



Metropolitan Nashville and Davidson County, TN

Legislation Text

File #: RS2020-604, **Version:** 1

A resolution celebrating the 75th anniversary of the Adventure Science Center.

WHEREAS, World War II was coming to an end and the nation was beginning to look toward the future. Sgt. John Ripley Forbes had a vision that Nashville's future should focus on children. His enthusiasm for a children's museum sparked some of the city's most prominent and influential citizens to get involved, including the museum's first president, Vernon Sharp, Jr. On October 31, 1945, the Children's Museum of Nashville opened its doors to the public for the first time; and

WHEREAS, as a founding trustee of the Children's Museum of Nashville, Anthony "Tony" Sudekum shared the museum's mission to inspire children to learn and explore the world around them. After his death in 1946, his widow, Mrs. Nettie Elizabeth Sudekum, gave the museum \$5,000 in his memory to build a dome and install a Spitz star projector. At that time, it was the only planetarium in Tennessee and one of only three in the South; and

WHEREAS, on March 3, 1952, a ceremony was held to dedicate the Sudekum Planetarium where the inventor of the projector, Armand Spitz was the guest of honor alongside members of the Sudekum family; and

WHEREAS, by the 1960s, the museum was quickly outgrowing the old building on 2nd Avenue South and more space was needed. In January 1966, Mrs. Albert Menefee Jr., one of the directors of the Justin and Valere Potter Foundation, announced a donation for a new building. Museum trustees were already negotiating with the Metro Parks Board of Commissioners to set aside part of Fort Negley Park as the site of the new museum building; and

WHEREAS, in the fall of 1972, the trustees voted to change the name of the museum to Cumberland Museum and Science Center in recognition of the increasing number of adults engaged in programs including lectures, movies, field trips, and clubs; and

WHEREAS, in the early 1980s, the museum's Sudekum Planetarium brought a new show to Nashville - "LASERVISION". Using a new, four-color laser projection system, the planetarium created spectacular laser shows that entranced audiences. The museum also opened its first computer lab in 1983, providing public access to this burgeoning technology; and

WHEREAS, because of growing popularity, the museum announced a 16,000-square-foot expansion in 1986. This new growth also brought new education initiatives, including the start of mobile outreach programming in 1988. One of the popular programs introduced in 1990 was StarLab, a portable planetarium system that seated roughly 25 people under an inflatable dome. StarLab brought the stars and constellations to life for students throughout middle Tennessee. These efforts were recognized in 1993 when the Tennessee Department of Education provided a sizable grant to the museum for expanded K-12 science enrichment programming; and

WHEREAS, the 2000s brought a few big additions to the museum, the first of which was the Adventure Tower in 2002. The tower is a one-of-a-kind, 75-foot tower that demonstrates the most progressive example of hands-on education, launching a new era of igniting curiosity. Shortly after, another name change came for the museum in 2003: Adventure Science Center. The Adventure Tower wasn't the only major change in the new millennium. On May 30, 2005, the BodyQuest exhibit opened to the public with 9,000-square-feet of interactive exhibits that allow visitors to experience all the major body systems through larger-than-life components accompanied by engaging science activities. Then on June 28, 2008, the new Sudekum Planetarium and Space Chase exhibit gallery opened to the public. Sudekum Planetarium was among the best in the country - with a seating capacity of 166 and a 63-foot dome featuring digital projection and stereo surround sound - as well as the first GOTO Chiron Hybrid star projection system in the United States. While visitors got close to 6.5 million stars under the dome in the planetarium's Judith Payne Turner Theatre, Space Chase

provided an opportunity for visitors to learn more about their celestial neighborhood; and

WHEREAS, today, the Adventure Science Center, with the continued support of their members and generous donors, continues their mission to inspire the next generation of scientists, engineers, doctors, explorers, and innovators that will transform our world.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE METROPOLITAN GOVERNMENT OF NASHVILLE AND DAVIDSON COUNTY:

Section 1. The Metropolitan County Council hereby goes on record as recognizing and celebrating the 75th anniversary of the Adventure Science Center.

Section 2. This Resolution shall take effect from and after its adoption, the welfare of The Metropolitan Government of Nashville and Davidson County requiring it.