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SATURDAY

OASIS OPTIONS

Whether you're on a budget or swimming in dough, pool makeovers run the gamut.

IN HOME

SATURDAY

BEAUTY OF A BEAST

The exotic Audi R8 turns heads with its aggressive styling and performance.

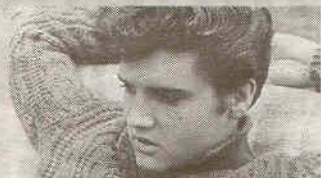
IN CARS

SUNDAY

EVERLASTING ELVIS

The singer died 30 years ago. But the music and legend live on.

IN A & E



\$250K Pulliam grant boosts museum

Children's facility set for June '08 opening

By Beth Litwin

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Phoenix youngsters will soon be able to visit an interactive new Children's Museum of Phoenix, thanks in part to continued support from the Nina Mason Pulliam Charitable Trust.

The Children's Museum announced this week a gift of \$250,000 from the Pulliam Trust to support the museum's Childhood Dreams Built By You capital campaign. The Children's Museum of Phoenix is scheduled to open in June 2008.

"The museum is extremely grateful to the Nina Mason Pulliam Charitable Trust for this grant and for their enthusiastic support of this project over the years," said Deborah Gilpin, museum president and CEO, who has been involved with children's museums for 20 years. "Like the saying, 'It takes a village to raise a child,' we need the money to make this happen."

Gilpin said that the Pulliam Trust came on board the project very early because of the impact it will have in the community.

The capital campaign currently stands at \$6.5 million and the goal is \$12.3 million. Funds will go toward renovating the museum building, a historic 1912 elementary school building at Sev-



NICK OZA/THE REPUBLIC

Jordan Wiener, 4, plays in sand with her twin sister, Claire (right), outside Children's Museum of Phoenix at Monroe School, which will be renovated.

enth Street and Van Buren. Grant money will also go toward designing and creating exhibits as well as recruiting and training staff.

Gilpin describes the exhibits as enabling children to "put their hands on real things and use them."

The museum is designed for children under age 10.

Exhibits include the "Texture Café," a hands-on café for children to explore, and "Building Big," a large-scale construction exhibit with huge building blocks.

Community members and children

may start getting involved this fall at various events in which kids play a role in building actual exhibits. These include helping to design life-size wire frame sculptures, creating a 3-D collage installation, making origami birds and helping to create a Dream Sculpture.

Donations to the museum can be made on its Web site, childrensmuseumofphoenix.org after Sept. 1. Local volunteers are also needed to help spread the word, participate in community projects and throw parties.

For more information: childrensmuseumofphoenix.org or (602) 253-0501.