

November 3, 2017

Dear Rotary Club of Portland Members,

On November 13, 2017, the Washington Park Master Plan will be revealed online for public comment. This master plan has been over a year in development and seeks to address major issues facing Washington Park, one of the crown jewels of our nationally recognized Portland Parks & Recreation system. We hope you will take the opportunity to review this plan that articulates Washington Park improvements in three phases over the next 15 years.

We wanted to point out in advance that in Phase 3 of the plan, you will see that Portland Children's Museum will have relocated and its current Park-owned facility will be removed. As you may or may not know, the Portland Children's Museum is located in a building owned by Portland Parks & Recreation, and made available to PCM at no charge. As both Portland Parks and Portland Children's Museum have looked at the infrastructure, environmental sustainability, and earthquake resiliency of the old OMSI building, it became clear that further capital investment in this aging 1955 structure was ill advised. Museum Executive Director Ruth Shelly has been part of the Washington Park master planning process. She has kept the Museum Board of Directors apprised of these developments and supports the Master Plan. The Museum's 30-year lease with Portland Parks & Recreation will expire in 14 years, and the master plan assumes that the lease will not be renewed.

Some of you may have anticipated this eventuality, and for others it may come as a surprise. We would like to convey this news with deep gratitude and appreciation to Rotary Club of Portland, which raised the \$10 million required to move the Museum to its current facility from the former location in Lair Hill. A succession of dedicated board members and donors has seen the Museum and its Opal School grow and flourish in the current location. Your investment has been returned multifold in the positive impact the Museum has had on children and their families from Portland and beyond. Truly, your support has taken the organization to a new level of professionalism, influence, and reputation. Portland Parks & Recreation is proud to have been part of that journey.

Now is the time to contemplate building on that legacy for the Museum's next move to not only a new location, but also a new level of excellence. We want to send our personal gratitude for your support of Portland Children's Museum, and our commitment to work together with you to achieve a smooth transition into the Museum's next chapter. This move may be five, ten, or fifteen years in the future, depending on what opportunities arise. However, whenever it happens, the Museum will be well positioned to increase its value as a community resource thanks to your faithful investment.

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Please let us know if I can provide further information, and thank you in advance for taking the time to review the Washington Park Master Plan. We value your feedback.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Mike Abbate in blue ink.

Mike Abbaté
Director
Portland Parks & Recreation

Handwritten signature of Ruth G. Shelly in blue ink.

Ruth G. Shelly
Executive Director
Portland Children's Museum