

Grants Committee Recommendation – Methodist Preschool

The PPCC Grants Committee is pleased to recommend a grant of **\$5,000** from donations that PPCC has received to the Pacific Palisades Methodist Preschool for classroom equipment.

For nearly 80 years, Methodist Preschool of Pacific Palisades has been a cornerstone of early childhood education in the community, with a deeply held philosophy rooted in curiosity, creativity and hands on learning. Central to this identity is the school's "tinkering mindset," an approach that encourages children to explore materials, test ideas, problem solve and build with their hands.

The Palisades Fire forced the school to leave its longtime home and relocate to facilities in West Los Angeles in order to continue serving children and families affected by the disaster. While the school has successfully maintained programming, much of what made the Palisades environment feel familiar and grounding was lost in the transition.

The grant requested by the Methodist Preschool is for tangible, portable learning environments/equipment that can be used immediately and then moved back to the Palisades when the school returns. Specifically, the school is endeavoring to re-establish two cornerstone program elements: a STEAM Lab (Science, technology, engineering, art and mathematics), and a Woodworking and Tinkering Workshop. These environments were among the most beloved spaces in the school's former campus and are foundational to the program's identity. Reintroducing them provides stability, familiarity and emotional grounding for fire affected children.

The grant recommended by the PPCC Grants Committee enables the Methodist Preschool to use its discretion to purchase needed items to rebuild their programs.

By the PPCC Grants Committee:

Quentin Fleming, Chair; Janet Anderson, Lorie Cudzil, Sue Kohl (ex-officio), Kevin Niles, Chris Spitz*, Andrew Wolfberg, Maryam Zar. (* not attending)*

Prepared in connection with the April 9, 2026, PPCC Board meeting.