

County of Lancaster Request for ARPA Funding

Organization Lancaster Science Factory **Date** 6/28/2022
Submitted By Robert Reed **Authorized Signature** *Robert Reed*
Email Address [REDACTED] **Phone #** [REDACTED]

Please attach any supporting documentation for consideration. Submission should be in PDF Format.

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| Project/Item Description | Sky Bridge Icon Exhibit - Fabrication and installation of a large-scale interactive exhibit/climber at the Lancaster Science Factory designed to inspire students and families while being a major driver for visitation to our facility and tourism to the region. |
| Clearly state the amount being requested. What is the total cost? How was the cost derived? | We are requesting \$215,000 for support of this one-of-a-kind exhibit. The total cost from our fabricator, Luckey Climbers, is \$500,000. The High Foundation has already contributed \$285,000 toward this project. |
| Which County ARPA Community-wide Benefit(s) does the project meet? | The Science Factory is a driver for tourism in Lancaster City and County, with approximately 40% of our more than 50,000 annual visitors coming from out of the county. |
| Briefly explain how the project meets the County's guidelines. | Infrastructure - Luckey Climber exhibits like this have been huge drivers for visitation and tourism for other science centers, and will transform the Science Factory into a regional destination. Workforce Development - Our mission is to inspire students to pursue STEM degrees and careers. The Sky Bridge is designed to illustrate the engineering principles of bridges. |
| Why should this project be a priority and how will it help the County? Also, if this application is for more than one project, please identify each one, provide information and rank them in order of your priority. | Tourism in Lancaster County has been significantly impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. After a record year of 51,000 visitors in 2019, attendance dropped to 14,000 in 2020. We are rebounding, but the hospitality industry across Lancaster County continues to be impacted by the past two years. Large-scale iconic exhibits like the Sky Bridge have proven to increase visitation at other science centers, while studies show that repeat visits to science centers directly impact how likely students are to pursue STEM degrees and careers. |
| Will this project require ongoing expense (maintenance, updates) or frequent replacement? Are expenses already being incurred, if so, can they be reduced through this project? | This exhibit requires no real maintenance or upkeep other than regular cleaning. It is completely safe, with the climber levels incased in a mesh so students are safely inside. Our exhibit partner has constructed hundreds of these climbers around the world. |
| Project Timeline – start to finish, and when funding will be needed. | We plan to install this project over the course of 3 weeks in January of 2023. While funding in-hand at that time is ideal, we will borrow any funds not yet obtained by January of 2023. |
| Are other organizations part of this project? If yes, please list them and their role, including funding. If not, explain why. | The High Foundation are supporters of this project, dedicating \$285,000 for this exhibit. |
| ARPA Committee Comments | |
| ARPA Committee Recommendation | |
| Funding Amount Recommended (if recommended for approval) | \$ |