



Re: HB1013 Amendment

Chairman Holmberg and Members of the Senate Appropriations Committee, our names are Wendy Keller, Executive Director, and Karen Rasmusson, Board President of the Magic City Discovery Center. We are a start-up hybrid children's museum / science center located in Minot, ND that will serve children from birth to age 14 for the state of North Dakota. We currently provide outreach educational programming and will begin construction of our building and exhibits this May. We will be ready to welcome visitors into our discovery center in late 2022.

- Magic City Discovery Center will have one of only 10 Smithsonian Spark!Lab Invention Centers in the U.S., enabling students to engage in the Invention Design Process through hands-on innovation and invention projects.
- Our 12 Exhibit Galleries will offer over one hundred and fifty interactive experiences for children which will ignite a passion for learning.
- Most states offer a multitude of options to enhance learning such as children's museums and science centers. The need is there but the upper Midwest is behind. The Magic City Discovery Center will be a hybrid center offering the best of both a children's museum and science center.
- The Magic City Discovery Center has truly been and continues to be a collaborative effort. We have leveraged the value of public private partnerships for the common goal of enhancing education for the children of North Dakota.
- We will offer STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math) education at our new center and with outreach programming throughout the region.
- We will work with all groups to ensure our resources are available to all who want to learn, regardless of income, age or ability.
- The Magic City Discovery Center will be a valuable asset for North Dakota that will offer learning for children even before they enter school which will better prepare them for formal education.
- Magic City Discovery Center will offer valuable hands-on internships and work-study opportunities for Minot State University students.
- Magic City Discovery Center will provide STEAM learning opportunities to underserved, rural and remote communities and indigenous nations through Magic City Discovery Center's Discovery on the Go! outreach programs at their schools and field trips to the Discovery Center.
- North Dakota has a serious statewide shortage of qualified workers and sparking interest in STEAM disciplines in young children will help to address this problem.
- Magic City Discovery Center will enhance formal education by providing supplemental informal education to spark interest in STEAM disciplines.
- The Magic City Discovery Center will have an annual economic impact of \$2,000,000 in North Dakota through increased tourism and spending in our state with an anticipated 70,000-100,000 visitors per year.
- Magic City Discovery Center's best-of-show climber will draw visitors from other states as children will beg their parents to climb the iconic 37' Magic Climber superstructure that represents slices of North Dakota.

- The Magic City Discovery Center will greatly improve the quality of life for Minot, the Minot Air Force Base and surrounding communities.
- Children must gain the critical thinking abilities and problem-solving competencies offered by STEAM education to be successful leaders ready for the challenges and opportunities of our future.
- Because science, technology, engineering and math jobs are increasing much faster than other sectors, and these jobs are vital to our country's social and economic success, we must offer this education to children even before school.
- Children are born natural scientists and given the right STEAM-based learning environment, they will pose their own problems and find their own solutions as they develop critical problem-solving skills using the scientific process.
- In increasingly large numbers, many children arrive at school without the building blocks in place for learning and success.
- Each of Magic City Discovery Center's exhibits have educational opportunities that address North Dakota K-12 Education Content Standards.
- Now, more than ever, it is important for families to have engaging, exciting places to go that are educational and safe.

We have attached letters of support that speak to education, family and community engagement, tourism, economic development, workforce development and quality of life for learners of all ages.

With your help, we can make this center even better. We want to offer top-notch programming, a world-class building full of exciting exhibits and cutting-edge technology as well as ensuring long-term viability. Your support will make a difference in the lives of our children. Thank you for your consideration of support for the children of North Dakota. We ask you to support the amendment to HB1013 which will assist the Magic City Discovery Center. We invite you to view the iconic Magic Climber Fly-Through at: <https://www.magiccitydiscoverycenter.com/our-exhibits>

Sincerely,



Wendy Keller
Executive Director
701-858-7529 Office Phone
wendy@magiccitydiscoverycenter.com



Karen Rasmussen
Board President
701-721-1971
krasmuss@minot.com



**DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
HEADQUARTERS 5TH BOMB WING (AFGSC)
MINOT AIR FORCE BASE NORTH DAKOTA**

16 MAR 2021

Colonel Michael Walters
Commander
5th Bomb Wing
167 Summit Drive, Suite 100
Minot AFB ND 58705

State of North Dakota
Senate Appropriations Committee

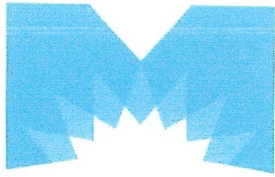
Dear Chairman and Committee Members,

I am writing to support the amendment to HB1013, offered by Senator Burckhard, to provide funding for the Magic City Discovery Center.

