

*attach For Office Use Only*  
 Executive Office of Environmental Affairs

EOEA No.: 13496  
 MEPA Analyst: Aisling Eglinton  
 Phone: 617-626-1024

# ENF Environmental Notification Form

The information requested on this form must be completed to begin MEPA Review in accordance with the provisions of the Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act, 301 CMR 11.00.

<b>Project Name: Boston Children's Museum Expansion and Renovation Project</b>		
Street: <b>300 Congress Street</b>		
Municipality: <b>Boston</b>	Watershed: <b>Charles River</b>	
Universal Transverse Mercator Coordinates: <b>4690918.5 Northing; 331205.6 Easting</b>	Latitude: <b>42° 21' 8.5" North</b> Longitude: <b>71° 2' 58.1" West</b>	
Estimated commencement date: <b>April 2006</b>	Estimated completion date: <b>December 2007</b>	
Approximate cost: <b>\$ 25 Million</b>	Status of project design:	<b>15 %complete</b>
Proponent: <b>Boston Children's Museum</b>		
Street: <b>300 Congress Street</b>		
Municipality: <b>Boston</b>	State: <b>MA</b>	Zip Code: <b>02210</b>
Name of Contact Person From Whom Copies of this ENF May Be Obtained: <b>Andrew Magee</b>		
Firm/Agency: <b>Epsilon Associates, Inc.</b>	Street: <b>150 Main Street</b>	
Municipality: <b>Maynard</b>	State: <b>MA</b>	Zip Code: <b>01754</b>
Phone: <b>(978) 897-7100</b>	Fax: <b>(978) 897-0099</b>	E-mail: <b>amagee@epsilonassociates.com</b>

- Does this project meet or exceed a mandatory EIR threshold (see 301 CMR 11.03)?  
 Yes  No
- Has this project been filed with MEPA before?  
 Yes (EOEA No. \_\_\_\_\_)  No
- Has any project on this site been filed with MEPA before?  
 Yes (EOEA No. 9055)  No
- Is this an Expanded ENF (see 301 CMR 11.05(7)) requesting:
- a Single EIR? (see 301 CMR 11.06(8))  Yes  No
  - a Special Review Procedure? (see 301 CMR 11.09)  Yes  No
  - a Waiver of mandatory EIR? (see 301 CMR 11.11)  Yes  No
  - a Phase I Waiver? (see 301 CMR 11.11)  Yes  No

Identify any financial assistance or land transfer from an agency of the Commonwealth, including the agency name and the amount of funding or land area (in acres):

Are you requesting coordinated review with any other federal, state, regional, or local agency?  
 Yes (Specify: **Boston Redevelopment Authority**)  No

List Local or Federal Permits and Approvals: **Federal: EPA - NPDES Stormwater Notice of Intent.**  
**Local: BRA - Article 80 Review and Ch. 91 Licensing Recommendation; Boston Civic Design Commission - Design Review; Boston Water and Sewer Commission - Sewer Connection Permit; Boston Conservation Commission - Order of Conditions; Boston Public Improvements Commission - Approval for Sidewalks, Tiebacks, etc.; Boston Transportation Department - Transportation Access Plan Agreement and Construction Management Plan; Boston Inspectional Services Department - Building Permits and Certificates of Occupancy; and Boston Fire Department - Approval of Fire Safety Equipment.**

Which ENF or EIR review threshold(s) does the project meet or exceed (see 301 CMR 11.03):

- |                                 |                                       |  |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Land   | <input type="checkbox"/> Rare Species | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Wetlands, Waterways, & Tidelands |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Water  | <input type="checkbox"/> Wastewater   | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation                              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Energy | <input type="checkbox"/> Air          | <input type="checkbox"/> Solid & Hazardous Waste                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> ACEC   | <input type="checkbox"/> Regulations  | <input type="checkbox"/> Historical & Archaeological Resources       |

Summary of Project Size & Environmental Impacts	Existing	Change	Total	State Permits & Approvals
<b>LAND</b>				<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Order of Conditions <input type="checkbox"/> Superseding Order of Conditions <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Chapter 91 License <input type="checkbox"/> 401 Water Quality Certification <input type="checkbox"/> MHD or MDC Access Permit <input type="checkbox"/> Water Management Act Permit <input type="checkbox"/> New Source Approval <input type="checkbox"/> DEP or MWRA Sewer Connection/ Extension Permit <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other Permits <i>(including Legislative Approvals) – Specify:</i>  <b>MHC – Chapter 254 Review</b>
Total site acreage	1.5			
New acres of land altered		0		
Acres of impervious area	1.5	0	1.5	
Square feet of new bordering vegetated wetlands alteration		0		
Square feet of new other wetland alteration		0		
Acres of new non-water dependent use of tidelands or waterways		(-0.12)**		
<b>STRUCTURES</b>				
Gross square footage	150,000	22,300	172,300	
Number of housing units	0	0	0	
Maximum height (in feet)	67	0	67	
<b>TRANSPORTATION</b>				
Vehicle trips per day	745	98	843	
Parking spaces	29	(-28)	1	
<b>WATER/WASTEWATER</b>				
Gallons/day (GPD) of water use	10,991	(-751)	10,240	
GPD water withdrawal	0	0	0	
GPD wastewater generation/ treatment	9,673	(-603)	9,070	
Length of water/sewer mains (in miles)	0	0	0	

**\*\* The new addition will lie within the existing parking lot. The remaining portion of the existing parking lot will be converted to public open space for a net reduction in non-water dependent use of tidelands**

**CONSERVATION LAND:** Will the project involve the conversion of public parkland or other Article 97 public natural resources to any purpose not in accordance with Article 97?

