



April 18, 2025

Hamilton City Council
223 S 2nd Street
Hamilton, MT 59840

To the Esteemed Members of the Hamilton City Council:

As the Directors of the spectrUM Discovery Area, the hands-on science museum in Missoula, we are writing to express our strong support for the Bitterroot Discovery Children's Museum (BDCM) and its proposed partnership with the City of Hamilton to utilize the Bedford Building as a permanent home.

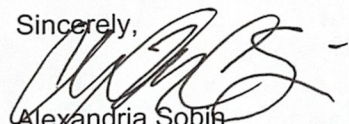
spectrUM has a long history of partnership with Anita Wotkyns and the Bitterroot Discovery Children's Museum, and throughout our decade of work in this valley, we have seen first hand the need for a community resource of this caliber. We continue to be impressed by BDCM's commitment to serving all children through education and local partnerships. Their pop-ups and community events have reached hundreds of families already, working around the limitations of not having a dedicated space. Imagine the possibilities if they were able to operate in a permanent, flexible, community-centered facility like the Bedford Building.

We know first-hand the power of hands-on, community-based learning to inspire the next generation of thinkers, makers, and problem-solvers. BDCM shares this vision, and in just a short time, they have become a powerful force for family-centered education in Ravalli County. Their work brings together children, caregivers, educators, and community partners in ways that spark curiosity and build lasting connections to the Valley.

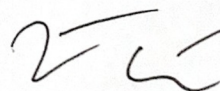
Children's museums play a vital role in the educational ecosystem. They provide low-barrier access to STEM learning and out-of-school enrichment, strengthen family engagement, and promote wellbeing. Establishing a brick-and-mortar home for BDCM would not only allow them to grow their impact—it would also signal a community-wide investment in education, innovation, and family values.

We at spectrUM have seen how transformative a space like this can be—not just for the children who walk through the doors, but for the health and vibrancy of an entire community. We wholeheartedly encourage you to support BDCM's request to partner with the City and secure use of the Bedford Building.

Sincerely,



Alexandria Sobin
Director



Nick Wethington
Associate Director

spectrUM Discovery Area

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