Minot Air Force Base (AFB) is home to two nuclear missions: the 5th Bomb Wing B-52 bomber mission and the 91st Missile Wing Intercontinental Ballistic Missile (ICBM) mission with 12,041 personnel. Minot AFB is located eight miles from the City of Minot (Minot) in rural, northcentral North Dakota. The Airmen and their families at Minot AFB are heavily reliant on the local community for education and entertainment which contributes significantly to their quality of life.

Minot AFB is excited by the opportunity to have a facility like the Magic City Discovery Center in the community! Currently no facilities like this exist in the State of North Dakota and families must travel over 300 miles to Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada to visit a children's Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics (STEAM) center. This involves all members of the family needing passports and reliable transportation to travel that distance as well as costly lodging and meal expenses. Should they choose to visit a similar facility in the United States they would need to travel to Minneapolis, Minnesota which is over 500 miles from Minot AFB. Taking rest stops into consideration, it would take a young family more than nine hours to travel one way.

Of 59 active duty Air Force bases, Minot AFB is one of twelve bases designated "Remote and Isolated" by Air Force Instruction 65-106, *Appropriated Fund Support of Morale, Welfare, and Recreation (MWR) and Other Nonappropriated Fund Instrumentalities (NAFIs)*. For Airmen coming from more urban locales, they view an assignment for Minot AFB as unappealing due to the lack of infrastructure. The austere winter climate further contributes to that negative image. Fortunately, once they arrive they find the community to be a welcoming, safe, family friendly environment with an excellent public school system. There are a multitude of activities but most are centered on the outdoors, sports, and physical activities. A dedicated, modern, state-of-the-art, STEAM facility with year round access would provide a unique, indoors option, focused on



MINOT AREA
COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION
center for community giving

March 17, 2021

To: Senate Appropriations Committee

I am writing to support the amendment to HB1013 offered by Senator Burckhard to provide funding for Magic City Discovery Center.

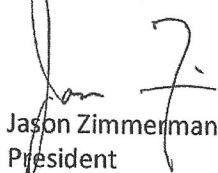
The Magic City Discovery Center (MCDC) is a hybrid children's museum and science center that will focus on STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, Math) education which is critical to our future. As the leading Community Foundation in Northwest North Dakota focusing on enhancing quality of life for the residents of Minot and surrounding communities we have facilitated over \$1,000,000 in gifts for this project including the commitment of a \$750,000 grant from the Minot Area Community Foundation for the "Magic Climber." The "Magic Climber" is a best-of-show climbing exhibit that will stand 37 feet tall and incorporates various components of the North Dakota landscape.

The MCDC is a great example of what can happen with effective public/private partnerships. The MCDC has partnered with the City of Minot, the Minot Park District and the federal Office of Economic Adjustment along with numerous partners in the private sector to bring this project to fruition.

The MCDC will be one of only ten Smithsonian Spark!Lab sites in the United States which will not only draw visitors into the area but will also greatly improve the quality of life for the city of Minot, surrounding communities including those stationed at the Minot Air Force Base.

Your consideration and support of this amendment is greatly appreciated.

Respectfully submitted,



Jason Zimmerman
President

Minot Area Community Foundation



2209 Wolves Den Parkway, Watford City, ND 58854

Rough Rider Center support of **HB 1013**

March 16, 2021

Senate Appropriations Committee,

I am writing to support the amendment to HB1013 offered by Senator Burckhard to provide funding for the Magic City Discovery Center.

