

Project Description

We are requesting a City of Stamford investment of \$4 million to support the development and construction of our \$10 million Phase II Planetarium & Observatory Center. This investment revitalizes and restores a key pillar of the SM&NC Mission. We are shovel ready and will confidently move forward to construction with the City's \$4 million commitment. In June 2022, we will professionally relocate (flatbed) our historic Gregory Maksutov telescope to the Astronomical Lyceum of the Magdalena Astronomical Society in New Mexico for our continued use "from a distance" in our new building. Our current Observatory, which opened in 1964, has been closed and condemned since October 2018 due to serious disrepair. The building was deemed unsafe, unhealthy, with irreparable conditions. After the telescope is relocated we will demolish the building and prepare the site for new construction.

The Planetarium & Observatory Center will be a profound educational and community asset for the City and State. We will bring fresh STEAM programming together in one building for the first time in our 85-year history and be the premier destination for astronomy and science education, a signature of our Mission.

This Planetarium & Observatory Center is a true cultural tourism and local economy game-changer for Stamford. Nowhere in the Mid-Atlantic corridor is there an attraction with the features that the Stamford Museum & Nature Center offers.

Comments – This **Phase II Planetarium & Observatory Center** follows our highly successful **Phase I Environmental Farmhouse** complex which opened in November 2018, on time and on budget. This Phase II project has a \$10 million cost. Beginning in 2016, the State has invested \$5.75 million to our capital program with \$3 million committed to this astronomy center project.