



Grand Haven Area Public Schools

March 13, 2024

To The Grand Haven City Council,

I am writing to express my enthusiastic support for the establishment of a Grand Haven Children's Museum along the Grand River. As an active member of our community and a representative of Grand Haven Area Public Schools, I believe that dedicating space for such a facility holds immense potential for the growth and development of our youth, while also contributing significantly to the cultural and economic fabric of our beautiful city.

A children's museum serves as an invaluable resource for experiential learning, filling crucial gaps in the cognitive and linguistic development of our young citizens. It is widely recognized that hands-on, interactive experiences play a pivotal role in enhancing children's brain development and language skills. By providing a space dedicated to fostering curiosity and creativity, we can contribute to the well-rounded education of our children, preparing them for a bright and promising future.

The proposed location along the river is ideal for multiple reasons. First, it offers a central and accessible spot that will attract families and visitors to the heart of our community. The presence of a children's museum will not only enhance the quality of life for our residents but will also serve as a magnet for tourists, bolstering the local economy and contributing to the vibrancy of our city. People who visit the waterfront for the museum will likely stop at the ice cream and gift shops as part of their experience. The establishment of the Grand Haven Children's Museum in this location provides a harmonious balance to the businesses surrounding it. It creates a synergy between commerce and education, contributing to a diverse and vibrant atmosphere that appeals to residents and visitors alike.

Moreover, the strategic placement of the museum along the river provides an excellent opportunity to collaborate with local businesses and partners. Field trips and educational programs can be organized to connect with these entities, fostering a sense of community engagement and cooperation. Such partnerships will not only benefit the museum but also create a network that strengthens the ties between our community and local enterprises.

In addition, placing the children's museum in this central location aligns with the values of our community. It reflects our commitment to education, cultural enrichment, and the overall well-being of our youth. The museum will serve as a hub for families, offering a safe and stimulating environment for children to learn, play, and grow.

I urge the Grand Haven City Council to support the establishment of the Grand Haven Children's Museum along the Grand River. This project has the potential to become a beacon of educational excellence, community collaboration, and economic vitality. I believe that with your backing, we can create a space that not only enriches the lives of our children but also enhances the overall appeal and prosperity of our city.

I look forward to witnessing the positive impact this project can have on the future of Grand Haven.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mary Jane Evink". The ink is black and the signature is fluid and legible.

Mary Jane Evink
Executive Director of Instructional Services