



the new children's museum

news release

For Immediate Release

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NEW NCM EXHIBITION DEVELOPER IS ALL ABOUT PLAY

SAN DIEGO – November 21, 2013 –California native **Megan Dickerson** returns to her home state of California to serve as Manager of Exhibition Development for The New Children's Museum (NCM) in San Diego. Working within the Exhibitions department under the direction of Tomoko Kuta, Director of Education and Exhibitions, Dickerson will lead the exhibitions team to develop the next generation of innovative, transformative exhibitions for children and families.

Dickerson, who spent 10 years at the Boston Children's Museum, joins NCM just as ***Feast: The Art of Playing With Your Food*** gets underway, but is already thinking about the next exhibition. "I plan to bring my years of experience in museums and art to this place where we are really trying something new and different," Dickerson said.

"I'm excited to be part of this new model of children's museum that connects kids with contemporary art and artists. I'll be working with artists and fabricators to build transformative spaces for San Diego families. I believe that play is not only "the work of the child," but the pleasure and lifeblood of the adult. Play makes people happy."

As an experience designer, artist and exhibit developer, Dickerson has partnered with individuals and groups to enable immersive, intergenerational spaces where play might happen. Through play(space), the umbrella for her independent projects, she is known for creating innovative public art projects. "Much of my play work in the past twelve years has focused on kids and families at Boston Children's Museum, MASS MoCA, the Peabody Essex Museum, and historic sites."

In Boston, Megan's user-centered designs have included *Boston's Longest Dinner Table*, a three-month community participation project focused on family dinner; *GoKids* in Boston Neighborhoods, a two-year health and nutrition project co-designed with Boston Housing Authority family development tenants; and numerous, playful interventions.

Dickerson's goals include increasing community input in the future of NCM exhibitions and discovering how NCM can be even more relevant to the families of our region. In planning for 2015, she will be finding ways to serve families and help create spaces for kids to play, stretch their imaginations, and become critical thinkers.

Megan holds a BA in History & Museum Studies from the University of California, Los Angeles, and is an MA candidate in the interdisciplinary Play and Playwork program at the University of Gloucestershire. A Whittier native, her first two jobs in high school were at local museums: the Whittier Museum and the La Habra Children's Museum.

Learn more about Megan's take on playfulness at www.takeplayseriously.org

Learn more about The New Children's Museum at www.thinkplaycreate.org

Photo credit: Chris Wood, SD Studios

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. NCM brings families together in a rich educational environment that fosters creativity — blending elements of children's museums and art museums. NCM is a non-profit institution funded by admissions, memberships, and community support. Learn more at thinkplaycreate.org

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