



The Barnum Museum receives \$40,000 grant from the Fairfield County Community Foundation

The Barnum Museum has been awarded \$40,000 from the Fairfield County Community Foundation (FCCF) to be used to match a \$100,000 Endangered Building Grant received from the Connecticut Commission on Culture and Tourism. This grant was awarded in the fall of 2010 to assist with an extensive architectural review necessary to determine the full scope of the museum's structural damage which occurred during the June 24, 2010 tornado in Bridgeport CT.

"We are concentrating every effort in 2011 toward the complete restoration of our building in order to preserve the priceless collection," explained Kathy Maher, Executive Director and Curator for The Barnum Museum. "This funding has helped us accomplish the planning required to begin accurate reconstruction of our historic building, designed by the architectural firm of Longstaff and Hurd," continued Maher. "We are anxious to put on our hard hats so that the public will once again have access to the museum!"

The original museum building, owned by the City of Bridgeport is listed in the National Register of Historic Places and is being considered for National Historic Landmark designation by the National Parks and Department of Interior.

The Fairfield County Community Foundation promotes the growth of community and regional philanthropy to improve the quality of life throughout Fairfield County. Individuals, families, corporations and organizations can establish charitable funds and contribute to existing funds. The Foundation also provides philanthropic advisory services, and develops and leads initiatives to tackle critical community issues. It is in compliance with the Council on Foundations' national standards for community foundations. The Foundation has awarded over \$123 million in grants to nonprofits in Fairfield County and beyond. For more information, visit www.fccfoundation.org.

The Barnum Museum is closed in order to preserve the collection and repair the building structure following tornado damage suffered last summer. None of the exhibits illustrating P.T. Barnum's extraordinary business and personal accomplishments will be open until a to be determined time. Before planning a visit, please check the website www.barnum-museum.org or call 203-331-1104 to learn some of the many interesting facts or history related to P.T. Barnum.