



May 22, 2025

Grand Haven City Council
519 Washington Ave.
Grand Haven, MI 49417

Dear Members of the Grand Haven City Council,

On behalf of the Tri-Cities Historical Museum, I am writing to express our support for the proposal to lease a portion of Central Park Place as the future home of the Grand Haven Area Children's Museum. The Museum's Board of Directors and I believe this is a unique and exciting opportunity to add new opportunities for young families and broader community engagement in the heart of Grand Haven.

As a cultural institution with deep roots in the Tri-Cities since 1959, the Tri-Cities Historical Museum is committed to creating connections to local history through inclusive and enriching experiences. While our mission is focused on preserving and interpreting the past, we wholeheartedly recognize the value of neighboring institutions that provide hands-on exploration and play. A dedicated children's museum would complement our offerings and fill a need in the community.

The proposed use of Central Park Place—utilizing the rear of the main level, most of the lower level, and a modest addition—presents a thoughtful and community-centered vision. This central location ensures accessibility for families and creates new opportunities for collaboration among local organizations. It is important to note that while the Tri-Cities Historical Museum's space is fully utilized for our purposes and committed to historical interpretation, we fully support the Grand Haven Area Children's Museum and recognize the importance of its independence and autonomy. While we may share a common goal of serving the public, each institution has its own distinct mission and focus.

We respectfully encourage the Grand Haven City Council to approve this lease proposal and help bring this meaningful project to life.

Sincerely,

Erica Layton

Erica Layton
Executive Director
Tri-Cities Historical Museum