



Charlotte Nature Museum







# 70 Years of Natural Wonder





**Circa 1955**

*Image used courtesy of the James Peeler Collection, Inez Moore Parker Archives, Johnson C. Smith University.*





Circa 1965





Circa 1977





# Current Charlotte Nature Museum and Freedom Park



Charlotte  
Nature Museum



# Charlotte Nature Museum Today | Exterior





# Charlotte Nature Museum Today | Interior







# Community Needs

- Improve service to the growing Mecklenburg County population
- Meet growing educational demands in STEM
- Provide greater economic accessibility





# Listening and Learning

- **Regional and national research** - Nature Centers, Zoos, Preserves
- **Site examination** - CNM site, Park and Greenway
- **Competitor research** - NC and SC cities
- **Conversations** - 75+ Stakeholders, Educators, Neighbors, County staff, CNM Members, Parents and Children





## Thoughts from Stakeholders

I want to see this place ‘brought back,’ you’d be surprised at the effect it had on children and the choices they made for their future and what they would study. I’m just very passionate about this place and have been coming all my life, I’d like to continue to come here.

*CNM neighbor*





## Thoughts from Stakeholders

My children love the fairy garden here, they're so used to having things fed to them, that there's such potential for imaginative mindfulness here, let this be a place where imaginations fill in the blanks.

*CNM stakeholder*





# Existing Land Use Map





# Charlotte Nature Museum Future



## LEGEND:

- 1 ENTRY COURT
- 2 MUSEUM BUILDING
- 3 COMMUNITY INTERSECTION
- 4 WOODLAND GARDEN
- 5 OUTDOOR ANIMALS
- 6 FOREST FLOOR
- 7 SERVICE
- 8 PARKING