Our Rough Rider Center team in Watford City has had the opportunity to work with the Magic City Discovery Center (MCDC) which is a hybrid children's museum and science center that will service children from birth to age 14. We most certainly see the value that this organization brings to the region and our state and we are currently in discussions to utilize their "Discovery on the Go Outreach" resources for our KidStop program, grades K-4 in Watford City.

I would also like to share that I am a Human Resources professional by trade and I also serve on the North Dakota Workforce Development Council. I believe that MCDC is fulfilling a critical gap by focusing their efforts on STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, Math) education which is critical to our future. As we all know, North Dakota has a serious statewide shortage of qualified workers and sparking interest in STEAM disciplines in young children will help to abate this problem.

In my current role at the Rough Rider Center, we focus heavily on creating great experiences for others. MCDC aligns with our principles and values and they understand how important it is for families to have engaging, exciting places to go that are educational and safe.

In closing, MCDC is a great partner and neighbor for us and we see a long-term working relationship with them as they support the critical development of our regional youth for generations to come.

Thank you for your service to our communities and the great state of North Dakota!

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Patrick Bertagnolli".

Patrick Bertagnolli

Rough Rider Center & Community Enhancement Director



VISIT MINOT

1020 South Broadway
PO Box 2066
Minot, ND 58701
T 800.264.2626 701.857.8206

March 15, 2021

Senate Appropriations Committee
Re: HB1013

As the Executive Director for Visit Minot, I am writing to support the amendment to HB1013 offered by Senator Burckhard to provide funding for the Magic City Discovery Center.

I have worked in the tourism industry, in one capacity or another, for twenty years. I believe the Magic City Discovery Center will have a positive economic impact on North Dakota through increased tourism and spending in our state, with an anticipated 70,000-100,000 visitors per year. This unique offering, which focuses on STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, Math) education is critical to our future. But also, it will provide learning opportunities to the underserved, rural and remote communities and indigenous nations through MCDC's Discovery on the Go! outreach programs at schools and field trips to the Discovery Center.

The Magic City Discovery Center will be one of only 10 Smithsonian Spark!Lab sites in the U.S. This world-class invention center will enable students to engage in the Invention Design Process through hands-on innovation and invention projects. We are confident this new community asset will encourage area visitors to extend their stay. And certainly, this is a strong enough attraction that it will cause additional trips.

Now, more than ever, it is important for families to have engaging, exciting places to go that are educational and safe. And there is no better fit than a hybrid children's museum and science center that will serve children from birth to age 14.

On behalf of Visit Minot, the Destination Marketing Organization for Minot, I urge you to support this important amendment and thank you for the consideration.

Sincerely,

Stephanie Schoenrock
Executive Director



PO Box 969 | Minot, ND | 58702 | www.prairiegritsports.com

Prairie Grit Adaptive Sports

Contact: Krystal Butgereit, Executive Director 1-208-949-3315 prairiegritsports@gmail.com

Senate Appropriations Committee,

I am writing to support the amendment to HB1013 offered by Senator Burckhard to provide funding for the Magic City Discovery Center.

I am a pediatric occupational therapist and Executive Director of Prairie Grit Adaptive Sports in Minot, ND. Prairie Grit Adaptive Sports is a non-profit organization that has a mission of providing sports and recreational opportunities for youth and adults living with physical and mental disabilities to enhance their quality of life. In addition to providing opportunities for sports and recreation, PGAS is working towards community awareness, promoting inclusion through accessible experiences for all. I have had the opportunity to work closely with the Magic City Discovery Center team as they have moved forward with planning for the building and programming paying special attention to detail and awareness of what will make their facility accessible, motivating, fun, and educational for all types of children. They are striving to exceed ADA standards to not only make their facility a place that people with disabilities can go, but a place they want to go that is inclusive and welcoming. Consideration is being taken for those with hearing impairments, visual impairments, physical impairments, and cognitive impairments to make each exhibit and experience accessible, inclusive, and provide an educational opportunity for the over 5,600 North Dakota youth under the age of 17 who have a disability (ND Department of Health).

