was carved eight inches into the 12-inch slab of limestone.

## **Vault Doors and Safety Deposit Boxes**



These safety deposit box doors came from the First National Bank building at 510 Locust. The vault doors and deposit boxes were in the building's original construction in the mid-1800s and survived an 1870 remodel. However, when the building was converted into a Telcom hotel in 2001, City Museum removed the steel and brass structures piece by piece. During the removal, several keepsakes, photographs, and a rifle were discovered—unfortunately, nothing was of monetary value.

## **3<sup>RD</sup> FLOOR**

**Architecture Hall** Because of its overall size, the limestone façade from St. Louis' Edward Bates School at 1912 North Prairie Avenue was reassembled in several locations throughout Architectural Hall. A time capsule was discovered at the façade's base. The capsule dates to 1917 and included memorabilia from the First World War era, including a copy of President Woodrow Wilson's war speech. Copies of the collection of the 1917 newspapers cover a wall just outside the Architectural Museum.

**Enchanted Caves** Construction for the Enchanted Caves began in 1995 but could not be completed by City Museum's opening in 1997. They opened to the public in 2003, offering a labyrinth of tunnels, slides, carved concrete figures, and dramatic metal forms in five stories of this eleven-story atrium.

## **ROOF**

**School Bus** Perched on the southwest corner of the building is a yellow school bus from the Roxana School District No.1. The bus serves as a visual landmark, letting visitors know that they've arrived at a place where they should always "Explore the Unexpected."