

October 3, 2019

RE: Letter of Support for CuriOdyssey's Proposed Physics Play Area

To Whom It May Concern:

The San Mateo County Parks and Recreation Commission ("Parks Commission") writes in support of CuriOdyssey's proposed Physics Play Area. The Physics Play Area, inspired by Magical Bridge playgrounds, will be capable of serving people with varied levels of physical and mental abilities, and allow CuriOdyssey to be more inclusive in who it serves.

CuriOdyssey is a not-for-profit science museum and zoo that is located within the County's Coyote Point Recreation Area. Through educational programs, interactive exhibits, and a wildlife center, CuriOdyssey helps children develop the tools necessary to understand the changing world.

The proposed play area will support the 1 in 4 people with disabilities, whether visible or invisible. By emphasizing kindness and empathy, this play area will help people of all abilities access play and promote inclusivity. It will also support development for children of varying ages and abilities as well as their caregivers.

To further help children understand how science is involved in everyday life, the proposed improvements include an in-ground carousel, disk swing, net spinner, tot area, and a slide. The scientific concepts that will be demonstrated include the disk swing moving like a pendulum; the carousel displaying the concept of centripetal force; and children learning about gravity by throwing spinning balls. All of these improvements help children learn physically and intuitively about scientific concepts.

This proposed Physics Play Area truly enhances CuriOdyssey's value as a regional destination. The Parks Commission is very excited about this opportunity to help individuals of all abilities grow. We encourage you to participate in supporting this important and exciting project.

Sincerely,

Commissioner Basem Manneh, Chair
San Mateo County Parks and Recreation Commission