The Magic City Discovery Center has exhibits and activities planned to promote social interaction, problem solving, motor planning, ideation, creativity, cooperation, and more! Through these opportunities the Magic City Discovery Center has ability to help change disabled children's trajectory in life by learning life skills, improving physical and mental health, and building confidence that will positively impact all aspects of their daily lives. The Magic City Discovery Center facility will further establish Minot as a healthy and vibrant community where needs are not only met, but exceeded and participation will no longer be limited to those without disabilities.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Krystal Butgereit MOT, OTR/L". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Krystal Butgereit, MOT, OTR/L
Executive Director
Prairie Grit Adaptive Sports



Office of the President

March 16, 2021

Wendy Keller
Executive Director
Magic City Discovery Center
615 S Broadway, Suite L2
Minot, ND 58701

Wendy,

Please accept this letter in strong support of the Magic City Discovery Center (MCDC) in Minot. Beyond the obvious importance this new Center will have in enhancing quality of life for the families of Minot, the families of the personnel from the Minot Air Force Base, and for the broader region throughout North Dakota, I offer this letter and support from the perspective of Minot State University (MSU).

Among the North Dakota University System campuses, MSU has one of three Early Childhood Education programs in the state. MSU is also home to one of the System's five Elementary Education programs. Between these two areas, we currently have approximately 200 students enrolled and pursuing degrees in Early Childhood and Elementary Education. Additionally, with the MCDC's focus on STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, & Math), it is worth noting MSU's strong programs in such secondary education areas as Art Education, Math Education, Biology Education, Chemistry Education, and Earth Science Education.

The Magic City Discovery Center will be located near the MSU campus and will provide important educational opportunities and new partnering prospects for MSU's many outstanding Teacher Education programs. Our students have already had opportunities to complete clinical hours in the MCDC's temporary location, and this new facility will only serve to enhance those experiences. These connections will certainly benefit MSU students, our state's future educators, and the connections will also benefit the MCDC and its mission to engage children and families in the magic of lifelong learning. A proverbial win-win scenario helping North Dakota's future generations thanks to the natural synergies of these two great organizations!

Sincerely,

A blue ink signature of Steven W. Shirley, consisting of stylized cursive letters.

Steven W. Shirley, PhD

March 12, 2021

Senate Appropriations Committee

Dear Chairman and Committee Members,

I am writing to support the amendment to HB1013 offered by Senator Burckhard to provide the funding for the Magic City Discovery Center.

As a member of the State Board of Higher Education board, I see this as a fantastic opportunity to enhance the education of our students particularly in the area of STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, Math) through a PPP (Public-Private Partnership). As you know the goal to leverage public and private funds continues to be at the forefront of our economic consciousness.

Students from MiSU and potentially DCB will be able to gain valuable experience through hands-on internships and work study opportunities.

A few bullet points to consider:

- Magic City Discovery Center (MCDC) will focus on STEAM education, which is critical to our future.

- MCDC will expose and provide learning opportunities to underserved, rural and remote communities and indigenous nations through numerous outreach programs.

- MCDC will have a positive economic impact on the State of North Dakota with an anticipated 70,000-100,000 visitors per year.

- MCDC will offer a place for families to have an engaging and exciting place to go that offer educational experiences.

- MCDC will expose children prior to school age to the excitement of STEAM opportunities and set them on a course to pursue a future in STEAM careers.

There are many other points I could list, but as I consider the opportunities, I see potential alignment with the Dakota Digital Academy and the opportunity to offer educational exposure to many young students. **As we learned and continue to learn in the pandemic, bright minds are needed to combat the unforeseen challenges such as the Covid-19 pandemic we are experiencing. Wouldn't it be great to see that next problem solver trace their roots back to the Magic City Discovery Center?**

Respectfully submitted,



Timothy P. Mihalick

March 11, 2021

Senate Appropriations Committee Members:

I am writing to support the amendment to HB1013 offered by Senator Burckhard to provide funding for the Magic City Discovery Center. The Minot City Discovery Center will have 150 STEAM based exhibits which will positively impact the children and families of North Dakota. By sparking interest in the Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math at a young age, North Dakota will be working to proactively develop a skilled workforce, well equipped to handle the challenges of tomorrow.

