



the new children's museum

news release

For immediate release

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THE NEW CHILDREN'S MUSEUM PLANS A MUSICAL TRASH-FILLED CELEBRATION TO COMMEMORATE 4TH BIRTHDAY

Musical Trash | Birthday Bash featuring Machine Project

Sunday, May 20th

10am – 4pm

Free with general admission

April 5, 2012 — San Diego — Visitors to NCM have been both delighted and surprised by the *Cash Machine*, a creative engineering feat designed and installed by Los Angeles-based artist collective, **Machine Project**. This fundraising device, some say a cross between a drive up bank teller and a vacuum cleaner, literally comes to life when a visitor makes a contribution. Now, the amazing minds that brought NCM the *Cash Machine* return to take over the galleries, studios, and park for a celebration of trash, music and NCM's 4th birthday!

Birthday bash party-goers can experience a day of listening, building, and performing with sound projects based on trash and recycling, and work alongside artists, scientists, musicians and engineers to create original musical compositions. Kids of all ages can perform in a music ensemble made from obsolete computers, build contact microphones and turn trash cans into electric drums.

Machine Project will transform the entire Museum into a percussion device! Highlights include:

Waste Wind Chimes: This instrument building workshop lets you create beautiful sounding wind chimes from trash materials that can be played individually or in chorus with others. NCM's outdoor patio will resound with the clinking and clanging of this collective wind chime sculpture.

Tin Can Phone Tap: Talk, sing, or laugh with a friend in this giant game of telephone that sends your voice across the Museum's galleries! You can even record your voice over the line, and hear it played back on the Cricket Wireless Lower Level.

Computer Stethoscope: Discover the strange sounds hidden inside discarded electronics. Visitors will use stethoscopes to perform a sound analysis and explore outdated technology.

Parental Den of Child Catharsis: Relax in the parental den and listen to the remixed sound-scapes of trash music played by children in the galleries.

In addition to Machine Project's performances and workshops, play NCM-style birthday party games in the Museum's park! Participate in a free fun-filled lineup to win special prizes.

Museum Musical Chairs

Dance around to live music and play NCM's super-sized musical chairs!

Break the Cake: Piñata Party

Take a swing at NCM's artist-made piñata!

Chalk Mural

Can you draw with your eyes closed? Enjoy NCM's rendition of "pin the tail on the donkey." Collaborate on a massive birthday-party chalk mural, and draw birthday candles to "pin the candle on the cake!"

Want a sneak peak of what Machine Project's incredible events are all about? This collaborative group of innovative artists and performers have staged one-of-a-kind events for all ages at other prestigious institutions such as the Getty, Los Angeles County Museum of Art, and the Hammer Museum. Check out the videos below for a sneak peak of what these incredible events are all about:

WATCH AND LISTEN - MACHINE PROJECT VIDEO LINKS

[Getty Center Family Festival: Travertine Ensemble](#)

[A Field Guide to LACMA](#)

[Soundings: Bells at the Hammer](#)

ABOUT MACHINE PROJECT

Machine Project Founder and Director Mark Allen creates opportunities for collaborations between artists, scientists, engineers, poets, and musicians to realize a selection of weekly courses and occasional installations at their storefront in Los Angeles. Given the variety of collaborators, the workshop offerings are equally eclectic, ranging from welding and pickling to sound engineering and bookbinding. Allen founded Machine Project in 2003 in Los Angeles and oversees programming both at their storefront location in Echo Park, and at various cultural institutions throughout the U.S. Machine Project has been in residence at the Hammer Museum and the Walker Art Center, in addition to developing programming and site specific events for the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, Berkeley Art Museum, Museum of Contemporary Art Denver, and SPACES, Cleveland.

ABOUT THE EXHIBITION

TRASH features the work of 12 artists from around the globe focused on the kid-friendly and timely topic of trash. Through inventive, participatory artworks, the exhibition invites families to explore new perspectives and help shape the future. *TRASH* empowers kids to take the lead in their families on talking about environmental and social issues, such as landfills, waste disposal and The Great Pacific Garbage Patch.

TRASH is organized by The New Children's Museum and is made possible by the generosity of Laurie and Brent Woods, Lynne and Glenn Carlson, and Fernanda and Ralph Whitworth. Support is also provided by The James Irvine Foundation, Nordstrom, the City of San Diego Commission for Arts and Culture, the County of San Diego's Community Enhancement Program, Museum members and donors to NCM's annual fund.

ABOUT THE NEW CHILDREN'S MUSEUM

The New Children's Museum is a dynamic new model of a museum that provides inventive and engaging art experiences that are meaningful to children and families. NCM brings families together in a rich educational environment that fosters creativity — blending elements of art museum, children's museum, and community center.

A non-profit institution funded by admissions, memberships, and community support, the Museum stimulates imagination, inquisitiveness and innovative thinking by exhibiting participatory works of art by contemporary artists and providing a venue for art making and play. Serving all ages, from toddler to teen, NCM inspires new ways to see the world through the language of art. To learn more, visit thinkplaycreate.org/pressroom.

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