Yes (Specify \_\_\_\_\_)  No

Will it involve the release of any conservation restriction, preservation restriction, agricultural preservation restriction, or watershed preservation restriction?

Yes (Specify \_\_\_\_\_)  No

**RARE SPECIES:** Does the project site include Estimated Habitat of Rare Species, Vernal Pools, Priority Sites of Rare Species, or Exemplary Natural Communities?

Yes (Specify \_\_\_\_\_ )  No

**HISTORICAL /ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCES:** Does the project site include any structure, site or district listed in the State Register of Historic Place or the inventory of Historic and Archaeological Assets of the Commonwealth?

Yes (Specify: **Fort Point Channel Historic District**)  No

If yes, does the project involve any demolition or destruction of any listed or inventoried historic or archaeological resources?

Yes (Specify \_\_\_\_\_ )  No

**AREAS OF CRITICAL ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERN:** Is the project in or adjacent to an Area of Critical Environmental Concern?

Yes (Specify \_\_\_\_\_ )  No

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION:** The project description should include (a) a description of the project site, (b) a description of both on-site and off-site alternatives and the impacts associated with each alternative, and (c) potential on-site and off-site mitigation measures for each alternative (You may attach one additional page, if necessary.)

The Boston Children's Museum Expansion and Renovation Project is a multi-faceted expansion and renovation project designed to (1) insure the ongoing success of the Museum's mission of enriching the lives of young children and their families, (2) address and improve building circulation and thereby improve exhibit quality and functionality, and (3) take advantage of the Museum's location on the Fort Point Channel and the excitement generated by being "on the water."

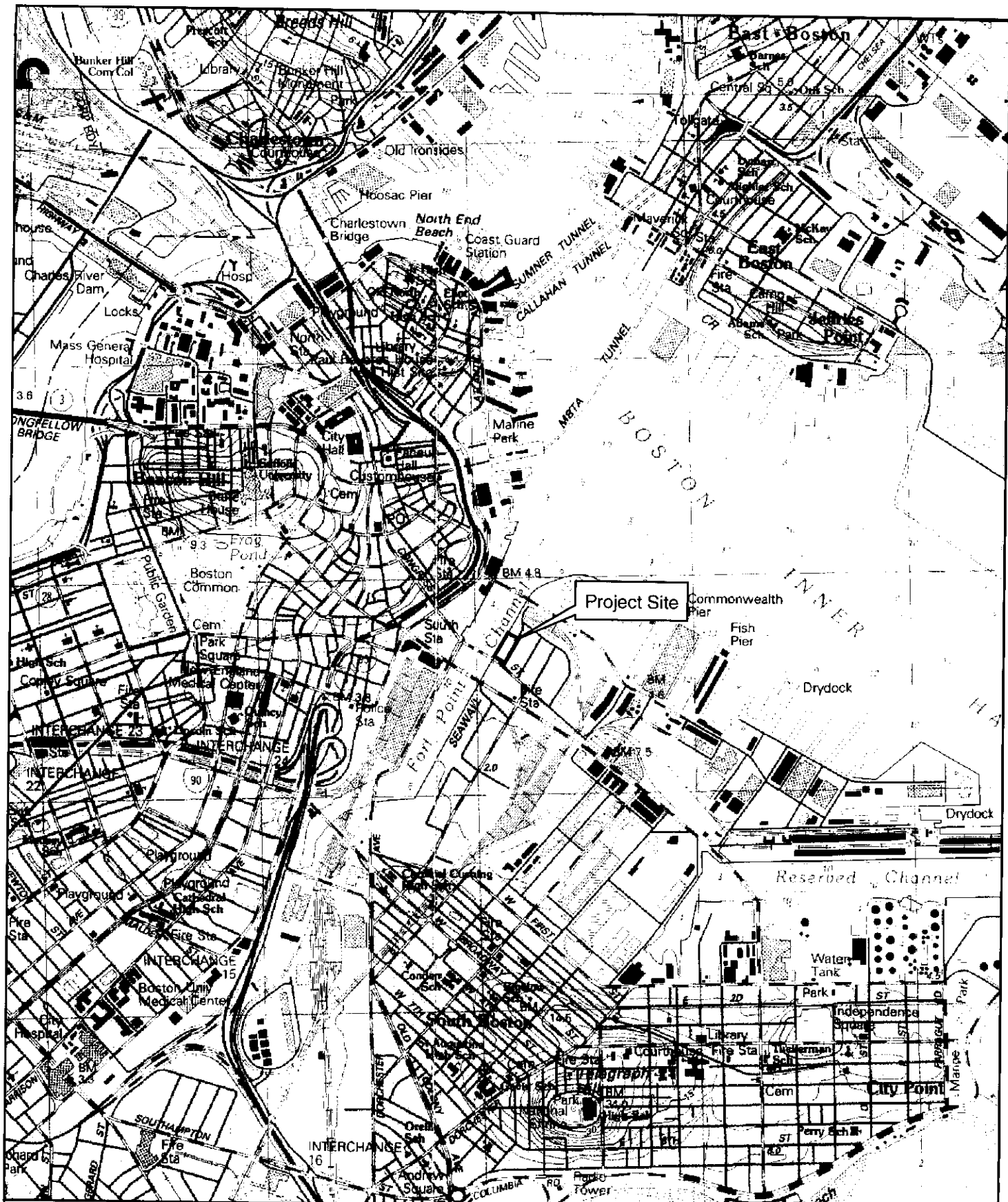
The Museum Project includes a three-story, approximately 22,300 gross square foot addition to the existing six-story 150,000 gross square foot Boston Children's Museum building. It also includes significant improvements to the area of waterfront open space located between the existing Museum and the Fort Point Channel (the Wharf Area) which, in turn, complements and enhances the Harborwalk along this side of the Fort Point Channel and the future Children's Wharf Park immediately north of the Museum building.

