

INDIAN WELLS CITY COUNCIL

November 3, 2022



To: City Council
From: City Manager Department
Prepared by: Micaela Wilkey, Senior Management Analyst
Subject: **Children’s Discovery Museum of the Desert One-Time Funding Request for Fiscal Year 2022-23**

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Council **DISCUSSES** the Children’s Discovery Museum of the Desert funding one-time funding request for Fiscal Year 2022-23 and **PROVIDES** staff direction.

DISCUSSION:

At the October 6, 2022, City Council meeting, the Children’s Discovery Museum of the Desert (CDMoD) provided the City Council with an update on the planned improvements and efforts to reopen the museum in early 2023. To assist in these efforts, CDMoD is requesting a one-time contribution of \$150,000 to be used towards the new 0-8 year-old exhibit. At the October 6, 2022, City Council meeting the City Council discussed this item and determined they needed to review the City’s Community Assistance Policy before making any determination of funding on CDMoD’s funding request. The Community Assistance Policy is being discussed as a separate item on today’s agenda.

The Children’s Discovery Museum of the Desert is a nonprofit organization founded in 1986. It is a charter member of the Association of Youth Museums, which was established to ensure the highest standards of all aspects of education, discovery, public service, outreach, and operations of youth museums. The CDMoD is where youth, families, teachers, and the community collaborate and participate in joint projects and partnerships in learning and to celebrate the rich cultural diversity of the Coachella Valley. The CDMoD has been a top attraction in the Coachella Valley for 30 years. CDMoD receives approximately 5,000 visitors per year.

In 1991, the Cove Communities of Rancho Mirage, Palm Desert, and Indian Wells established a \$1.6 million Building Trust Fund to get the initial building built. Since 1999, the City has awarded CDMoD an additional \$423,639 through community assistance and grants to help fund programs at CDMoD.

CDMod's funding request of \$150,000 will assist in the completion of Phase 1 of the CDMoD upgrades, which includes reimagining Building One (8,500 sq. ft.) to create a brand new space for 0-8-year-olds and will comprise of 40 new exhibits, anticipated to open in early 2023. To date, CDMoD has secured \$1.5 million of the \$3 million Phase 1 project cost. CDMoD is requesting funding from all Coachella Valley cities to assist the museum complete Phase 1. To date both the cities of Rancho Mirage and Palm Desert have awarded CDMoD funding. A total of \$255,000 was raised through Rancho Mirage, part of which was through matching grant funds. \$255,000. Palm Desert gave \$150,000 for Phase 1.

Long term, CDMoD has developed a Five Phase program to rehabilitate and reinvent the museum. This will include new construction and expansion of all three buildings and the exterior campus of the museum. CDMoD is embarking on a fundraising plan to reopen in 2023 with a reimagined museum with programming to reach a broader audience of ages and members of the community. CDMoD has provided the attached summary of the various improvements being planned in the Five Phase program.,

The Finance Committee met on September 6, 2022, to discuss CDMoD's funding request. The Finance Committee recommended that the entire City Council discuss funding at a lower amount than the requested \$150,000, possibly between \$25,000-\$50,000.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Children's Discovery Museum of the Desert's funding request of \$150,000 is not included in the adopted Operating Budget for Fiscal Year 2022-23. On today's agenda, the Council considered amending the Community Assistance Funding Policy to provide the Council with up to \$40,000 in annual discretionary funding. As developed, the Council's request for discretionary funding did not appropriate additional funds but reallocated existing funds within the adopted budget.

If the Council voted to adopt the Community Assistance Funding Policy as amended, Staff would recommend Council consider a maximum of \$40,000 in available funding should the Council desire to fund the CDMod program.

Considering the National economic outlook and potential impacts on tourism caused by inflation and high fuel prices, City staff is cautious about recommending Council appropriate additional funding at this time. Staff will have better data on any negative economic impacts on Indian Wells as the season unfolds during February 2023 and March 2023.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Funding Request Letter
2. Summary of CDMoD's Five Phase Program