

THE COMMERCIAL OBSERVER

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Prospective Tenants

N.Y.C. + Math Museum = Fun!

Hedge funder hires Denham Wolf in bid for pocket-protector Olympus

BY DANA RUBINSTEIN

Italy has the Garden of Archimedes. Germany has Mathematikum. The United States? In an apparent reflection of its low regard for the subject matter, the United States has zero museums devoted to mathematics.

Until 2011. That's when math Ph.D. and former hedge funder **Glen Whitney** plans to open a permanent museum of math in New York City. To that end, Mr. Whitney has hired **Denham Wolf**, a brokerage that specializes in working with nonprofits, to find the museum a home.

Mathematical requirements for the museum: 15,000 to 20,000 square feet of ground-floor space, tall ceilings and wide columns, according to **Leroy Li**, the Denham Wolf broker, former engineer and self-described "geek" helping Mr. Whitney in his search. Non-mathematical requirement: a high-visibility location.

"The fact is, there's no place to get excited about math, and that's what we're going to try to supply," said Mr. Whitney, who got his Ph.D. in math from UCLA and bachelor's degree in math from Harvard, and who has a tendency to wax poetic when discussing a subject that more often

than not sends waves of drowsiness over American students.

"It's not just about whether I can add these fractions," Mr. Whitney said. "It tells us how trees and flowers grow, how we should arrange roads and lights to ensure traffic flows well.

"There's intrinsic beauty and fun and excitement just in the pursuit of math."

But just what is a museum of math?

When Mr. Whitney first began spreading word of his plans, people would ask, "What would you put in a museum of math, dusty old notebooks, or Archimedes' compass?" Mr. Whitney recalled. "We decided to show people."

And so he created Math Midway, a roving math museum that has, among other exhibits, a square-wheeled tricycle that demonstrates the mathematical theorem, "There's a road for every wheel."

"Of course, the secret is in the math calculation that tells you the



shape of the road, which has to have certain special bumps and troughs."

Math Midway's next appearance will be on June 6 at the World Science Festival on LaGuardia Place in Manhattan.

"Our ambition is to become a national museum of mathematics," Mr. Whitney said. "For that, we're going to need a larger institution. Like everybody, we plan to be wildly successful."

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NYcrew
network
THE COMMERCIAL AND FINANCIAL OBSERVER

Join us for a private tour of the **HIGH LINE**

Date & Time: Wednesday, May 12th, 2010, 6:00 – 9:30 pm

Location: The Gansevoort Entrance @ Washington Street

TENANT:
The Museum of Mathematics

LOOKING FOR:
15,000 to 20,000 square feet

BROKER:
Denham Wolf



LIKELIHOOD WILL MOVE
(out of five)