

Fostering Family Readiness:

The Children's Museum at JBLM

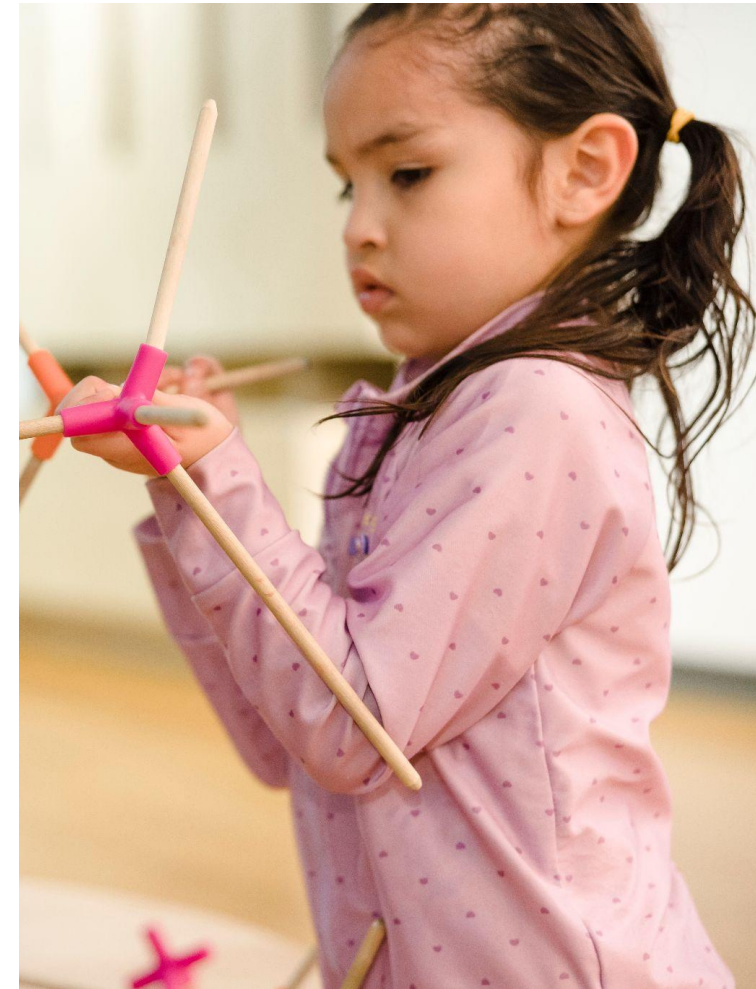


Tanya Durand

Executive Director

PROJECT HISTORY

- Traveling exhibit “Emotions Matter”
- Play to Learn Ft. Lewis 2009
- Play to Learn McChord 2013
- Additional tailored programming
- Museum on base proposed 2013





