



June 10, 2024

City Manager Ashley Latsch
519 Washington Ave
Grand Haven, MI 49417

Dear City Manager Ashley Latsch and City Council members,

ODC Network is enthusiastic about the proposed Grand Haven Children's Museum as part of the Cherette Group's Chinook Pier proposal. With a strong commitment to outdoor education and conservation in the West Michigan region, ODC understands the significant, lifelong benefits of experiential and play-based learning on children's physical, social, and cognitive development.

ODC Network manages over 800 acres of land, operates two nature centers, and runs multiple nature-based early childhood education centers. Our involvement in the Grand Haven Area Public Schools' summer programs includes offering a free six-week educational enrichment program to hundreds of K-5 students. With more than 25 years of experience in hands-on learning, interpretation, and conservation projects, we are confident that a Grand Haven Children's Museum at this location would greatly benefit both residents and visitors.

Our trained educators are ready to collaborate with the Children's Museum to deliver water-quality education programs related to the Grand River, alongside high-quality interpretive signage and displays. Additionally, our dedicated team has expertise in designing and constructing nature-based playgrounds, which are essential for enhancing coordination skills, encouraging appropriate risk-taking, fostering creative play, and increasing awareness of the natural environment among young community members. To date, ODC has created over 22 playscapes for schools, libraries, and other community spaces, and is eager to partner in developing an immersive outdoor play area for the Grand Haven Children's Museum.

We strongly support the Cherette Group proposal and believe the museum's proposed location adjacent to the Grand River is ideal for the project and our collaborative educational endeavors.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Dave Nyitray', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Dave Nyitray
President & COO
616-368-2348