



March 21, 2024

To Whom It May Concern:

As a co-founder of the Ferrysburg Community Church MOPS (Mothers of Preschoolers) group, it's my pleasure to offer this letter of support for the Grand Haven Children's Museum. I believe this new museum will be a wonderful addition to our Tri-Cities community and it's my hope that momentum and support for the museum will continue to grow.

With more than twenty moms regularly attending our group, MOPS is a place where moms come to be encouraged and supported by other moms who are in the very same season of life, of raising young children. Our meetings consist of teaching, discussion, community outreach, crafts, mentoring, and more. As a mom myself and a co-founder of this group, I am very familiar with the needs and challenges that families with young children face, and believe a children's museum would be invaluable.

Having a children's museum in our community is a statement that the community acknowledges and supports the deeply important work of caring for children. These museums are powerful places of play, learning, and connection that help kids and families thrive. These joy-filled gathering spaces are designed especially for children and offer a range of foundational experiences where children think, explore, socialize, and figure out the world. Children's museums are environments that brings kids and families together from across the community to learn not just from the museum, but also from each other.

Our moms are regularly looking for activities and experiences that enrich their children's lives, and their parenting experience through play and hands-on learning. Traveling with young kids to other communities to visit their enriching child-focused environments is difficult at a minimum and truly prohibitive for many. Having a new, local children's museum right here in our community will be an extraordinary benefit to our families, helping our kids and families thrive.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lauren Kohley".

Lauren Kohley

Co-founder, FCC MOPS Group

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