The National Comedy Hall of Fame ® Museum and Library a 501 C-3 non-profit corporation

May 21, 2025

Operations Team:

Tony Belmont; President

Amanda Cattel; General Manager

Mark Heidt, Vice President / Communications

Primary Contact Information:

Mark Heidt cell and text (727) 459-7329

Mark Email: Mediawiz7@yahoo.com

Mark Adress: 12348 Wetlands East Drive #108

Orlando Florida 32828

www.nationalcomedyhalloffame.com

A Not-for-Profit Corporation

Development Concept for the Main Library Clearwater, Florida

Submission By:

The National Comedy Hall of Fame Museum and Library a 501 C-3 non-profit corporation

May 19, 2025

Cover Letter

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Concept Overview.

The National Comedy Hall of Fame ® Museum ("CHOF"), a 501 C-3 not for profit corporation, uniquely offers exactly what the City of Clearwater is looking for to redevelop the Clearwater Library and meet its goals to revitalize the community, both economically with tremendous increase in visitors and local spending, and national visibility and identification as a go to destination with daily and week-long hotel bookings, achieving the goals for integration with and compatible synergy with Coachman Park and the Hilton Tapestry.

Lease Space Request Size:

10,000 square feet or one floor whichever is greater. First Floor preferred.

Lease Term and Rent Payment

The preferred term is the maximum allowed, with a ten-year minimum.

The rent per year is One Dollar (\$1.00) per year for as long as operated for stated non-profit use.

Utilities, water, sewer, electricity, garbage, telephone landline access, internet access, HVAC and maintenance to be included at no charge.

Request 10 reserved parking spaces, but not mandatory.

To be discussed building and road signage

Build out is negotiable - this is a plug and play design so build out costs are minimal for the city.

Access to restrooms during business hours. Cleaning to be paid for by City.

General Public and ADA access are needed 7 days a week from 8AM to 10PM. If other than first floor working elevator, access is needed during those hours. City provides building security and common area maintenance and lighting.

Team Experience

The primary members of the Museum team with a fine assembly of college interns are as follows:

Tony Belmont; President. Mr. Belmont is considered one of the foremost experts on comedy and was chosen by the Smithsonian Institute to interview all the great comedians. He has been a member of the well-known NY Friars club for 40 years where he was director of major events at the facility and fund raising. He has been a judge in Comedy Festivals around the United States, Canada & the UK. He is on the board for the American Museum Association where he has assisted in designs for other museums. He has designed the Museum from an empty room to a fully operating museum appreciated by the thousands of attendees that have visited the museum. Given just an empty space with the help of staff and volunteers he will design an impressive museum, which he has done several times in the past decades. He will take a hands-on approach to the operations of the museum. He began his career in the entertainment and amusement attractions as industry assistant to Irwin

Rosenthal, President of the World-Famous Palisade Amusement Park. As President of Alan Freed Productions, produced hundreds of live concerts the past fifty-five years. Mr. Belmont has and will produce and direct the National Comedy award shows, originating in part and showcasing the host city Clearwater, providing the city with millions in free national advertising.

Mark Heidt, Vice President. Mr. Heidt, a graduate of Syracuse University (Business Management) and Stetson University College of Law, (Juris Doctorate, with honors in commercial transactions) has a multi-talented background that fits the museum perfectly. Recognized as one of the top mass marketing experts and award-winning video producer, he was the pioneer in the production of infomercials for network television, having produced in a 25-year span, over 30 multi-million-dollar revenue generating shows. Mr. Barry Diller (QVC/Home Shopping Network), then CEO of Fox, was so impressed with Mr. Heidt's production he allowed Mr. Heidt to be the first and only producer to run infomercials on the FOX TV Network. Mr. Heidt will oversee the accounting department, revenues, including production of special events such as a comedy festival, advertising, fundraising, interaction with the host city, and certifying the votes for induction into the Comedy Hall of Fame.

Amanda Cattel: General Manager; Ms. Cattel has completed a BS degree from St. Petersburg College, and a master's degree in graphic and computer science from Cooper Union College in NYC. She came to work at the museum as an intern many years ago. Her love of history and research has been a valued asset as new information is constantly needed, and accuracy is vital when displaying historical facts and people. She was promoted to Assistant Museum manager and then later to Museum Manager. She has worked on new projects that she initiated such as the "Chitlin Circuit" the history of great black comedians and the Borscht Belt, the history of the Great Jewish comedians that began their careers in that part of the country. She will be the General Manager running day to day operations to include the exhibits and the employee's / interns / volunteers.