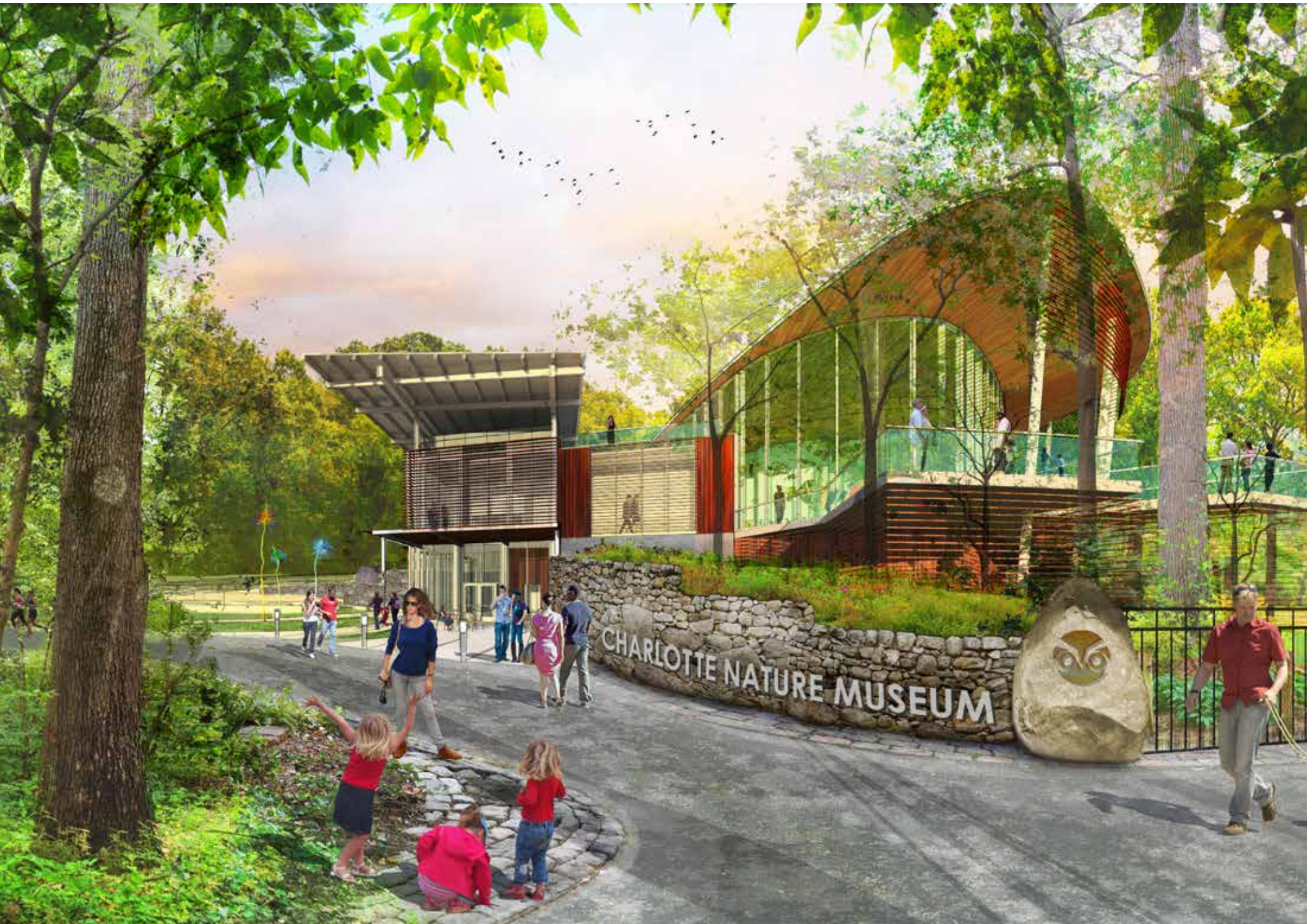


# Let's Take a Tour





# View from Little Sugar Creek Greenway Bridge



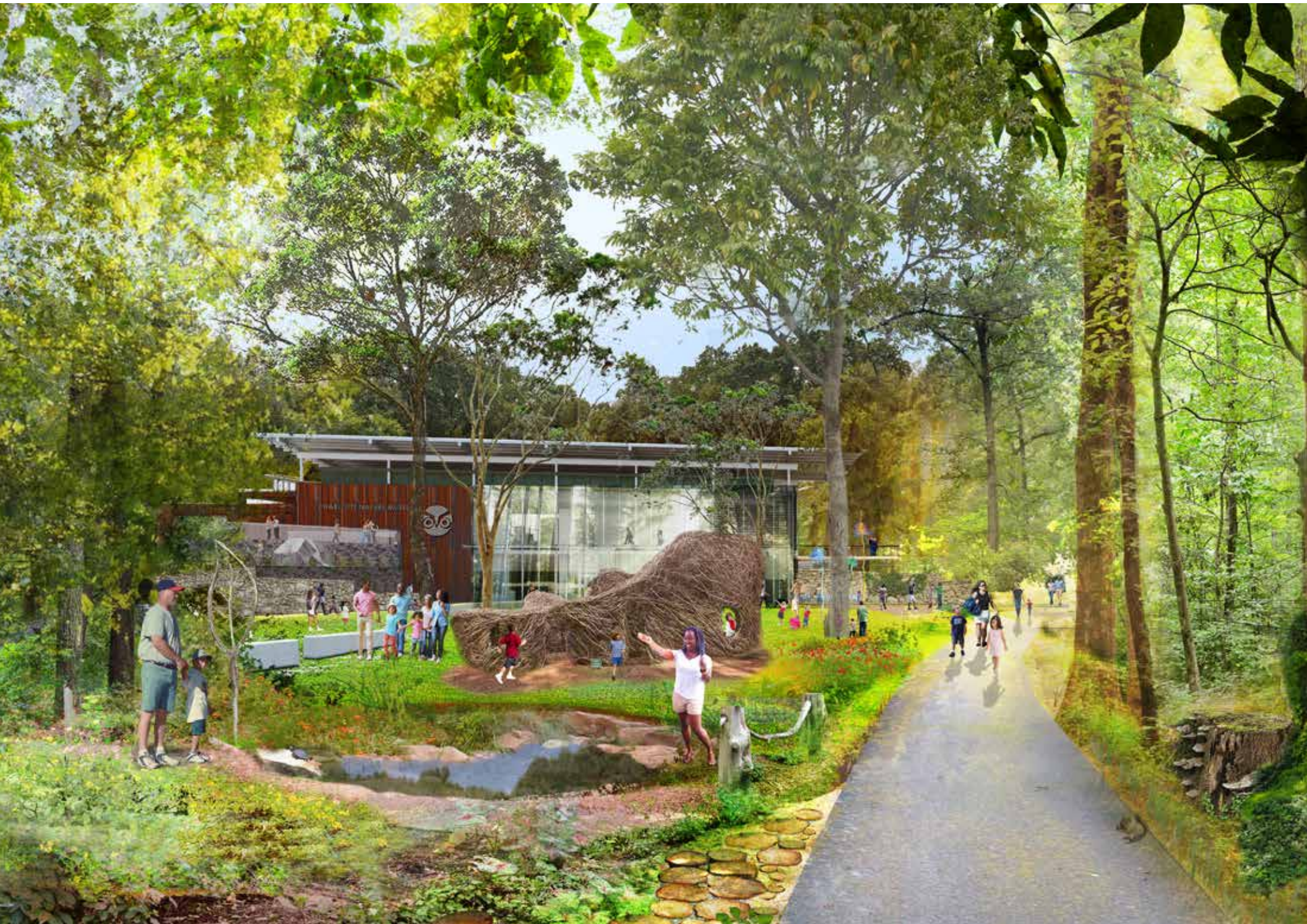


# Building Integration into Site





# Woodland Garden at the Greenway





# Inside the New Museum





# Outdoor Experiences | Otters | Canopy Walk







# Charlotte Nature Museum

## TODAY

13,000 sf facility

Limited use of outdoor space (40%)

Limited access from Park and Greenway

Focused on early childhood audience

65,000 local visitors

## FUTURE

29,000 sf facility

Activates the full campus (95%)

Integrated with Park and Greenway

Expands to serve visitors of all ages

160,000 regional visitors





# The New Charlotte Nature Museum

## Budget

Building, Parking and Site	\$14.3 million
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Exhibitions, Experiences and Programming	\$12.2 million
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Endowment	\$ 2.2 million
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<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$28.7 million</b>
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# The New Charlotte Nature Museum

## Timeline

**2015** DP strategic agenda to address facility needs  
Master Plan for CNM

**2016** 70th anniversary of CNM

**2018** Construction begins

**2020** New CNM opens

**2021** 75th anniversary of CNM



Time in nature is not leisure time; it's an essential investment in our children's health (and also, by the way, in our own).

**Richard Louv,**

*Last Child in the Woods:  
Saving Our Children from  
Nature-Deficit Disorder*

