

I am submitting testimony in support of the Portland Children's Museum receiving funds from the American Rescue Plan. The PCM has had a powerful impact on so many children and its benefits should not be lost to future Oregonians. I remember visiting the museum as a child at its former location when we visited Portland from Eastern Oregon. It stuck in my mind so well that when I had my own children, I wasted no time in signing up for a membership. My eldest first visited in the soft baby room, and as he grew and the Museum adapted, he played in the wonderful pretend grocery store and restaurant, delighted in the outdoor space with its fountains and stream, and he and his brother, cousins, and friends would eagerly visit the special exhibits. Every visit would not be complete with a stop at the mirrors with the grease paint, singing a song on the stage, or making something in the clay room. I was very happy when my boys grew old enough to visit the creation room with the screwdrivers, hammers, and endless supply of recycled supplies for them to create whatever their imaginations dreamed up. Our last visit, right before Covid shut everything down, holds a special memory, but I plead with you to help make sure those memories are not the end of this wonderful place. So few places remain where children can play, create, and imagine so freely. Please extend funds to the Portland Children's Museum and make sure Oregonians don't lose a true treasure. Thank you.