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**The Big Rapids Children’s Museum**

**Concept:** Big Rapids needs a children’s museum. I discovered as a Grandmother in winter, 2023, that there are few indoor spaces to take my 2-year-old grandson to play and interact with others. My choices were limited to the Burger King play area, the indoor track at Ferris State University and numerous stores. We have a wonderful collection of parks which are great to use when weather permits.

We need an indoor hub where children of all ages can gather to learn, play, and grow. I propose that we create a children’s museum for Big Rapids which incorporates volunteers and businesses to build and maintain. I further propose that we start small and grow as demand and funds increase. As a grant writer myself, I have experience managing small community organizations as well as coordinating volunteers.

I have served on boards and am convinced that a small advisory board is best to start with for this initiative. I have created a checklist of needed action items and invite **YOU** to volunteer -since you have read this far! Please review with comment and return your thoughts to me at **scain@corplearning.com**. My direct reach is (630) 347-6333

**I have started a checklist of actions needed to begin steps needed to explore this topic**

**In greater detail:**

1. **Create an advisory board to determine the interest and feasibility of a museum for children:**

* Dr. Susan Cain
* Stacie Wright
* Lauren Perkins
* Josh Pyles
* YOUR NAME here!

**Please nominate yourself or suggest others for us to contact:**

Name Email or Phone

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* To determine interest, we need send a survey to:
* School board
* Healthcare organizations
* Ferris State University
* School administrators and/or teachers (including MOISD)
* Social welfare agencies
* Churches
* The Big Rapids Library
* City and county government
* Parent groups

Please suggest additional survey recipients:

Name (if known) Organization

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* **To determine feasibility, we need to consider housing partnerships *and* funding sources**:
* Contact Sandcastle Children’s Museum in Ludington for information and support. Investigate the possibility of a franchise relationship
* Contact the Grand Rapids Children’s Museum for information and support. Investigate the possibility of a franchise relationship
* Ferris State University
* Research potential housing partnerships with existing community-based organizations
* Survey businesses and/or governmental organizations for sponsorship
* Locate grants and donation sources

Please suggest additional contacts:

Name (if known) Organization

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* **To tap into mentorship and support, we need to contact:**
* Michigan Arts & Culture Council
* Association of Children’s Museums
* Museums for All
* Michigan Museums’ Association
* Association of Midwest Museums

**Please indicate what you are willing to do to move this conversation forward:**

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| --- |
| Your name: |
| Your contact: |
| Volunteer interest: |

**Thank you for taking the time to read and review my initial thoughts on this important topic. Please send this completed document to:**

**Dr. Susan Cain**

**scain@corplearning.com**