Corporate Information –

State of Florida Department of State Certifies that

COMEDY HALL OF FAME, INC. is a corporation organized under the laws of the State of Florida, filed on July 18, 1994. The document number of this corporation is N9400003594.

Membership and Recognition:

Library of Congress
New York Friars Club
American Association of Museums
Smithsonian Institute
American Museum of Natural History
National Trust for Historic Preservation
Hall of Fame Association
Greater Showmen's Association
Ellis Island Foundation
Edgar Allan Poe Museum
Colonial Williamsburg / Founders Member
National Geographic Society
National Chamber of Commerce
Human Society of the United States
L.A. Friars Club Alumni





Federal Trademark on the Principal register of the United States Sections 8 & 15 were filed on March 29, 2019. It has been renewed till July 1, 2033 which covers the entire United States and is superior to any States trademark. Both Comedy Hall of Fame and National Comedy Hall of Fame are Trademarked

CHOF also holds a Federal Trademark in Canada 2028, and a Federal Trademark in The UK and Ireland and a state trademark in New York, New Jersey, Vermont, Ohio, Delaware, Arizona, Georgia, Idaho, Maryland, Minnesota, Missouri, New Hampshire, New Mexico, West Virginia.



Your Annual Form 990-N(e-Postcard) has been submitted to the IRS

- Organization Name: COMEDY HALL OF FAMEI NC
- EIN:593278967
- Tax filings are current

Development and Operational Plan

THE CONCEPT

Why did the chicken and its family cross the road from Coachman Park /Hilton Tapestry?

To spend a fun and educational day at **The National Comedy Hall of Fame ® Museum** across the way at the redesigned Main Library in Clearwater

Every destination to draw visitors needs its 'SeaWorld' "Shamu" and **The National Comedy** Hall of Fame ® Museum ("CHOF") will be your Shamu, worth its weight in gold.

With its prestige and drawing power, the CHOF has been offered various locations, some willing to pay to bring the museum to their location, and many offer a \$1 a year rental plus incentives. However, the CHOF team members are 50 year plus longtime residents of the Tampa Bay community, and it has always been the goal to located in our beloved Tampa Bay area.

Clearwater has always been known as a "best beach" but as Rodney Dangerfield's famous comedy line goes, the downtown area gets no respect. It is our hope that with the addition of The National Comedy Hall of Fame ®, the recognition of the City of Clearwater downtown as a 'more than a beach destination' will be achieved.

In discussing the "concept" please understand that the CHOF is a reality, not a 'concept', it is an existing long time 501 C-3 not for profit corporation. The museum passed the concept stage over 32 years ago when it was <u>designated as the official museum of</u> comedy history for the United States.

The museum mission is pure. It was designed to **educate** and preserve the history of **American comedy and share this history with the 'general public**', while doing it in an **entertaining fashion**. It was designed as a **family-oriented facility for all ages** and to stay current by introducing new national comedians that have reached a national performance level. **Each year members of the NY Friars Club vote on who will be inducted into the Comedy Hall of Fame. The most prestigious award in comedy!**

There is also the "Charlie Chaplin" award for the best comedy play. The last one was televised from the prestigious Kennedy Center in Washington DC. Both awards have been on National news and television many times bringing \$1 to \$2 million dollars a year to the host city in free national publicity.

During its early years the staff and wonderful college volunteers spent years researching the history of the six elements of comedy which have served as the basis for the museum. Which are: Vaudeville, Stand-up, Theater, Film, Radio, and Television.

The museum director had been previously hired by the Smithsonian in the seventies to interview all the famous remaining comedians in their homes. This project was to document their lives and video tape the interviews. This not only created the amazing collection for the Library of Congress known as the "American Comedy Experience" but has provided the present museum with one of a kind rare interviews of comedian icons!

Why now the relocation to Clearwater?

From perfect storm to perfect timing

The opportunity to locate a new home for the CHOF arises from the perfect 'storm' of Covid and the hurricanes.

With a successful run at John's Pass in Maderia Beach, the team realized expansion was needed and relocated it to Holiday Florida. After a year of growth and investment, CHOF was about to really blossom, with attendance growing and tour bookings on the rise.

