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GROUNDBREAKING FOR NEW WONDERSCOPE BUILDING SET FOR MARCH 19 AT RED BRIDGE SHOPPING CENTER

SHAWNEE, KAN. March 13, 2018 – Wonderscope Children's Museum of Kansas City will begin a new chapter **Monday, March 19, 10 a.m.**, when it breaks ground for a new building at Red Bridge Shopping Center in Kansas City, Mo. (East Red Bridge Road adjacent to La Petite Academy). The 35,000 square-foot facility is scheduled to be completed by the spring of 2019 and will be double the size of the current museum.

The museum's new home will feature leading-edge exhibits housed in interactive spaces with a more fluid floor plan. An outdoor exhibit space also will be included, expanding the diversity of experiences for visitors. The museum's focus will continue to be on dynamic programming and inclusive displays of STEAM experiences – science, technology, engineering, art and math. The environment will foster children's creativity and confidence with parents and caregivers learning right along with them.

Joining the dignitaries for the groundbreaking ceremony will be a group of children with hardhats and shovels, symbolizing Wonderscope's mission of sparking a lifelong love of learning through the power of play.

"When we kicked off our capital campaign in February last year, the groundbreaking was just a concept in the back of our minds," said Roxane Hill, executive director for Wonderscope. "Now it's reality, and just the beginning of great things to come for the entire Kansas City area and tourists alike. We envision a premier destination experience where families can celebrate play, and children can tinker and experiment at their own pace."

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Speakers at the groundbreaking ceremony will include: Mayor of Kansas City, Mo., Sly James; Blue Valley Bank President and CEO and Wonderscope Steering Committee Chair Bob Regnier; President of Lane 4 Property Group, Owen Buckley; and Wonderscope Board Chair Kate Bender. Mizzou Forte and St. Thomas More Children's Choir will provide musical entertainment.

In February 2017, Wonderscope launched a \$15 million capital campaign for the new museum. It has already achieved more than 40 percent of its goal. This includes two major pledges received from The Regnier Family Foundation and The Sunderland Foundation. These pledges, in addition to other monies already received since the capital campaign began, have aided in the development of the new building.

The centralized location of the new Wonderscope will provide greater visibility and accessibility enabling more participation by schools, families and children including lower-income communities.

McCownGordon is the general contractor for the project, and Haizlip Studio, MIG | Portico and Paul Orselli Workshop (POW!) are the exhibit designers. Haizlip Studio is the architect.

"We couldn't be more excited to work with extremely experienced organizations," said Hill. "With their proven track record of success, we know that when we open in spring of 2019, we will be able to present a world-class children's museum to the entire metropolitan area."

About Wonderscope Children's Museum of Kansas City

Founded in 1989, Wonderscope Children's Museum of Kansas City provides fun, dynamic and hands-on exhibits and programs that integrate the arts, sciences, literature and music for children 10 years of age and younger, their parents and educators from across the metropolitan area. Its mission is to spark a lifelong love of learning through the power of play. To learn more, visit www.wonderscope.org, like at [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) or follow on [Twitter](#).

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