

# News Release

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Jackson Hole Children's Museum  
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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**DATE:** April 24, 2021

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### **JH CHILDREN'S MUSEUM BREAKS GROUND ON NEW OUTDOOR CLASSROOM**

*New space to provide local families with greater access, increase to STEAM programming*

**Jackson, Wyoming** - After months of planning, the Jackson Hole Children's Museum broke ground this week on a new outdoor classroom. The project was generously funded by Lynn and Foster Friess and will include a new custom-built tool shed from Victor-based GrowHuts. The Museum hopes to have the outdoor classroom completed by June and is planning a ribbon-cutting ceremony during the organization's 9th annual Touch-a-Truck event and fundraiser on Sunday, June 6th.

According to JHCM Executive Director Ethan Lobdell, the over 700 square foot addition is necessary for the nonprofit to meet the increasing demand for Summer Camp programs. With the new space, the organization plans to offer at least six additional weeks of camps and nearly double the number of children served in their summer programs by 2022. Currently there are over 75 families on the waitlist for 2021 Summer Camps.

The Children's Museum's numerous other educational programs will also utilize the outdoor classroom, including Afterschool programs, STEAM workshops, and various activities available to the public, such as the upcoming "Blossoms for Moms" Mother's Day celebration.

JHCM programs have been recognized for providing high-quality educational and social-emotional development opportunities to children of all ages. The outdoor classroom will enable the organization to expand its material-heavy, student-centered offerings which are often difficult (or prohibitive) for traditional classrooms to facilitate. Visitors and program participants will benefit significantly from the additional space to build, craft, and get messy with a wide variety of conventional and not so conventional materials to play, create, explore, and discover.

"We are beyond grateful to Foster and Lynn Friess and the Jackson Hole community, who continue to support the JH Children's Museum and our mission to bring exploration, discovery and creativity to children," says JHCM Executive Director Ethan Lobdell. "Our new outdoor classroom is critical to serving Teton County families through Summer Camps, Afterschool, and STEAM workshops - programming that is essential to our community."

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## **About Jackson Hole Children's Museum**

*Play. Create. Explore. Discover.* At the Jackson Hole Children's Museum, we encourage families to examine the world together through interactive, hands-on exhibits and educational programs in the arts, sciences, literature, and history. Our goal is to help children and grown-ups of all ages build a love of learning through collaborative play and creative problem-solving in a nurturing environment.