The museum has been operating in Holiday Florida. Covid had taken its toll as the museum, as all museums were deemed by the State to be 'No-essential" and hence had to close its doors after operating for just 2 months. During the 2 months of operation traffic began to develop and tours were being booked.

For a visual history of this click the link for the Spectrum News report on the CHOF, which shows the museum operations at its location in Holiday.

https://www.baynews9.com/fl/tampa/news/2020/12/22/national-comedy-hall-of-fame-weathers-pandemic-to-stay-open

This interruption for several months impacted on the gains, and a "restart" was attempted, and again there was signs once again of success. Then came the storms of the century to the Tampa Bay area. Some items of the museum were damaged, but most importantly, moving became impractical with many potential locations damaged in the storm. The lease at Holiday finished course and with a search beginning for a new location, with the preference being the Tampa Bay Area.

President Kennedy reminded us that crisis is two sided. One is danger. We've experienced that side. The other is opportunity and now the sun is shining and the opportunity for the City of Clearwater and the CHOF is "perfect timing".

Design and Construction Responsibility.

Approximately \$60,000 (sixty thousand dollars) is needed for the transport and installation of the exhibits and utility connections, all of which can be done by our contractors. It would be appreciated if the City of Clearwater could cover these costs, but not essential requirement.

Estimated Project Schedule.

From Approval it will take between four and six months to be assembled, operational and open to the public. The sooner the better as to a start date once approval granted.

Project Narrative.

What would the rental space look like?

The CHOF design is "plug and play" with innovative design features.

The exhibits are in interlocking display cases in modular fashion that can be moved easily to and moved into the location. The design allows visitors to move through the museum at their own pace with wide aisels for family and Ada needs.

Picture being worth a thousand words here is a <u>link to a feature story</u> on the museum that **gives a very good visual** of what the museum looks like once assembled.

Bay News9 On a Tankful

https://www.mynews13.com/fl/orlando/florida-on-a-tankful/2021/03/04/florida-on-a-tankful-finding-some-laughs-history-at-national-comedy-hall-of-fame

We are also including our "Executive Summary" sheet with pictures to further highlight the museum.

Executive Summary

The **National Comedy Hall of Fame** is acknowledged by the Library of Congress as the <u>only official</u> Comedy Hall of Fame of the United States. There is something very special about being able to offer the inductees the title "Hall of Famer"

(CHOF) is a Florida Not for Profit corporation, doing business as

The National Comedy Hall of Fame (Trademark). It is a 501 C (3) IRS approved non-profit for education, museum, library and can qualify for federal, state, local and private foundation grant programs and subsidies, awards, stimulus payments, EIDL loans and Payroll Protection Program funds, it can also borrow money, from lending institutions and individuals, including the Small Business Administration (SBA), with special low rates.

The National Comedy Hall of Fame Museum, Inc. (CHOF) has gained the **support of:**



hundreds of famous comedians and members of the entertainment industry. It is recognized as the official Comedy Hall of Fame in the United States

by such prestigious organizations as the White House, the American Museum Association, the Smithsonian Institute, and the Los Angeles *Friars Club*.

The **Museum collection** is valued at over **3 million dollars** with original

memorabilia, artifacts, books, recordings, and exhibits.

COF has a federal service mark (Class 41) (U.S. CLS 100, 101, 107) for its logo and name National Comedy Hall of Fame It owns the domain and web site, National Comedy Hall of Fame.com

While Florida is an ideal location for this attraction, all the exhibits are easily transported.





As a 501 (3) the Comedy Hall of Fame, Inc. can accept donations, give tax deduction letter to donors for in kind (memorabilia, education material) and cash contributions. The 501 (3) status makes the Comedy Hall of Fame an ideal candidate for individuals and estates of deceased entertainers and industry related businesses to donate memorabilia and obtain a tax

benefit on both individual, corporate and estate tax liabilities.

Even though the Comedy Hall of Fame, Inc. is a notfor-profit corporation, it may legally **engage in profit making activities such as licensing right, advertising space on its marketing materials and spots in its television broadcasts, sponsorships, memberships with various**

participation levels,
admissions fees, and
merchandising of products at
the museum and on -line at its
web site. CHOFis permitted to
pay salaries, wages,
commissions, bonuses, fees,
and other
renumeration to its

employees, contract labor, **Directors, Officers,**Professionals, and or contractors for services rendered,



Managers, Consultants,

There are almost unlimited future opportunities with the demand for *content creation* and *on-line streaming* and specialty platforms such as Netflix, Hulu, Yahoo, Amazon, Prime, It fits many categories such as comedy, kids, history and nostalgia.

