



March 3, 2021

Dear Chairs Senator Beyer and Representative Gomberg:

I am writing in support of the Governor's Request for Regional Infrastructure Finance Funding.

Kid Time provides early learning and educational experiences, enrichment programs, interactive play, art and music, family and community activities, and preschool to families of all income levels in Southern Oregon families. The program offers drop-in activities as well as structured preschool, allowing families to engage in whatever level of service best fits their needs. The program provides full-time preschool slots for children ages 3 to 5 through Preschool Promise, plus full & part-time spots via sliding scale scholarships, and to private pay families.

We are in the midst of a relocation and expansion project in the heart of downtown Medford. While many donors and regional foundations have contributed resources to our project, public funding is often necessary for projects like ours to be fully successful. It is an investment that yields significant return now, and in the future. For every \$1 invested in early childhood programs, there is a societal return of \$7 from savings in remedial education, reductions in crime spending, decreased dependence on welfare programs and increased future earnings.

The benefits of our project to the community are:

Critical Preschool Services

In a region with only enough full-time preschool spots for 20% of the 0-5 population, this facility expands capacity and enables the organization to serve infants. Programming will be available to all children, thereby providing hands-on education to kids who could not otherwise afford a traditional preschool experience. The need for these services have been exacerbated further by the impacts of the Covid Crisis and the regional urban wildfires.

Economic Development + Recruitment

Investment in a high-profile family institution is a critical link in Southern Oregon's efforts to reinvent the local economy and to attract high-caliber professionals to the region.

A New World-Class Facility

The Historic Carnegie Library Building will be transformed into a world-class family and community discovery experience, featuring indoor and outdoor enrichment activities and a full-service preschool.

Downtown Revitalization

The new Kid Time facility will anchor the south end of the historic downtown, transforming the iconic Carnegie Library into a city crown jewel through the state-of-the-art learning museum and community center.

Southern Oregon Regional Attraction

The new museum is expected to see 100,000+ visitors a year. The indoor environment will provide a "smoke-proof" attraction in inclement weather, an increasingly important option in wildfire-prone Southern Oregon.

Community Partnership Hub

The new facility will serve as a hub for collaboration engaging partners from across the region including school districts, local businesses, government, health care systems and nonprofit organizations.

We appreciate your consideration and the investments in our community.



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