

Sen. T. Weiler

Request Name: Discovery Gateway Children's Museum

Description: After a hiatus from seeking funding, it's time to work on the final piece of our strategic revitalization plan, the upper level of the museum. We are respectfully requesting one-time funding of \$2M to commence the revitalization effort, which is a key part of our overall capital funding plan. The corporate and charitable foundation communities have responded enthusiastically to our comprehensive capital plan, which we project will match state funding contributions.

This is a continued effort to make this museum an inspiring, fun, safe, and comfortable environment where children can learn through interactive, educational play.

Agency: Heritage and Arts

Funding Amount: General Fund - \$2,000,000 – 2020 (One-time)

Talking Points

- This \$4M capital campaign will allow DGCM to build a world class STEM based discovery center within the museum. Foundations, corporations, and individuals have pledged support of this effort.
- DGCM specializes in programming for children to imagine what they can become. The museum is a first stop in igniting a passion for exploration and discovery in students, highlighting why STEM education is important, and encouraging children to pursue STEM fields, creating the next generation of scientists and engineers.
- The \$2M in funding we're requesting of the state legislature will support programmatic expansion and bring the best quality STEM education to children and families.
- These upgrades will serve general visitors, students on fieldtrips, members seeking early childhood learning opportunities for their toddlers, and also greatly enhance the sponsored admissions program for families that are dealing with difficult life circumstances such as poverty, homelessness, illness, and those with developmental challenges. These children will benefit greatly from these upgrades as they will make their visits to the museum even more impactful in their educational pursuits.
- The focus of the gallery will be designing, testing, and proving a hypothesis of scientific and engineering processes, which is grounded in the new direction of science teaching.
- The National Research Council spent several years studying "Learning Science in Informal Environments" and found that experiences such as a visit to DGCM lead to developing a stronger affinity and interest in science.
- The investment will also add value for our out of state visitors who are looking for high quality yet fun educational destinations to bring their children to.
- These much-needed upgrades will allow us to make changes to the space that will continue to build our reputation as a nationally recognized, destination children's museum. The plan includes modular, changeable installations that lead to a sustainable, accessible, changeable exhibit and program model.
- From our previous upgrades to the museum, generously supported by the legislature, we have seen a significant influx in visitation which has also helped Utah's economy and provided more jobs for people in an exemplary working environment like no other. We know that these upgrades will help to further grow our visitor base, through general admissions and memberships and will allow us to further grow providing more necessary jobs to those in our community.
- The upgrades will also give jobs to those hired to build, design and expand this space, putting much of the money that we are given by the Utah Legislature back into the community, creating a cycle of growth that helps everyone.
- As a community anchor it's our responsibility to make sure we have the most up to date exhibits and systems to best serve the children of Utah so that as a community we can support them in reaching their potential as leaders, innovators and the

creators of tomorrow. We can accomplish this with the help of the funding from the Utah Legislature.