The Magic City Discovery Center will also become a favorite destination for travelers which means our businesses will profit from the increased tourism. It is estimated they will have 70,000 to 100,000 visitors with an anticipated economic impact of \$2 million per year.

The Magic City Discovery Center will improve the quality of life of our children and families and have a positive economic impact on North Dakota. I highly recommend state funding to support the Magic City Discovery Center.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Andrew Maragos". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a stylized flourish at the end.

Andrew Maragos



1ST MINOT
REALTY, INC.

219 S. MAIN STREET
MINOT, ND 58701

(701) 852-0136
cb@minot.com

March 12, 2021

Senate Appropriations Committee

Re: HB1013 Amendment

Dear Committee Members:

I am writing to support the amendment to HB1013 offered by Senator Burckhard to provide funding for the Magic City Discovery Center.

I fully support the Magic City Discovery Center and their vision to positively impact the children and families of North Dakota. As a past educator, I believe that by sparking an interest in Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math at a young age, North Dakota will be working to proactively develop a skilled workforce well equipped to handle the challenges of tomorrow. This impacts not only North Dakota businesses who need qualified workers, but helps our entire nation succeed in a competitive and changing global economy.

As a business owner, I believe the Magic City Discovery Center will have a positive economic impact on North Dakota businesses. Children's Museums and Science Centers are a favorite destination for travelers which means our state will benefit from increased tourism.

I recommend state funding to support the Magic City Discovery Center which will be great for North Dakota children and business.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bruce Walker", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Bruce Walker
Coldwell Banker Owner

March 15, 2021

Senate Appropriations Committee:

I am writing in support of HB 1013 introduced by Senator Burckhard, as it involves the Magic City Discovery Center being located in Minot, ND, and the proposed funding we hope to see become a reality.

The Discovery Center is a state of the art, unique, one of a kind facility being planned for and built in Minot, North Dakota. It will become a destination for children and families in an interactive environment that inspires creativity and education. It will offer experiences and opportunities to visitors as well as to students, planner, interns and visiting academics; it will truly put Minot and North Dakota on the map for others interested and aware of such facilities.

A main focus will be STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, Math) activities, which are recognized as critical to developing problem solving skills. The necessary and timely introduction to these areas of study in children and young adults is a tribute to forward thinking and in the best interest of our North Dakota kids. As a pediatrician I am acutely aware of the potential lack and am delighted to have the MCDC in our near future.

I encourage the Committee to become informed about the MCDC as you read these brief bullet points and at the website: www.magiccitydiscoverycenter.com.

*MCDC will be one of only 10 Smithsonian Spark! Lab sites in the U.S.

*The MCDC will have a positive economic impact on ND. It is anticipated to draw 70,000 to 100,000 visitors per year.

*With its location in Minot, it will also impact the quality of life for the thousands of persons located at Minot Air Force Base.

*Now, more than ever, we are happy to anticipate a place for families to engage with one another while engaging in a stimulating environment that is educational and safe.

I STRONGLY encourage you to vote positively for funding of this incredible facility.

Ann M Cadwalader, MD

Pediatrician, Trinity Health

Minot, ND

March 16, 2021
Testimony of L. John MacMartin
HB 1013



To: Chairman Holmberg and Members of the North Dakota Senate Appropriations Committee,
67th North Dakota Legislative Session.

I am L. John MacMartin, the President of the Minot Area Chamber EDC. I am writing in support of the amendment to HB 1013 offered by Senator Burckhard to provide funding for the Magic City Discovery Center (MCDC).

The Magic City Discovery Center is a hybrid children's museum and science center that will focus on STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, Math) education, which is vital for our future. North Dakota has a critical statewide shortage of qualified workers and sparking interest in these subjects at a young age will help address this issue. The MCDC will drastically improve the quality of life for Minot, the Minot Air Force Base, and all of North Dakota, giving families an engaging place to go that is educational and safe. A positive economic impact is expected through increased tourism and spending with an anticipated 70,000 to 100,000 visitors per year.

Again, I ask for your support of the amendment to HB 1013.

L. John MacMartin, CCE
President
Minot Area Chamber EDC
701-857-8203