More Video for your review

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7stCrS04noQ

Project Innovations

Since the museum director had been previously hired by the Smithsonian in the seventies to interview all the famous comedians remaining in their homes. This project was to document their lives and video tape the interviews. This not only created the amazing collection for the Library of Congress known as the "American Comedy Experience" but provided the present museum with one of a kind rare interviews of comedian icons!

In the picture below are the touch screens for visitors to play and listen to the various interviews and educational information.



Financial Plan.

Financial Advantages for City of Clearwater

Long Term Commitment and Success

No major Hall of Fame has ever gone out of business

The average entrance fee is \$17.50 while we are charging \$12.00 with an average of \$10.00 which is well below the market price. Leaving plenty of room to adjust.

Our ability to be on national television surpasses all the Hall of Fame's. combined.

This is a turnkey operation!

National Media Exposure

The induction ceremonies are normally broadcast on national television and social media sites with a large audience viewing.

The Tampa Bay area has many ideal locations for the induction events such as Ruth Eckerd Hall and Coachman Park that will draw a sell –out crowd. The Tapestry Hotel will benefit with room bookings for the event. This is free major media world-wide publicity for the city and is worth its weight in gold.

Marketing and Public Relations

The CHOF will be doing extensive advertising through the nation in internet sites, hotel brochures, and our association with the American Automobile Association Travel Division.

With aggressive marketing and public relations efforts, emphasizing the history and demographic appeal of the Museum,

The National Comedy Hall of Fame Museum will sponsor annual fund-raising events such as The National Comedy Hall of Fame Museum Comedians Golf Tournament and other events, which will encourage celebrity participation by famous comedians and others in the entertainment industry.

Demographic "Visitor to area" advantage Anchor Draw for Other Business Development

The National Comedy Hall of Fame Museum **expects to host approximately 80,000** visitors in its first year of operation with growth the following years.

The National Comedy Hall of Fame, Inc. is an "anchor" attraction and unlike sports, art, history, science and other museum themes, "Comedy" is enjoyed universally, by all demographics. CHOF is a venue for entertainment, education, and preservation of history. Comedy history is part of the American experience it is our culture. Especially important is our focus on women in comedy and Black history. Comedy connects all media from stage to screen to radio, records, movies and all the modern social media and internet streaming.

The display collection has over 2 million dollars of memorabilia with another 1 million dollars in storage. The CHOF recently received a donation from the <u>Humor Foundation for its</u> collection of over one million dollars' worth of rare historical comedy documents. The addition of a "library" for research and education is planned.

Perfect for <u>day visits</u>, <u>community group tours</u>, <u>school tours</u>, <u>makes the CHOF a true must-</u> see venue.

Tourist Visit Projections

The first year (2025) projected National Comedy Hall of Fame Museum attendance is:

80,000 Attendees

To calculate the projected museum attendance, we used the demographics associated with the location. The displays are designed to be easily disassembled, moved, and reassembled. The diverse audience appeal and being "national" the museum *can* attract a large visitor population. It is a perfect draw for other businesses, especially hotels and restaurants and other area entertainment venues such as theme- based board walks and amusement parks.

Climate and weather appear to play a role in an attraction's ability to maximize attendance. Based on the experience of comparable museum facilities, favorable year-round climate and weather generally contribute to greater attendance. The Tampa Bay area enjoys moderate weather conditions, which should benefit The National Comedy Hall of Fame Museum in generating good year-round attendance

Of course, there are all the other area "attraction" draws that will support the Comedy Hall of Fame – Disney World, Sea World, Universal Studios, Florida Citrus Tower, and the many universities and colleges in the area.

Employment and Staffing

The National Comedy is integrated into the host community by hiring from that community, using local volunteers, making any purchases from purveyors operating in the community, and giving back 10% of the net profits annually to be used for civic projects in the city.

The CHOF projects will employ:

Full time staff for visitor assistance

Maintenance

sales and marketing

full-time curator and assistant

Librarian

Operations management, legal & Accounting

Event personnel

Volunteers and student interns

Hours of Operation and Peak Attendance Months

The museum is designed to operate on a year -round basis closing only on Christmas day and Thanksgiving Day.

