



BUILDING A PLACE TO WONDER

A CAMPAIGN TO BUILD A PERMANENT HOME FOR WONDERWORKS CHILDREN'S MUSEUM OF THE GORGE

ORGANIZATION BACKGROUND

For 30 years, Wonderworks has been offering exhibits, programs, workshops, and other experiences that help children learn about and better understand the world around them. Many families see Wonderworks as their "life saver" – a hub of stimulating, engaging activities where they can meet and connect with other families with young children. Wonderworks is the only indoor place in the area for young children to learn, socialize, and interact with each other in a safe, supervised, and educational setting. However, despite its long history, Wonderworks has never had a permanent home. That is about to change.

PROJECT OVERVIEW

Several years ago, Wonderworks identified a building in The Dalles, and with the assistance from the Port of The Dalles, purchased this space. In order for Wonderworks to own this building outright, additional funds must be raised so the application process for grants can begin. We have nearly reached the fundraising levels necessary to apply for local, state, and federal grants and we are thrilled to already see improvements occurring at our new location. With a permanent home, the long awaited dream will finally become reality and we can ensure that our children and grandchildren will have the opportunity to explore, learn, and play with other children for years to come in a dedicated Children's Museum!

This new, permanent home will serve more children, more families, more community groups, and more visitors. This new museum will enable Wonderworks to provide:

- more space for exhibits
- more programs
- a permanent classroom setting
- a permanent art studio
- an outdoor play patio
- additional spaces to serve other groups in the area that serve children

The building itself is a simple, 5,000 sq. ft cinder block structure that is appealing for several reasons, but as with any business, it is the location, location, location, that makes this one right. The building sits a half block off 2nd Street – the west bound thoroughfare of The Dalles – it is easy to get to, has plenty of off-street parking, and this new museum will provide a boost to downtown businesses.

We will also make the children's museum as open and available to as many community groups as possible. Wonderworks has already established relationships with many local social service providers including Families First, local child care facilities, Moms of Pre-school Students, the Wasco County Public Health Department, OSU Extension Service & 4-H Groups, the Wasco County Commission on Children and Families, Northern Wasco Parks & Recreation District, all of the elementary schools and other school-based clubs including the Robotics Club. Wonderworks is working to become the focal point for children in the Columbia River Gorge. The National Association of Children's Museums calls this concept the 'Town Square' for children. In The Dalles, we may not be at the geographic center of town, but we can be the center of our children's world.



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PROJECT COSTS

The total cost of this project is \$600,000. Our goal is to raise 50% of the total cost before pursuing larger grants from state and regional funders. As of October 1, 2010 we have raised more than \$240,000. These funds have come through a combination of individual/family donations (more than 125 donors ranging in size from \$5.00 to \$5,000); local businesses; service clubs; as well as Urban Renewal funds from the City of The Dalles.

BENEFITS TO THE COMMUNITY

In these difficult economic times, families need a safe, affordable, and fun place to visit with their children. Wonderworks is the only non-commercial indoor place in the area for young children to learn, socialize, interact with each other in a safe, supervised, and educational setting.

The larger space will serve other local and regional organizations that serve children and families. Other non-profits and local organizations often rent the current Playstation Play Space to help provide their services to clients with young children. The new museum will make it possible for these groups to rent the classroom or art studio without taking up the entire space, thus enabling Wonderworks to serve walk-in families without shutting down the museum.

Wonderworks tries to ensure that the museum is available to every segment of the community and throughout the years we have provided free passes for many different organizations, including Families First and the public health department. The county library has Playstation passes for anyone to check out, and we offer scholarships for nearly every one of our programs (art classes, music classes, specialty exhibits, etc). Accessibility and community involvement will continue to be our main focus as Wonderworks expands its offerings to the children and families of the region.

This project will provide an economic boost to downtown businesses from both local families and visitors. The location is ideal to draw more people to the east end of downtown, which is seeing a bit of a resurgence with new restaurants, a planned artisan plaza, and a new traffic interchange. Now, a local family's errands to pick up books or toys at Klindt's Booksellers, or a new instrument at the music store can be linked with an energy-burning trip for the kids to the museum. Visiting families will also have one more reason to jump off I- 84 and stay in town longer to have a meal, do some shopping, or explore historic downtown The Dalles. The possibilities are endless and made all the more enticing for young children, and parents, by the promise of a play date at Wonderworks Children's Museum of the Gorge!

If you have any questions or need any more information, please call Cynthia Kortge, WW Fundraising Chair, at (541)340-9039, or Paul Lindberg, WW Fundraising Consultant at (541) 490-2340. We appreciate your interest in helping Wonderworks establish their permanent home.



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NAMING OPPORTUNITIES

In order to recognize special gifts, Wonderworks is offering the following naming opportunities on a first-come, first-serve basis. Of course, your support at any level is very much appreciated.

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| Wonderworks Building..... | \$250,000* |
| Lobby..... | \$10,000 (Mid-Columbia Medical Center) |
| Exhibit Hall A..... | \$10,000 |
| Columbia Classroom | \$10,000 |
| Children's Art Studio..... | \$5,000 (The Staver Family) |
| Exhibit Hall B..... | \$5,000 |
| Exhibit Hall C..... | \$5,000 |
| Exhibit Hall D..... | \$5,000 |
| Exhibit Hall E..... | \$5,000 |
| Ticket Booth..... | \$5,000 |
| Wonderworks Backyard Patio..... | \$5,000 |
| Snack Corner..... | \$5,000 |
| Play Stage..... | \$2,500 (Encore Performing Arts) |
| Center Gathering Point..... | \$2,500 (Mid-Columbia Producers) |
| Family Break Room..... | \$1,000 (Columbia River Women's Clinic) |
| Tables..... | \$500 (Grocery Outlet, Rivermark Community Credit Union) |
| Chairs..... | \$250 |

* The opportunity to name the building is only to name the building itself. It will not change the name of the organization. For more information on these and the other naming opportunities, please contact Cynthia Kortge at 541-340-9039 or cynkortge@gmail.com.



