



## WHY A CHILDREN'S MUSEUM?

### WHAT IS A CHILDREN'S MUSEUM?

A children's museum is a community space that offers interactive learning experiences to build upon a child's development. The children's museum institution is committed to serving the holistic needs and interest of children and families.

Children's museums believe...

- Children are valued citizens with the right to access resources promoting development and well-being.
- Play is learning and it is critical to a healthy social, emotional, and cognitive development of children.
- Children are shaped by family, culture, and environment and the institution should reflect these in the museum experience.



### WHY PLAY?

Play is our brain's favorite way to learn. Deep learning takes place when learning is joyful, meaningful, actively engaged, iterative, and social. These are the very characteristics of play, and it shapes how a child develops. Play is also a way for kids to experience less stress, especially stressors caused by poverty. But play is not only beneficial to children, but it also influences family relationships. Playful experience between adult and child supports family bonding and well-being.



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### WHY DOES GALLUP NEED A CHILDREN'S MUSEUM?

A children's museum in Gallup is an investment in our children and in their future. This community space creates a safe and nurture place for kids to playfully develop and enrich their lives. New Mexico is ranked 49<sup>th</sup> in child education and child well-being (New Mexico Voices, 2022) and children's museums are advocates for a holistic approach to foster a child's wellness and flourishing.

Play Sharity Children's Museum also enriches community engagement. While we hope to open a permanent location, our mission is to continue and expand our outreach opportunities. The community events like Day of Play and the Color Run are annual events that promote community, accessibility, and fun! We hope to also participate in Arts Crawl and other community events with our pop-up museum. Beyond outreach, the museum also incorporates businesses, non-profits, and other networks to work together for the good of children in exhibits, programing, and events.

The museum is an attraction for the Gallup community. It is a place where visitors near and far can spend hours exploring exhibits, participating in activities, and can engage in a cultural experience. Play Sharity Gallup offers cultural exhibits that highlight important pieces of history and culture into the world of play. The exhibits captivate the beauty, richness, and depth of Gallup's people in a way no one has experience before.