

# Boston Children's Museum

308 Congress Street

**Atlas Stores**, 1890/ c. 1893  
Morton D. Safford

**Museum Addition**, 2006  
*Architect:*  
Cambridge Seven Associates  
*Landscape architect:*  
Michael Van Falkenburgh

88,000 sf. ft. exhibit space

Aimee Naranjo





**History** - The Boston Children's Museum was founded by a group of Boston teachers over 100 years ago. There was a passion to create a place for children to learn and experience things hands-on. Over the years, the museum has resided in large mansions, schools, and memorial buildings, until moving to Fort Point Channel in 1979. The museum is housed in a historic building, the former Atlas stores wool warehouse of the Boston Wharft Co., designed by Morton D. Safford in 1890 and c. 1893. In 2006, the museum was renovated and expanded to the 88,000 sf. ft. of exhibition space open to visitors. A new glass-enclosed entrance was added to the front, along with 23,000 sq. ft. of new exhibit space and a new theater as well as a landscaped park. This expansion won LEED Gold certification, making the Boston Children's Museum the first green museum in Boston.



**Urban Context** - The Boston Children's Museum's Fort Point location has proven to be very successful because of easy access and other attractions nearby, such as historic Fort Point, the Boston Tea Party Ships & Museum, the Institute of Contemporary Art and the Boston Society of Architects, among others. Public transportation including South Station and the Silver Line Courthouse stop are only 5-minute walks away. The Harborwalk, interstate highway access and parking are in close proximity.



## Character-Defining Elements

The Boston Children's Museum faces Fort Point Channel and the Harborwalk. As part of the 2007 museum addition landscape architect Michael Van Falkenburgh designed the Smith Family Waterfront Park. The rich array of hardscape and landscaped areas include large marble blocks, a leafy garden path and an open lawn. Located along the Congress Street side of the museum is the H. P. Hood Milk Bottle Café, a 1934 wood frame, Roadside Fantasy architectural icon.

Collections in the museum include Natural History, Ancient World, and Native American. Popular are the interactive exhibits, such as Art Studio, Construction Zone and Investigate.