



Edwin M. Lee, Mayor  
Philip A. Ginsburg, General Manager

Date: May 2, 2013  
To: Recreation and Park Commission  
From: Daliah Khoury  
Re: Grant Acceptance – KaBOOM!

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**Agenda Item Wording:**

Discussion and possible action to accept an in-kind grant of two "Imagination Playground in a Cart" sets from KaBOOM!, valued at approximately \$35,000, to support the Department's programming for young children with special needs.

**Background:**

Imagination Playground is a playspace concept conceived and designed by architect David Rockwell to encourage child-directed, unstructured free play. With a focus on loose parts, Imagination Playground offers a changing array of elements that allows children to constantly reconfigure their environment and to design their own course of play. Giant foam blocks, mats, wagons, fabric, and crates overflow with creative potential for young children to play, dream, build, and explore endless possibilities.

David Rockwell and his firm, Rockwell Group, partnered with KaBOOM!, a national non-profit organization dedicated to bringing play to children everywhere. The mission of KaBOOM! is to create great playspaces through the participation and leadership of communities around the country.

Imagination Playground blocks are made of low carbon, non-toxic foam manufactured in the United States. The closed-cell foam is soft, lightweight, and waterproof. It is resistant to sun, heat, mold, mildew, corrosion, and micro-organisms. It is also biodegradable. The blocks can be easily cleaned with soap and water.

In 2011, KaBOOM! awarded RPD two "Imagination Playground in a Cart" sets for use in our Early Childhood programming. These sets rotate between six facilities (Moscone Recreation Center, Herz Clubhouse, Tenderloin Children's Center, Eureka Valley Recreation Center, Bernal Heights Recreation Center, and Potrero Recreation Center) and have supported RPD's on-going Tiny Tots programming.

This most recent grant from KaBOOM! will support RPD's programming for young children with special needs, including those with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD), the Blind and visually impaired, and those who are Deaf or hard of hearing.

One "Imagination Playground in a Cart" set will reside at Mission Clubhouse, located at 19<sup>th</sup> and Linda Streets. Mission Clubhouse is the new home of RPD's Inclusion Services division



which provides a wide range of adaptive recreation programs for youth and adults with special needs.

The second “Imagination Playground in a Cart” set will be housed at Glen Canyon Recreation Center, located at Bosworth and O’Shaughnessy Streets. Glen Canyon is home to Camp Azure, RPD’s outdoor recreation camp for children with ASD. The mission of Camp Azure is to meet the needs of children with ASD so they can enjoy the benefits of a safe, supportive, challenging, and fun day camp experience, along with their non-disabled peers. Camp Azure is based on the philosophy that all children, regardless of ability, can successfully participate in and benefit from community based recreation activities if they have appropriate support.

“Imagination Playground in a Cart” sets support these programs because they enable children of all abilities to engage in creative, self-directed play, which is important to the cognitive, social, physical, and emotional development of all children.

Both “Imagination Playground in a Cart” sets were generously supported by the Lisa and Douglas Goldman Fund.

**Recommendation:**

Department management and staff recommends acceptance of this grant.

**Financial Impact:**

Approximately \$35,000

**Supported by:**

KaBOOM!  
Lisa and Douglas Goldman Fund  
Department management and staff

**Opposed by:**

None known at this time

**People to contact:**

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