**PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

The Project involves the acquisition and renovation of a four-story vacant commercial office building to establish a permanent home for a world-class experiential STEM and cultural learning center for children and families in the region. The building is approximately 51,000 square feet in size, and is in good condition. Due to weak office market conditions, it has not attracted tenants in recent years since a federal agency terminated its lease. Upon acquisition, the building will be redeveloped under a public-private partnership for occupancy by KID Museum, a non-profit organization serving families and elementary/middle school students.

The interior improvements will be designed and constructed by KID Museum pursuant to a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the County. Funding for these improvements will be raised from private and public sources. The improvements include demolition of existing office partitions, construction of additional bathrooms and access enhancements, and construction of maker spaces, exhibition spaces, assembly spaces, and administrative spaces.
LOCATION

Twinbrook area of Rockville.

ESTIMATED SCHEDULE

Purchase of the building is anticipated in FY19 with renovation work to follow.

PROJECT JUSTIFICATION

The County intends to acquire this building to facilitate growth of STEM and 21st century educational opportunities offered by KID Museum. It reflects the County's leadership role in enabling the growth of cultural facilities (e.g. Music Center at Strathmore, Imagination Stage), which provide broad and essential educational opportunities to diverse student populations. KID Museum has formed a successful, district-wide partnership with MCPS for hands-on student learning in STEM-related fields, and is unable to fulfill growing demands for services in 7,500 square feet of leased space at Davis Library in North Bethesda. This capital project will expand substantially the space available for instructional activities and inter-generational programs. Its close proximity to METRO makes it accessible to a wider range of patrons than the current location which is not METRO accessible.

KID Museum is a Maryland corporation and is exempt from taxation under federal law. It currently serves approximately 55,000 patrons annually. It projects visits by approximately 250,000 patrons once its operations relocate to the new location. As a dynamic hub for informal learning and unique community gathering space for people from all walks-of-life, KID Museum will become a new kind of cultural anchor for Montgomery County that empowers youth from diverse backgrounds to become the innovators and change makers of the future. In so doing, the Project reflects Montgomery County's deep commitment to education, innovation and diversity and will create a regional attraction that reinforces and elevates these core values.

FISCAL NOTE

The City of Rockville will contribute 40% toward the purchase of the building.

The County will contribute 50% toward the design and renovation of the building, up to $5,000,000. The Council appropriated $1,000,000 in FY19 for design, and the KID Museum will raise a matching $1,000,000 from other sources for construction. The Council will appropriate the remaining construction funds as a 1:1 match to funds raised by the KID Museum from other sources.

Apart from closing costs, no design funds may be spent until a copy of the finalized agreement between the County and the City of Rockville for co-ownership of the building and a finalized MOU between the County and KID Museum for use of the space is provided to the Council.

COORDINATION

KID Museum, Department of General Services, Department of Permitting Services, City of Rockville.