

LETTER OF SUPPORT

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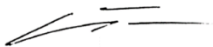
Dear City Council Members,

Thank you for accepting this letter of support for the Bitterroot Discovery Children's Museum. As a member of six generations of Hamilton residents and longtime supporter of children and education, I emphatically support the effort to bring a Children's Museum to our community. By supporting the Bitterroot Discovery Children's Museum, our community will be fostering critical thinking skills, curiosity, literacy and numeracy skills, creativity, and a love of learning. During early childhood, our children experience rapid growth in cognitive development. Cognitive development is strengthened best in learning environments that foster the aforementioned traits, further preparing children for learning later in life. The impact of quality early childhood education cannot be overstated. Through the support of our City Council, children in our community will have greater opportunities to flourish intellectually and emotionally, reducing achievement gaps in later years.

From a community standpoint, the Children's Museum will not only serve as an economic driver, it will also provide a hub for families to connect, further supporting community cohesion and pride. Children's Museums across the nation significantly contribute to local economies, amounting to \$4 Million reintroduced into local economies and generating \$5.5 Billion dollars nationwide. They also create a space where families can share quality educational experiences in a centrally located space.

Your support of this community has been invaluable. Thank you for taking the time to consider such an important community endeavor.

Respectfully,



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