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EXHIBIT SPACES

For more than 30 years, Wonderworks has been helping children developmentally in four broad categories: Motor Skills; Social/Emotional; Cognitive; and Language. Every exhibit in the new facility will incorporate elements that touch on each of these categories. Our goal is to provide a variety of open-ended experiences for every age we serve (0-12). We are also planning a Parent Education Guide that explains how each exhibit fits the Development categories. If parents better understand the theory behind an exhibit they will engage with their children more at Wonderworks and enhance both their child's experience and their own.

In the new facility, Wonderworks will have a total of eight activity areas including: 6 exhibit spaces, 1 permanent classroom, and 1 dedicated art studio.

Art Studio - a fully-outfitted, fully functioning art space that will be available for specific programs and classes as well as families who are visiting the museum.

Classroom - a space for programs presented by Wonderworks and other groups serving children, including schools; as well as private parties for both children and adults.

Exhibit Spaces and Themes:

- 1) **Dramatic Play:** a space to let imaginations run wild - play acting, music, puppet shows, etc. - all on a stage with lights, curtains, costumes, and props.
- 2) **Healthy Kids:** exhibits that focus on healthy children: healthy food, activities, and education.
- 3) **Grocery/Kitchen:** an ever-popular exhibit that provides children the experience of a grocery store and a "working" kitchen. This space has the potential to move from grocery/kitchen to other commerce areas.
- 4) **Tot Spot/ Tree of Wisdom:** exhibit space designed for infants featuring low walls, soft shelves, mirrors, crawling space, and other developmentally appropriate items that our youngest clients need and enjoy. The Story Tree will be a quiet space for children who need a break or who would rather read a book. We will offer books for children to read alone or for parents to read with their children.
- 5) **Construction Zone:** the classic, hands-on digging, building, stacking etc. exhibit space. This exhibit theme lends itself to a variety of active exhibits.
- 6) **Science/Nature:** the space will host exhibits based on the themes of science and nature including exhibits that focus on local industries, such as cherries, wheat, timber & wind energy as well as the "green" elements of the new facility itself.



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GRANDMA ANN FUND



*"As long as mothers have young children in
The Dalles, there will be a need for Wonderworks"*

Over 30 years ago the women of this community created and established a fun and innovative place to learn, grow, and wonder. Wonderworks was founded because the young mother's of this community needed a space to nurture their children and support each other, and while the location has varied, the mission has never changed. Now we are closer than ever to finalizing a permanent home for this amazing museum.

Wonderworks Children's Museum of the Gorge is proud to partner with the Kortge Family and establish the Cathie Ann Kortge Memorial Exhibit Fund. Grandma Ann as she was fondly called by her six grandchildren was a mother of 3, a wife of a farmer, a teacher and a very active member of this community. To honor her consistent leadership and dedication to the young people she worked with, the "Grandma Ann Fund" will bring special exhibits and programs to the doors of Wonderworks and the children of the Gorge. Please join us today as we honor Cathie and turn a 30 year vision into a permanent reality, because...

Wisdom really does begin with Wonder...



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GIVING OPPORTUNITIES

Wonderworks Children's Museum of the Gorge is close to the final construction phase in creating a permanent home for this long standing community asset. The following are several ways that your support can make this long awaited dream a final reality.

- 1) **Building Fund/Naming Opportunities** ~ The design of the new children's museum will incorporate many different aspects of learning, development, and education for the children of the entire Columbia Gorge Region. This new museum will have several dedicated areas including classrooms, an art studio, a stage, center gather place for special reading time or concerts, an outside patio and many different exhibit spaces. Your contributions to this fund will finalize the initial building renovations and construction, as well as create each area. If you would like to be part of this unique naming opportunity, please see the attached list of specific areas still needing your support.
- 2) **Cathie Ann Kortge Memorial Exhibit Fund** ~ This special fund was established in 2010 to honor a lifetime teacher and very special grandmother of The Dalles Community. Contributions to the "Grandma Ann" fund will ensure all of the exhibit spaces are constructed and outfitted with the most appropriate developmental and educational materials, as well as continue to bring new and exciting exhibits to Wonderworks for years to come.
- 3) **Scholarship Fund** ~ By contributing to this scholarship fund you will ensure that all children and families have the opportunity to take part in special classes, programs, and exhibits sponsored by Wonderworks. For over 30 years Wonderworks has worked diligently to ensure all children have the opportunity to attend these amazing educational programs. Your contribution to this fund will make a lasting impression on the children of this community and afford them with the gift of learning.
- 4) **Membership Fund** ~ This unique and exciting fund allows Wonderworks and other community organizations to partner in special ways to enhance the membership of the children's museum while supporting the businesses that support our community. The contributions to this fund are as special as your organization and can be direct donations for museum memberships or other collaborations.

If you have additional questions, or if you would like more information about specific funds, please contact Cynthia Kortge at 541-340-9039 or cynkortge@gmail.com. We greatly appreciate your generous donation.



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ARTIST'S RENDERING





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CONCEPTUAL DESIGN

