

April 5, 2021

Federal Communications Commission
45 L Street NE
Washington, DC 20554

Regarding: DA/FCC #: DA-21-317
Docket/RM: 21-93

To whom it may concern:

WE ARE:

The Grand Rapids Public Museum is an invaluable, publicly-owned institution that is home to more than 250,000 unique artifacts that tell the history of Kent County, Michigan and beyond, houses the only planetarium in the region along with exhibitions and educational programming focused on history, science and culture. The GRPM inspires passionate curiosity and a deeper understanding of the world around us. Museums have always been community gathering places for lifelong learning that use their unique collections of artifacts and specimens as primary sources to teach and inspire.

WE BELIEVE:

THE INTERNET IS FOR CREATORS NOT JUST CONSUMERS

Internet access is not only for consuming content but authoring and publishing content. The Internet is made of web servers (computers) that let others browse content. The GRPM believes in creating a future where everyone has an equal opportunity to author and publish content.

DIGITAL LITERACY IS AN OPPORTUNITY TO EXPAND EQUITY

The GRPM defines digital literacy as being able to create and share ideas, experiences, and information online in meaningful ways that allows all individuals to participate in shaping the future of society.

PARTICIPATION IN CRAFTING THE INTERNET IS A RIGHT

When the Internet is a *quilt* of diverse sources and authors the best version of humanity is available to everyone. When the Internet is a *blanket* coming from a single source or a small set of sources we get something that is less resilient.

MUSEUMS EMBODY A PROMISE OF KNOWLEDGE FOR ALL

For centuries museums have shared information in physical spaces, but now it means sharing information online. The Grand Rapids Public Museum wants the opportunity to participate in shaping the future of Internet access and connectivity in our community, region and nation.

WE REQUEST:

That the Federal Communications Commission and the Wireline Competition Bureau consider the following comments on the *Emergency Connectivity Fund for Educational Connections and Devices to Address the Homework Gap During the Pandemic*.

Regarding “whether there are *other entities, not already eligible under the ERate program, that the Commission should make eligible for support through the Emergency Connectivity Fund*”



That museums be added to the list of eligible entities as educational institutions that support connectivity and learning in their communities.

Regarding *“the specific equipment and services that are necessary to facilitate and support the connectivity required to meet students, school staff, and library patrons’ remote learning needs.”*

That broadband technologies like radios, antennas, EPCs, outdoor units, and sim card containing devices like mobile phones, be added to the list of approved equipment in order to ensure that the beneficiaries of this fund can be content creators with an equal and active role in crafting the Internet.

Submitted by:

Grand Rapids Public Museum
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Additional support from:

Michigan Museum Association



Association of Midwest Museums



American Alliance of Museums

