



The Barnum Museum receives a \$20,000 grant just in time from the Fairfield County Community Foundation

The Fairfield County Community Foundation (FCCF) announced today an award of \$20,000 to The Barnum Museum. The grant will be used to support the museum's general operating budget and comes right when it is needed the most to continue programming, maintain the landmark building and help support administrative and marketing expenses. The museum is an outstanding educational resource for the local community, visitors from out of town and schools who come to learn about P.T. Barnum and his nineteenth century epic in America.

“This year, many of our contributions have dropped or simply disappeared due to the challenging economic times that we are all sharing,” expressed a concerned Kathy Maher, Executive Director and Curator of The Barnum Museum. “We are very grateful to FCCF for recognizing the general operating needs of the museum and our cultural colleagues, and we appreciate FCCF's trust and support by helping us continue to serve the community with enriching educational programs.”

“The grant will be used to maintain current staff levels, hours of operation and to cover normal curatorial expenses for preservation of the collection. In addition, funds will enable the museum to strengthen its program capacity and broaden partnerships and our identity in the community. FCCF funds will help the museum maintain management excellence and fiscal accountability through staffing, governance and policy,” continued Maher.

About Fairfield County Community Foundation: 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 \$110 million in grants to nonprofits in Fairfield County and beyond. For more information, visit www.fccfoundation.org.

About the Barnum Museum: Opened in 1893 and dedicated to the preservation and interpretation of Bridgeport's industrial and social history as well as the life and times of Phineas Taylor Barnum, showman, former mayor of Bridgeport and member of the Connecticut General Assembly. There are three floors of fascinating exhibits that illustrate the extraordinary business and personal accomplishments of P. T. Barnum, who was born July 5, 1810 in Bethel and died April 7, 1891 in Bridgeport. The museum includes period rooms; decorative arts; a 3,000 piece miniature circus; a 4,000 year old Egyptian mummy; Baby Bridgeport, Barnum's favorite pachyderm; memorabilia from the diminutive Tom Thumb; a gallery dedicated to Jenny Lind, the “Swedish Nightingale” and much more. The original museum building, designed by the architectural firm Longstaff and Hurd, is listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

For more information about The Barnum Museum, visit www.barnum-museum.org or call 203-331-1104.

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