Revenue Sources

Admissions revenue is based on the following elements:

- 1) The admission price schedule
- 2) The estimated annual attendance entering the museum at full price
- 3) The estimated annual attendance entering the museum at group prices.
- 4) The estimated mix and age category of the attendees

				Ticket Sales
CHOF		Projection	Average	Gross
Monthly % of	Total	Attendance	Ticket Price	Revenue
January	10.20%	8160	\$10.00	\$81,600.00
February	11.00%	8800	\$10.00	\$88,000.00
March	11.60%	9280	\$10.00	\$92,800.00
April	11.60%	9280	\$10.00	\$92,800.00
May	4.30%	3440	\$10.00	\$34,400.00
June	4.80%	3840	\$10.00	\$38,400.00
July	6.30%	5040	\$10.00	\$50,400.00
August	7.60%	6080	\$10.00	\$60,800.00
September	8.30%	6640	\$10.00	\$66,400.00
October	7.20%	5760	\$10.00	\$57,600.00
November	8.10%	6480	\$10.00	\$64,800.00
December	9.00%	7200	\$10.00	\$72,000.00
total	100.00%	80000	total	\$800,000.00
attendance	total	80000		

Dear Tony,

This letter is in response to your request to develop a dollar value for public relations exposure.

After reviewing the newspaper clippings and video tape and based on your list of 281 newspapers and your assurance of regional and national exposure on radio and television, a 1 million to 2 million dollar value is realistic. Although there is no way that you can guarantee that kind of exposure, we do feel that the subject matter of internationally known comedians has mass appeal to the public and therefore the media.

Sincerely,

Cedar Hames

Vice President/Client Services Director

FLONIDA DEPARTMENT OF

Secretary of State

Mr. Tony Belmont National Comedy Hall of Fame Post Office Box 20492 Saint Petersburg, Florida 33742

Dear Mr. Belmont

It is my pleasure to hereby endorse the Comedy Hall of Fame. I feel this would be a wonderful addition to the state of Florida and its tourism industry. I hope that you and your organization will continue your pursuit to make our great state the permanent home for the Comedy Hall of Fame.

Sincerely Martha

As you can see, the management of The National Comedy Hall of Fame has established a very competitive - family priced admission schedule as shown in Table F.

(Table F) Th	(Table F) The general admission price schedule	
Category	A	Admission Price
Adults (Ages 18-	54)	\$12.00
Senior Citizens (A	Ages 55 and over)	8.25
Children and Students (Ages 5 to 17)		6.00
Group Admission / ten people or more (1.00 off regular price)		
Children under 5 with the purchase of an adult admissio		FREE
Military personnel in Uniform		FREE
Members		FREE

The mix of attendance is estimated to be:

The estimated attendance mix for the National Comedy Hall of Fame is presented below:

- (1) We feel that 91 percent of the attendees at The National Comedy Hall of Fame Museum will be general admissions.
- (2) We feel that group admissions will represent five (5) percent of The National Comedy Hall of Fame Museum's total admissions.
- (3) Member admissions for the National Comedy Hall of Fame Museum are estimated to represent one (1) percent of total attendance.

(4) Free admissions due to children under 5, military, disabled etc. We have estimated that three (3) percent of total attendance would be represented by free admission.

	Attendance Category	<u> </u>	Percentage of Total	al
(1)	General Admissions		91 %	
(2)	Group Admissions		5 %	
(3)	Members		1 %	
(4)	Children under 5 / Military admissions	_	3 %	
		Total	100 %	

The percentage of paid admissions by age category for general and group admissions is estimated to be:

<u>(</u>	General Admissions	Group Admissions
Adults (Ages 18-54)	67 %	5 %
Senior Citizens (Ages 55 and over)	15 %	5 %
Children and Young Adults (age 5-17	7) 15 %	5 %
Free admissions	3 %	<u>0 %</u>
Total	100 %	100 %

Licensing Revenue

Licensing the National Comedy Hall of Fame name, images and trademark offers substantial income and promotional potential. In addition to the opportunity to extend the Comedy Hall of Fame name into a broad range of carefully targeted products, many of which would supply the Comedy Hall of Fame and Museum gift shops, satellite franchise stores and other merchandising venues as they develop.

Everyone, no matter what their age, has their own special recollection of comedy. This gives the Comedy Hall of Fame and Museum the opportunity to license a wide category of products

Television "special event" Broadcast

Annual awards and induction show.

