

I am writing to request that the Ways and Means committee allocate funding from the state budget and from the American Rescue Plan Act to help save the Portland Children's Museum and Opal School. The museum is an important resource for families in the Portland metro area as well as visitors from around the state and beyond. The Opal School serves as a model for educational methods to teachers from throughout the nation.

The Portland Children's Museum and Opal School are currently slated to close permanently on June 30th and financial troubles have been cited as the main reason for closing this 75 year old institution.

The PCM Board of Directors meeting minutes from February show that as little as \$500,000 is needed in funding to get through this calendar year.

I believe that funding from the state, the American Rescue Plan, major benefactors, and community members could save this Portland treasure. The decision the Ways and Means committee makes will have a big impact on our ability to move forward with saving the museum. Please vote to allocate funds to help keep Portland a fun, engaging, safe, and educational place for kids by providing funding to the Portland Children's Museum and Opal School.