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ARTS NEWS

Kids museum gets \$1 million Piper grant

More than \$2 million in grants for arts and culture in the Valley, announced last month by the Virginia G. Piper Charitable Trust, includes a \$1 million gift to the Children's Museum of Phoenix, which plans to open in spring 2008.

"Financially, it lets us make a leap forward in the construction and the exhibit construction," said Debo-

rah Gilpin, the museum's president and CEO, "but it also represents the Piper trust's commitment to children. Their recognition that this asset in the community will really strengthen families is a great benefit to us, and strengthens our capital campaign."

The museum is a \$22.8 million project, with \$10.5 million coming from

a 2001 city bond election. It will offer hands-on art and educational activities in the old Monroe School at Seventh and Van Buren streets. It has been operating a Museums Without Walls program in schools and other venues for the past six years.

For more details, visit childrensmuseumofphoenix.org.