Although modest in scale, the proposed Museum building addition is the lynchpin of a wide range of program additions and access and use improvements that will ripple through the entire Museum – both indoors and out. The addition will introduce new spaces and new programs, and as importantly will allow for the expansion and improvement of most, if not all, of the Museum's existing programs. Improvements to the Wharf Area between the building and the Fort Point Channel will similarly create new opportunities for outdoor exhibits, programs, community festivals and similar functions. It will also set the stage for the future introduction of programs whereby children and their families can have direct access to the water.

The improvements made possible by the proposed building addition and Wharf Area improvements are summarized below. As noted above, however, these improvements will ripple through all the exhibits of the Museum, opening new possibilities in all areas of the Museum through better internal circulation and interior design opportunities.

- The Museum's entrances will be easier to locate from all points, with a new central entrance on the Harborwalk side of the building, and entries off Congress Street and Sleeper Street (a group entrance with storage and orientation space).

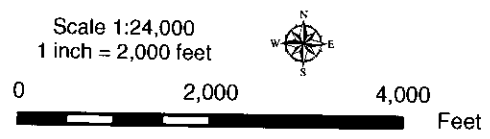
- A light-filled Lobby Atrium will be the new hub of improved visitor amenities, featuring ease in orientation, ticketing, and visit planning. The central lobby will have dramatic water views and will present clearly the variety of activities available inside and outside the Museum.
- An iconic Climbing Sculpture will rise three stories in the lobby atrium, delighting children eager to climb and adults who will urge them on from the adjacent stairway.
- A 2,500 square foot Adventure Center will house major health exhibitions on the ground and second floors of the new building, and will include multi-leveled platforms leading to the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of the existing building.
- On the third floor of the new addition a 2,500 square foot “Global Gallery” changing exhibitions gallery will present large traveling exhibitions from around the country and the world, providing families a chance to experience the best in children’s exhibits.
- Visitor flow, now cutting a 10-foot wide track through the middle of exhibitions, will be pulled out of the existing building onto a new “bridge” along the face of the old building on the second and third floor level. From this bridge, visitors will be able to view people below in the lobby, meet and rest in comfortable seating areas, and meander back and forth between the renovated warehouse galleries and new areas. Circulation among floors will be eased with new elevators, ramps and staircases.
- A new food and retail space will offer healthy food options and a new dining patio opening out onto the water, making this a comfortable and attractive place for families and visitors.
- The Wharf Area between the Museum building and the Fort Point Channel will include gathering spaces with both fixed and moveable tables and benches, colorfully paved surfaces for running and playing, and open spaces for temporary exhibits, outdoor events, and interactive outdoor learning. It will merge with the existing Harborwalk and the Children’s Wharf Park north of the site, as well as the waters of the Fort Point Channel.
- A new bus drop-off area will be established on Sleeper Street, thereby creating a safe and protected place for children to begin and end their visit. The existing curb cut and drop-off area along Congress Street will be removed.
- A new loading/service area will be created at the north side of the building to facilitate loading outside of the Sleeper Street right-of-way.



Basemap: 1985 USGS Quadrangles, MassGIS

**Figure 2-1  
USGS Locus Map**

**Boston Children's Museum  
Boston, Massachusetts**



**EPSILON** ASSOCIATES INC.  
Engineers ■ Environmental Consultants