

State Of Maryland

2024 Bond Initiative Fact Sheet

1. Name Of Project		
Port Discovery Children's Museum		
2. Senate Sponsor	3. House Sponsor	
McCray		
4. Jurisdiction (County or Baltimore City)	5. Requested Amount	
Baltimore City	\$2,500,000	
6. Purpose of Bond Initiative		
the acquisition, planning, design, construction, repair, renovation, reconstruction, site improvement, and capital equipping of the Port Discovery Children's Museum		
7. Matching Fund		
Requirements:	Type:	
Grant		
8. Special Provisions		
<input type="checkbox"/> Historical Easement	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Non-Sectarian	
9. Contact Name and Title	Contact Ph#	Email Address
Senator Cory McCray		cory.mccray@senate.state.md.us
Carter Arnot Polakoff		410-864-2670
10. Description and Purpose of Organization (Limit length to visible area)		
<p>The mission of Port Discovery Childrens Museum is to provide unique opportunities and high-quality experiences that make play accessible, educational, and fun for all. Our core programming includes exhibits and creative activities in our 80,000 square foot museum, educational field trips for students, and multigenerational programming for parents and early childhood educators. On average, the Museum sees 220,000 annual visitors; with geographic reach across the state, with nearly 60% of our visitors coming from Baltimore City and the surrounding counties, 35% from across Maryland, and the remainder from out of state. The Museum provides direct service to over 19,000 students via educational field trips, over 60% of whom represent Title I schools.</p>		

11. Description and Purpose of Project (Limit length to visible area)

To support the launch of Port Discoverys 2024 Exhibit Master Plan, which will renovate select exhibits (several of which are nearly 20 years old), to transform the museum into a state-of-the-art education hub for learning, science, and purposeful play. Key renovations in the early stages include creation of a fantasy space themed STEAM exhibit with parachute testing, rover building, and rocket launching; Low-sensory, calming play zone themed on the daily sky rotation between the sunrise and sunset; and an imaginative local food market and teaching kitchen to engage young learners on topics of health, food lifecycles, the science of cooking. First stage projects are shovel-ready with construction starting in fall 2024.

Round all amounts to the nearest \$1,000. The totals in Items 12 (Estimated Capital Costs) and 13 (Proposed Funding Sources) must match. The proposed funding sources must not include the value of real property unless an equivalent value is shown under Estimated Capital Costs.

12. Estimated Capital Costs

Acquisition	\$0
Design	\$3,504,000
Construction	\$12,264,000
Equipment	\$1,752,000
Total	\$17,520,000

13. Proposed Funding Sources - (List all funding sources and amounts.)

Past State of Maryland allocations (committed)	\$4,000,000
2024 Session (FY25) State of Maryland allocation	\$2,500,000
City of Baltimore (Cultural Spaces Grant)	\$75,000
Pledged/received private support	\$1,000,000
Future private foundation support	\$5,000,000
Future corporate sponsorship support	\$2,500,000
Future individual donor support	\$2,445,000
Total	\$17,520,000

14. Project Schedule (Enter a date or one of the following in each box. N/A, TBD or Complete)			
Begin Design	Complete Design	Begin Construction	Complete Construction
In process	January 2025	October 2024	October 2025 (stage 1)
15. Total Private Funds and Pledges Raised	16. Current Number of People Served Annually at Project Site	17. Number of People to be Served Annually After the Project is Complete	
1000000.00	220,000	280,000	
18. Other State Capital Grants to Recipients in the Past 15 Years			
Legislative Session	Amount	Purpose	
2023	\$2,000,000	Museum capital renovations Phase 2	
2022	\$2,500,000	Museum capital renovations Phase 1	
2021	\$750,000	Museum capital renovations Phase 1	
2020	\$1,000,000	Museum capital renovations Phase 1	
19. Legal Name and Address of Grantee		Project Address (If Different)	
Baltimore Children's Museum Inc dba Port Discovery 35 Market Place Baltimore, MD 21202			
20. Legislative District in Which Project is Located	46 - Baltimore City		
21. Legal Status of Grantee (Please Check One)			
Local Govt.	For Profit	Non Profit	Federal
[]	[]	[X]	[]
22. Grantee Legal Representative		23. If Match Includes Real Property:	
Name:	Ballard Spahr LLP	Has An Appraisal Been Done?	Yes/No
Phone:	410-528-5600		
Address:		If Yes, List Appraisal Dates and Value	
111 S. Calvert Street, 27th Floor Baltimore, MD 21202-6174			

24. Impact of Project on Staffing and Operating Cost at Project Site			
Current # of Employees	Projected # of Employees	Current Operating Budget	Projected Operating Budget
66	71	5320770.00	5500000.00
25. Ownership of Property (Info Requested by Treasurer's Office for bond purposes)			
A. Will the grantee own or lease (pick one) the property to be improved?			Lease
B. If owned, does the grantee plan to sell within 15 years?			
C. Does the grantee intend to lease any portion of the property to others?			No
D. If property is owned by grantee any space is to be leased, provide the following:			
Lessee	Terms of Lease	Cost Covered by Lease	Square Footage Leased
E. If property is leased by grantee - Provide the following:			
Name of Leaser	Length of Lease	Options to Renew	
City of Baltimore	99 years	Yes	
26. Building Square Footage:			
Current Space GSF	81,000		
Space to be Renovated GSF	10,911		
New GSF	91,911		

27. Year of Construction of Any Structures Proposed for Renovation, Restoration or Conversion

1906

28. Comments

In 2024, Port Discovery is embarking on an inspiring and ambitious 5-year, \$17.5 million, Exhibit Master Plan that will transform the Museum into a state-of-the-art childrens educational space. This comprehensive plan includes renovations designed to broaden the range of activities in our building, catering to a diverse array of ages, abilities, and learning styles.

The master plan will be implemented in phases to manage costs, allow for continuous Museum operation during construction, and offer the ability to leverage each new exhibit opening as an opportunity to engage new visitors and refresh media attention.

The Exhibit Master Plan highlights what Port Discovery is and can further become a state-wide learning lab for the children, families, and educators of Maryland; a collaboration site for family service agencies and higher education; and a safe space for learning that priorities the power of play as a key prescription for the health and wellbeing of our youngest citizens. A thriving childrens museum is an indicator of a strong economic and cultural community. We believe that a robust childrens museum in our State is not a privilege, but a right for all.

Thank you for your consideration.

<https://www.portdiscovery.org/25-press-release/>