



**For Immediate Release**

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***Governor Hogan allocates \$300K for KID Museum in FY20 Budget:  
Museum Moves Closer to Goal of Future Home***

With the allocation of \$300,000 by Governor Larry Hogan in the Fiscal Year 2020 Budget, KID Museum's vision of a permanent home in the region moves closer to reality. The state allocation builds on capital investments already pledged by Montgomery County and the City of Rockville, and signals support from both local and state government for KID Museum's expanding efforts to prepare kids of all backgrounds for school and workforce success.

"We are deeply grateful to Governor Hogan and Comptroller Peter Franchot for their commitment to KID Museum," says Cara Lesser, KID Museum Founder and Executive Director. "Their support makes a real difference in the work we're doing to close the skills gap and drive innovation in the region."

KID Museum opened its prototype space in Montgomery County's Davis Library in October 2014. Since then, the museum has established itself as a national leader in innovative, maker-based learning, providing 55,000 visitors each year with hands-on programming that incorporates STEM, art, and world cultures with 21st century skills that promote creativity and innovation.

KID Museum’s partnership with Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS), the state’s largest and most diverse school district, provides thousands of children from all backgrounds and income levels with deep learning experiences designed to build an interest in STEM and promote creative expression.

The impact of KID Museum’s most ambitious initiative with MCPS, the *Invent the Future Challenge* for middle school students, was the subject of a study by Harvard’s PEAR (Partnerships in Education and Resilience) Institute. Students in the program showed significant gains in 21st century skills like perseverance, critical thinking, and collaboration, as well as increases in STEM interest and STEM identity.

Moving into a larger home would allow KID Museum to expand its work with MCPS, strengthen and develop existing and new partnerships, and serve an estimated 300,000 people from across the region, with a focus on equity of access for populations typically underrepresented in STEM fields.

“Our vision is to open a world-class cultural and educational resource for our community” says Lesser. “Thanks to the commitments of the Governor, Comptroller, and the County, we’re on track to make this vision a reality.”

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### **About KID Museum**

KID Museum is an independent, mission-driven nonprofit serving 55,000 people annually in its creative learning space, on-site at schools, and at community events. A national leader in maker-based education, the museum seeks to spark the creative potential of all children, and inspire the next generation of innovators. Core to its mission is ensuring that all youth, especially those who are traditionally underrepresented in STEM fields, have access to transformative learning opportunities that will pave the way for their future success — and the shared success of our community. For more information, please visit [www.kid-museum.org](http://www.kid-museum.org).