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VALLEY & STATE

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'Climberini' going up at museum

Towering jungle gym to let kids soar

By **Jahna Berry**
THE ARIZONA REPUBLIC

The Children's Museum of Phoenix is building the ultimate jungle gym.

The 37-foot-tall, \$1.5 million Schuff-Perini Climberini will use 50 tons of steel and will have a network of ramps, stairs and unique play spaces for children age 10 and younger.

This month, crews began to pour concrete for the immense steel structure that will become the bones of the Climberini. Next week, they will bring in the steel beams.

The attraction will keep children with mobility challenges in mind, said Marion Wiener, the museum's spokeswoman.

"The third level (of the museum) will have an observation deck," she said. "Even though they won't be up on the Climberini, it will make them

feel like they are part of it."

Most of the project's local materials and labor were donated, said Robert Kobierowski, engineering manager at Perini Building Co. The firm is donating its services. Schuff Steel Co. donated steel, steel fabrication work and installation. More than two dozen other subcontractors, including the concrete workers who were at the museum last week, volunteered workers or construction materials.

"It's a crazy time," said Kobierowski, who has infant twin daughters who are museum regulars. "Everyone is pinching pennies, but everyone I called said yes."

The museum still must raise about \$400,000 to finish the project, said Wiener, who is director of marketing and communications for the museum.

Although a lot of local materi-

If you go

What: Children's Museum of Phoenix.

Where: 215 N. Seventh St., Phoenix.

Hours: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesdays-Sundays. The museum is closed on Mondays with the exception of select holidays. It will be closed through Sept. 30 for its annual spruce-up.

Cost: Members and children younger than 1, free; non-members, \$9.

More information: 602-253-0501 or www.childrensmuseumofphoenix.org.



CARLOS CHAVEZ/THE ARIZONA REPUBLIC

Marion Wiener, director of marketing and communications for the Children's Museum of Phoenix, shows a small-scale sculpture of the 37-foot-tall Schuff-Perini Climberini under construction.

als and labor was donated, the museum must pay for some Climberini parts, Wiener said. That includes special ramps and a bathtub with wings that must be fabricated out of state.