

## Merrimack Valley Children's Museum Collection, 1992-1997

### Collection Summary

<b>Reference Code:</b>	MRQ, US.
<b>Repository:</b>	Special Collections, Haverhill Public Library, Haverhill, Massachusetts.
<b>Call Number:</b>	MSS 34
<b>Creator:</b>	Haverhill Public Library
<b>Title:</b>	Merrimack Valley Children's Museum Collection, 1992-1997
<b>Dates:</b>	1992-1997
<b>Size:</b>	0.209 linear feet (1 box)
<b>Language(s):</b>	Collection materials are in English.
<b>Abstract:</b>	Several years of newspaper clippings about the City of Haverhill attempting to start a children's museum as a way to draw people to Haverhill, Massachusetts, and revitalize the community.

### Organizational History

In the early 1990s, a children's museum was planned to open at 108 Merrimack Street in Haverhill, Massachusetts; a building was leased for one year, rent free, from The Brigham Circle Trust. Eric V. Pare would serve as the president of the museum. The 5,000 square foot building would have a science wing, industrial area, cityscape, an indoor play space, gift shop, model trains, static exhibits, and workshops, and classrooms. There would also be an independent fast-food restaurant. The hope of the museum was to help bring traffic and businesses to Haverhill and to attract tourists and those passing through Haverhill.

By 1993 it appears that the museum had not yet opened and that it had moved to a new building, the Haverhill Armory at 75 Kenoza Avenue, Route 110. The City of Haverhill was criticized in some of the articles because residents and other people in the community felt that the city was not doing enough to keep the museum downtown, even though the museum would have to do extensive work to make the Armory accessible. An estimated \$60,000 investment was needed to insulate the ceiling. In addition, the museum would need to add another staircase and pay \$36,000 a year in rent. There were additional changes to the types of rooms in the museum. By 1995 the museum was trying to raise \$200,000 so that it would have the funds to officially open.

At the Kenoza location a new roof had been added that fixed a leaking problem and sheet rock was being installed. There were other issues including electrical repairs, and heading and plumbing systems that needed updating and work. The other issue was making the building handicapped accessible. Much of the work as being done by volunteers in the community, but the costs of the materials were expensive. By 1997, the museum had still not opened. One issue was that they were \$100,000 short and there was still considerable work that needed to be done. There is no evidence that the museum ever opened and there is no additional information about fate of the museum.

## Scope and Content Note

This collection provides information on plans to open the Merrimack Valley Children's Museum in Haverhill, Massachusetts. The collection includes a flyer about a fundraising event to raise money to help open the museum and newspaper clippings about the attempt to open the museum. Many of the newspaper clippings come from *The Eagle Tribune*.

## Arrangement

Series 1: Fundraising Flyer, 1995

Series 2: Newspaper Clippings, 1992-1997

## Administrative Information

<b>Preferred Citation:</b>	[Item Identification], Merrimack Valley Children's Museum Collection, 1992-1997, <i>Reference Code</i> , Special Collections, Haverhill Public Library, Haverhill, Massachusetts.
<b>Custodial History:</b>	Found in Collection.
<b>Acquisition Information:</b>	Unknown.
<b>Processing Information:</b>	Processed by Erik R. Bauer, 2020. Updated by Tamara Gaydos, 2020.
<b>Access Rights:</b>	Collection is open for research.
<b>Phys. Access Restrictions:</b>	None.
<b>Tech. Access Restrictions:</b>	None.
<b>Copyright:</b>	Copyright has not been assigned to the Haverhill Public Library. All requests for permission to publish or quote from manuscripts must be submitted in writing to the Board of Trustees. Permission for publication is given on behalf of the Haverhill Public Library as the owner of the physical items and is not intended to include or imply permission of the copyright holder, which must also be obtained by the researcher.

**Related Material:** None  
**Separated Material:** None.  
**Conservation Notes:** Newspaper clippings were copied onto archival paper for preservation purposes.  
**Subjects:** Children's museums  
 Henrique, Nelson  
 Merrimack Valley Children's Museum  
 Minichiello, Thomas  
 Ouellette, Vincent R.

## Collection Inventory

### Series 1: Fundraising Flyer, 1995

<u>Folder Title</u>	<u>Container Number</u>	<u>Folder Number</u>
Fundraising Flyer, 1995	1	1

### Series 2: Newspaper Clippings, 1992-1997

Newspaper Clippings, 1992	1	2
Newspaper Clippings, 1993	1	3
Newspaper Clippings, 1994	1	4
Newspaper Clippings, 1995	1	5
Newspaper Clippings, 1996	1	6
Newspaper Clippings, 1997	1	7