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#### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Skagit County Lodging Tax Committee Approves \$50,000 Grant Toward Children's Museum Relocation**

BURLINGTON, WA – The Children's Museum of Skagit County is pleased to share that the Skagit County Lodging Tax Committee made their funding recommendation to the County Commissioners which recommends approval of a \$50,000 one-time funding request to the Children's Museum for their upcoming relocation.

The funds are generated by Revised Code of Washington (RCW) 67.28.180 which is a consumer tax on lodging charges for periods of less than 30 consecutive days for hotels, motels, rooming houses, private campgrounds, RV parks, and similar facilities. The funds are distributed by the State Treasurer to the levying cities and counties. They may be used for promotion of tourism or construction and operation of tourism-related facilities.

"The Children's Museum is a treasured part of our community, attracting 60,000 visitors each year," said Skagit County Board of Commissioners Chair Lisa Janicki. "Big kids, little kids and their parents get to learn while they play in the interactive, fun exhibits. Skagit County proudly supports the museum's new space with a \$50,000 grant from the Lodging Tax fund."

The Children's Museum of Skagit County announced in August 2018 that it would be moving to The Outlet Shoppes at Burlington in two phases over early 2019. The new space is bigger, totaling 14,500 square feet and will feature new exhibits as well as current favorites, a family resource center, community meeting space, the Museum Explorers Preschool, a dedicated breast-feeding room, and more. The build out for the new facility is estimated to be \$900,000, making the contribution from the Skagit County lodging tax fund much needed and appreciated.

"We are grateful for the recommendation of the Skagit County LTAC to help fund our relocation" said Cate Anderson, Executive Director of the Children's Museum of Skagit County. "Financial and in-kind support will ensure our new facility is fully equipped to bring our mission of early learning, creative and imaginative play, and to inspire readiness for school and life long learning to our members and guests."

The Children's Museum of Skagit County is a non-profit 501(c)(3) that opened in Mount Vernon in 2003 before moving to their current 11,000 square foot space in Burlington's Cascade Mall. The mission of the museum is to provide an interactive learning environment to promote, encourage and increase an understanding of the arts, science and culture among children, youth, families and educators in Skagit County. The Museum is open seven days a week. To learn more about open hours, membership, events, camps, classes, parties, volunteering, supporting and more visit the Museum website at [SkagitChildrensMuseum.net](http://SkagitChildrensMuseum.net) or call (360) 757 8888.

**The mission** of the Children's Museum of Skagit County is to promote, encourage and increase an understanding of the arts, science, culture and literature among the children, youth, families and educators in Skagit County and beyond.