COLLABORATION

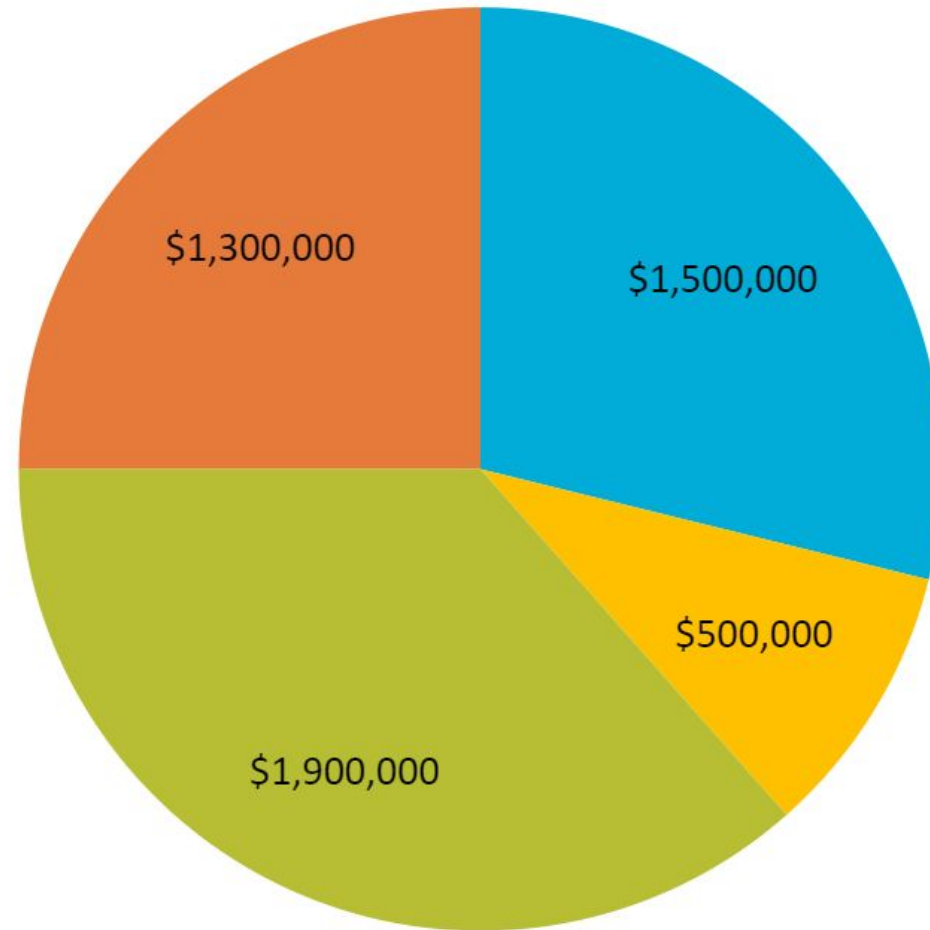
JBLM LEADERSHIP



children's
museum
at JBLM



FUNDING SOURCES: \$5.2M CAPITAL INVESTMENT



● Boeing Company & Employees (36%) ● Government Grants (10%) ● Military Contribution (36%) ● Other/Private (25%)

OUR HEROES: SUPPORTING VETERANS & THEIR FAMILIES

Gina Breukelman

Senior Manager

Northwest Region

Boeing Global Engagement





her here



Military families
deserve spaces like
this to connect with
each other, to explore
new ideas, and to
pursue their dreams.

and its
efforts honor
military families and
their service.



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



Kimberly McKenney
Planning & Evaluation
Director



GATHERING INITIAL INPUT

Interviews

- Children's museums and CBO
- On-base service providers like EFMP, CARES, MWR
- Decision-makers: JBLM leadership, funders, potential funders
- Experts: relevant research, data collection w/ military families

Focus Groups

- How a museum on base could support families and children to thrive?
- What are existing services and gaps on- and off-base? Gaps?
- How the Museum can address systemic challenges of military family life?



WHAT WE LEARNED

More frequent, longer deployments & trainings



Military families often have broad age ranges of children

JBLM lacks family gathering spaces



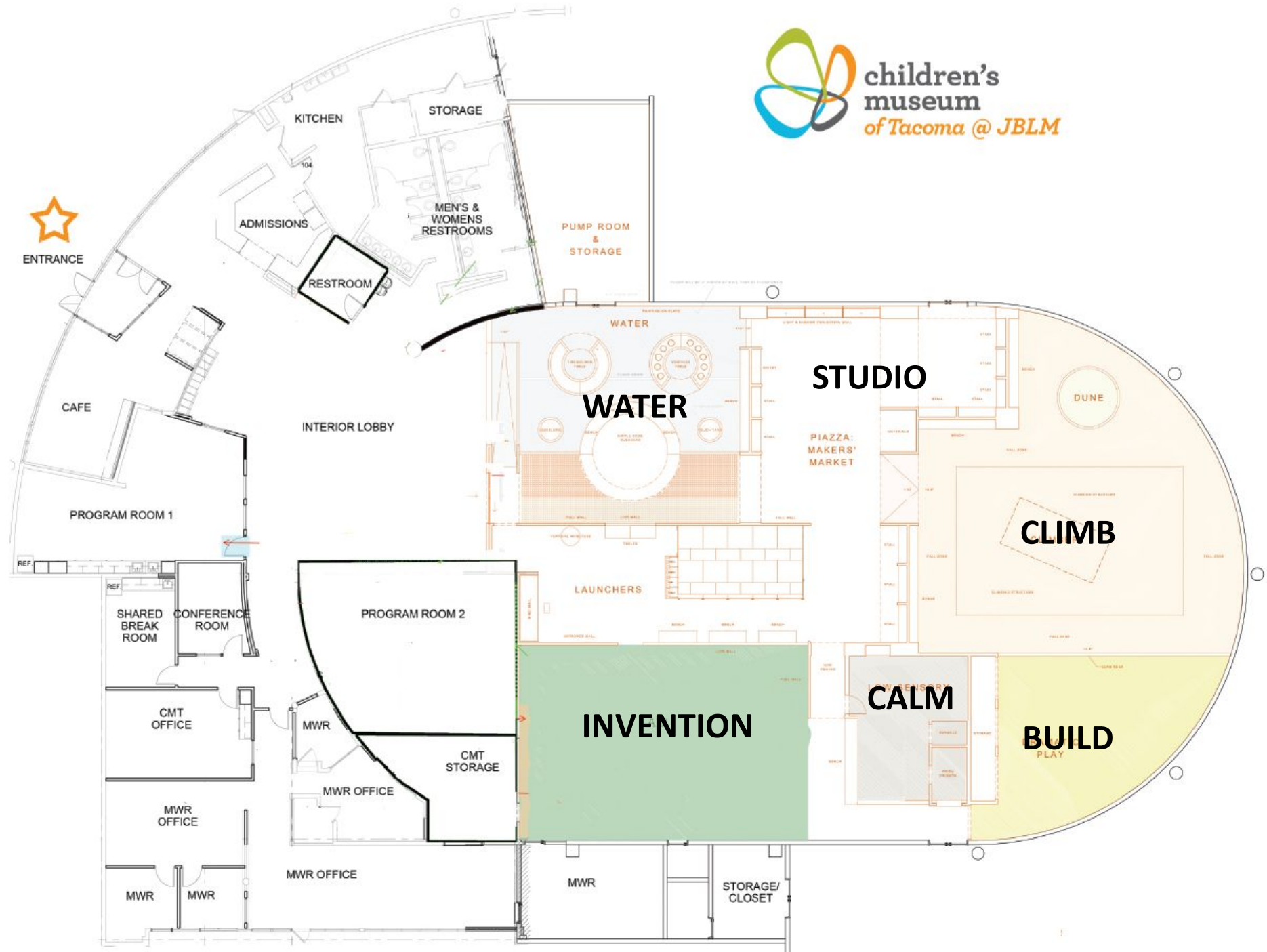
22% of children experience special needs



