

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. This city absolutely needs a Children's Museum, and every effort should be made to save this vital resource. The Children's Museum was clearly mismanaged and not properly supported by relief funds over the last year, and the state should step in and rectify the situation.

The Portland Children's Museum is 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 absolutely save this irreplaceable Portland icon.

The Ways and Means committee has the opportunity to make a major, lasting impact in the lives of children for many decades to come. Please vote to allocate funds to help keep Portland a fun, engaging, safe, and educational place for all of our children by providing funding to the Portland Children's Museum.