

Gerry Witherell  
527 Butler Street  
Grand Haven, MI 49417

May 12, 2025

Members of the Grand Haven City Council  
City of Grand Haven  
519 Washington Ave  
Grand Haven, MI 49417

Dear Members of the Grand Haven City Council,

I'm writing in strong support of the Grand Haven Children's Museum's proposal to lease a portion of Central Park Place as its future home. This includes the rear of the main level, most of the lower level, and a modest addition—space that could be transformed into a vibrant hub for families right in the heart of our community.

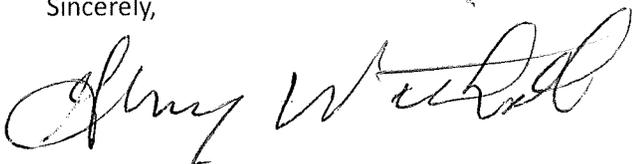
As someone who helped establish Central Park Place and has seen how valuable it's been over the years, I believe this proposal is a natural next step. The museum's leadership team has done its homework, spending considerable time doing thoughtful, careful planning. Their vision reflects the kind of long-term investment that strengthens communities—and supports what I believe is our most important asset: young people.

Throughout my life, I've worked to create opportunities for kids and families here in Grand Haven. In the early 1960s, friends and I helped bring the YMCA to town. Not long after, we opened the Ski Bowl, giving children a chance to ski within walking distance of home. Our community later built basketball courts across the city, a state-of-the-art skate park, and the original Imagination Station – with 1,500 volunteers in just five days!

The idea for a children's museum in Grand Haven has been around for many years. I was first approached about it 20 years ago, but the timing wasn't right. Now, it is. This museum has the potential to become a cherished resource, much like our other community landmarks—from the Musical Fountain to the Imagination Station.

My wife Marcia and I wholeheartedly support this project and urge the City to do the same. Let's give families in our community another reason to love living here—and show our children just how much they matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gerry Witherell". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Gerry" being larger and more prominent than the last name "Witherell".

Gerry Witherell