

PARTLY FINISHED MONSTROCITY OPENS NEXT TO CITY MUSEUM

St. Louis Post-Dispatch (MO) - July 6, 2002

- Author/Byline: Robert W. Duffy Of The Post-Dispatch
- Edition: FIVE STAR LIFT
- Section: NEWS
- Page: 10
- Readability: 11-12 grade level (Lexile: 1250)

* Bob Cassilly had hoped to have all elements of the elaborate outdoor playground ready by July 4.

MonstroCity, artist-entrepreneur Bob Cassilly's huge, elaborate outdoor aerial playground next door to his City Museum, is only partially finished. It was scheduled for completion on July 4 - and a free party to introduce it to the public went ahead as planned.

But most of the main elements of the attraction - "the fun stuff" in Cassilly's words - are not yet ready for visitors to play on, to climb in or crawl through.

That includes a church tower Cassilly calls a castle, an old airplane out of which paper airplanes could be launched, an elevated firetruck, and a crawl-through tunnel like a giant Slinky.

"I have 20 people working on it, and we will get it open as soon as possible. In a couple of weeks, we will have it significantly completed," Cassilly said. "Everything has to be safe, from half a dozen points of view.

"All bets are off when you go into something like this. I thought it would be done by now, but we have to triple-check everything to be compliant."

Cassilly plans to charge \$2.50 per person for MonstroCity, but for now, visitors can walk around on some of the intricately constructed lower passageways and watch the work in progress for free. When complete, the MonstroCity ticket fee would be on top of the \$7.50 admission to the City Museum at 701 North 15th Street.

- Caption: PHOTOPhoto by SAM LEONE/POST-DISPATCH - Urban playground is a work in progress Matthew Gaus, 10, arrives at the top of a platform at MonstroCity next to the City Museum on Friday. Matthew is the son of Joe and Cindy Gaus of Detroit. The Gaus family is visiting friends in Clayton.

- Index terms: ENTERTAINMENT RECREATION CHILDREN PLAY
- Record: 0207060321
- Copyright: Copyright (c) 2002 St. Louis Post-Dispatch