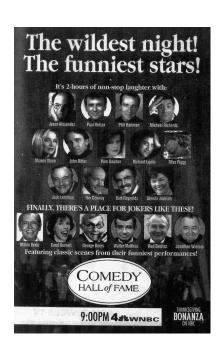
The National Comedy Hall of Fame has and will continue to **produce** a **Hall of Fame Awards Induction Show** *f*or broadcast as a special event on Television and/ or other media platforms such as cable, pay per view, streaming, Prime, and Netflix.

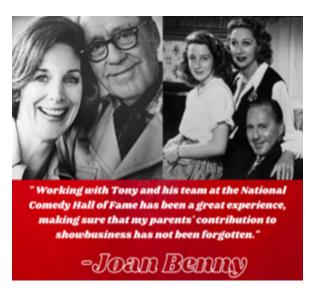
The show honors comedy legends of the past and famous contemporary comedians.

Every year, an honor board of over 130 voting members comprised of comedians and distinguished members of the entertainment industry vote by confidential ballot to nominate and elect new inductees into The National Comedy Hall of Fame.

The induction ceremony has been televised 'live' during prime- time hours on national television.

Millions of viewers will watch the show, which surely will attract international media coverage and help promote visitation to The National Comedy Hall of Fame







Area Development

The CHOF will not only draw visitors – and attention to the area as a "GO TO" family destination, (without the commercialism of "Disney" et al), without destroying the basic downtown and surrounding community development, it will attract other commercial enterprises such as hotels, restaurants, and local shops.

The CHOF will be the perfect addition to Coachman Park and the entertainment venues therein, as the CHOF is a perfect place to go before or after other events. It is an obvious slam dunk for the proposed Tapestry Hotel, which can be the CHOF hotel of choice. The association of their trademark and the trademark of CHOF will amplify the prestige of the area.

Community Impact

There will be a huge positive Community impact in the perception of the downtown area, willingness for other businesses to invest, people to move to the area and invest in housing. CHOF will also promote the arts and education as it is not just an attraction but an actual museum and library, it just happens to be a lot of fun to visit and enjoy.

Donations and Grants /Capital /partnership opportunities

As a 501 C-3 organization the CHOF is eligible to receive grant funding – including joint grants for the CHOF and the City of Clearwater.

The CHOF is also eligible to receive donations from private companies and individuals and can issue a tax letter reflecting the donation. Not only does the CHOF receive cash donations but receives in kind donations, especially from the estates of performers with various costumes and performance materials.

As a library the CHOF has received and will continue to receive historical and research materials.

While not required, it is requested that the City of Clearwater provide some initial funding for the restart of operations, approximately \$50,0000 (Fifty thousand dollars).

Final Thoughts - Why the CHOF proposal should be approved:

The CHOF proposed use of the property is:

In Alignment with CRA and Strategic Plan goals

Has a proven track record of Financial and operational feasibility

Presents Innovation and design quality in its exhibit designs and the technology

There will be a huge positive Community impact i

Has huge Partnership potential

Giving back 10% of the net profits annually to be used for civic projects in the city.

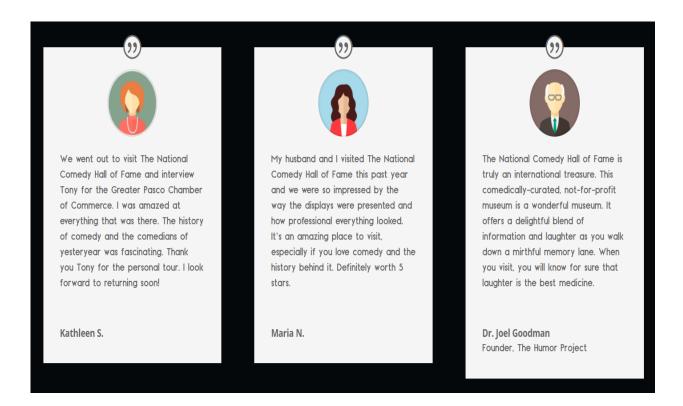
It is already in existence and is 501 C-3 not for profit

The National Comedy Hall of Fame Museum advantage over other traditional museums is *as stated* in the words of the late Morey Amsterdam (a former member of The Comedy Hall of Fame, Inc., honor board):

"Comedy crosses all levels of society, all ages, both genders, all languages."

And Most of all

People truly enjoy the museum experience - just of few of the testimonials:



On behalf of team, I thank you for this opportunity to present our proposal and for your consideration for what can be a fantastic addition to the Clearwater Community .

- Tony Belmont, President and Director