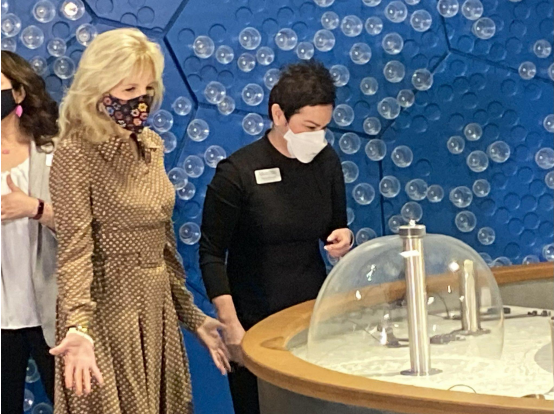
TOUR THE MUSEUM



FLOOR PLAN



Dr. Biden's Visit to the Museum



WELCOME



WATER



INVENTION



STUDIO



CLIMB



CALM



BUILD



IMPACT



Parenting & Family Functioning: Reduces parental stress, supports family time with wide ranges of children

Spouse's Functioning: Fosters sense of belonging, inclusion, and safety

64% of adult and 78% of child visitors have made friends at the Museum.

“We didn’t get out much before the Museum. Now we have lifelong friends.”

“My husband is on his 3rd deployment in 5 years. I am constantly alone. The Museum is a necessity for me and my friends.”



REDUCES STRESS

Parenting & Family Functioning: Reduces parental stress, supports family time with wide ranges of children

88% of adults agreed the Museum has helped them feel less stressed.

“This is a godsend. If it weren’t for the Museum my family would be more stressed.”



Children's Functioning: In a place where they lead the activity, children develop social, emotional, and school-readiness skills

93% of adults agreed the Museum has helped their child develop school readiness skills.

“The activities and areas help nurture curiosity and playfulness.”



Deployment & Reintegration Experiences: Service members know their family is cared for, helping them focus on their mission. Families can reconnect in a neutral space after separations.

78% of soldiers agreed “because of the Museum, they were able to focus on their mission because they were less worried about their family.”

“I can do my job better if I know my family’s needs are met. Then I can focus on my mission.”

“It’s a relief knowing my wife is getting much needed stress relief when I’m away.”



Military Life Experiences: Builds morale and sense that Army cares about families and supports the role of parents

Accessibility to Services: Fills gaps in existing services, connects families to more services

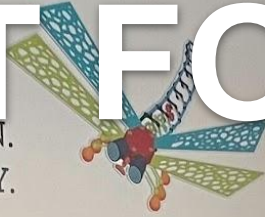
99% agreed having the Museum on JBLM makes them feel like the military cares about them and their children.

“The Army having something like this is a message that they care about families and kids. They are taking care of you.”



IMPACT FOR PARTNERS & COMMUNITY

HONOR CHILDREN.
CHAMPION PLAY.



EXIT

Sorry, no access

The museum's environment is unique and engaging, drawing other organizations to host programs there.



"The Museum has been instrumental in connecting New Parent support staff with families at the museum, and also connecting EFMP with unenrolled families attending low sensory times. If it weren't for the Museum, I wouldn't have had the opportunity to make the connections with families who didn't even know about us." (Partner)

"We have held staff meetings at Museum - it's a fun and inspiring environment. As a result, a staff member even designed a new training that infused play."

PARTNERS ALSO SAID

"The Museum is an amazing venue to host programs - relaxed environment with friendly staff."

"As a new staff member for a social services agency on base, "I was able to learn more about the ecosystem of support available to families."



Protective Factors Survey & Evaluation Toolkit

greentrike.org/about/protective-factors-survey-military-families

JBLM MWR: Children's Museum at JBLM

jblm.armymwr.com/programs/childrens-museum-jblm

Children's Museum at JBLM

website: greentrike.org/playjblm

information sheet: bit.ly/CMJBLMnov2023

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