



the new children's museum

news release

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THE NEW CHILDREN'S MUSEUM OPENS INNOVATORS LAB

Creative twist on the popular makerspace movement

September 27, 2016 — Downtown San Diego — The New Children's Museum launched the *Innovators LAB* this week, its own unique take on the popular makerspace movement, designed around all of the possibilities that the arts provide combined with the sciences.

Funded by generous and forward-thinking donors, the new space and workshops are part of the Museum's strategic direction to expand programming and audiences, including reaching older children ages 7 to 13.

"The *Innovators LAB* is a collaborative space that challenges children to think, play and create while exploring the worlds of art, science and engineering," said Tomoko Kuta, director of education and exhibitions. "What sets this apart from other makerspaces is the collaboration with external professionals."

The *Innovators LAB* will be evolving and rotating projects with the external professionals such as artists, architects and engineers driving the focus. Along with the Museum Creative Team, these experts will create design challenges and provide open-ended, skill-building projects that explore real world issues.

The first *Innovators LAB* project features local artist Marisol Rendon, who created the popular *Wobbleland* installation currently featured at the Museum. Rendon works with both sculpture and drawing as tools to explore her questions about our relationship to the world around us. She works with the magical possibilities of everyday objects and asks us to rethink our relationships with them through fantastic new opportunities. Rendon helped create the collaborative project *Fly Together* for the *Innovators LAB* launch, through which visitors are learning about buoyancy and creating their own inflatable devices, which they activate as flying drones.

Funding for the Museum's *Innovators LAB* comes from the California Arts Council, Chevron, Cox, Genentech, General Atomics, Hunter Industries, Kinder Morgan, Lockheed Martin, National Endowment for the Arts, Northrop Grumman, Rockwell Collins, ThermoFisher and WD40.

ABOUT THE NEW CHILDREN'S MUSEUM

The New Children's Museum is a new model of children's museum whose mission is to stimulate imagination, creativity and critical thinking in children and families through inventive and engaging experiences with contemporary art. Serving San Diego for 30 years, the Museum opened in 1983 in La Jolla as the Children's Museum/Museo de los Niños and reopened downtown in 2008. The Museum brings families together in a rich educational environment that fosters creativity — blending elements of children's museums and art museums. The Museum collaborates with contemporary artists on an ongoing basis, both for large-scale thematic exhibitions, individual installations and educational programs for children. The New Children's Museum is a non-profit institution funded by admissions, memberships and community support.

ABOUT THE ARTIST: MARISOL RENDON

Marisol Rendon received her M.F.A. from Claremont Graduate University in 2003 and is currently an Assistant Professor of Art at Southwestern College in Chula Vista, CA. Marisol has had solo exhibitions at the Museum of Art of Pereira in Colombia, the California Center for the Arts in Escondido, CA and the Caldas Museum of Art in Columbia, in addition to participating in group exhibitions at the Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego and the Market Gallery in Los Angeles.

To learn more, visit www.thinkplaycreate.org.