



the new children's museum

news release

For immediate release

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THE NEW CHILDREN'S MUSEUM LAUNCHES *WIND VESSEL* NEW INSTALLATION HARNESSES THE POWER OF WIND AND KID ENERGY

SAN DIEGO – May 28, 2014 – The New Children’s Museum in downtown San Diego introduced their newest art installation *Wind Vessel*, created by San Diego Foundation Creative Catalyst Grant recipient Miki Iwasaki. *Wind Vessel* is an interactive installation that provides children the means to explore wind power and energy creation.

“Miki Iwasaki is known for innovative and visually arresting visual art, architecture and design projects,” said Felicia Shaw, (Director Arts and the Creative Economy, The San Diego Foundation). “We selected Miki and The New Children’s Museum’s *Wind Vessel* project because we felt that together they would create a participatory artwork that would be accessible and engaging for diverse audiences,” she added. Visitors interact with the installation by using pedal power to generate wind and activate LED lights. The artwork challenges users to think artistically and scientifically about the potential to use wind to produce energy.

Tomoko Kuta, Director of Education and Exhibitions, explained the process for *Wind Vessel*’s development. “We work closely with our artists and include visitors in our prototyping phases to ensure that we are creating interesting, engaging art not only to look at but to interact with as well.” For the *Wind Vessel* project, there were multiple opportunities for input. “We held two workshops at the Museum with members and visitors and a third with students from one of our partner schools, the Monarch School, at Iwasaki’s studio to engage with the artist at work,” she added.

“I hope that through my work the visitor is prompted to consider how materials, light, scale, texture, color and shape impact our world view,” Iwasaki explained to a group of donors and supporters during the launch of the installation. “I enjoyed the creative challenge of shifting my focus to children and families as an audience, as well as designing with new materials and technology.”

Wind Vessel was made possible by the Ariel W. Coggeshall Fund of the San Diego Foundation Malin Burnham Center for Civic Engagement and nrg Energy Incorporated.

Learn more about Wind Vessel at <http://www.thinkplaycreate.org/windvessel>

About Miki Iwasaki

Iwasaki is currently adjunct faculty at Woodbury University San Diego, School of Architecture and his architectural experience includes work in New York, Los Angeles, and San Diego including several new installations at the San Diego Airport.

About the Creative Catalyst Fund: Individual Artist Fellowship Program

(CCF Fellowship Program): This is a grant that provides opportunities for local professional artists to create new work that advances their careers and encourages civic engagement and social change in San Diego neighborhoods. Through partnerships with pre-selected nonprofit arts and culture organizations, The Foundation will fund fellowships ranging from \$10,000 to \$20,000 for up to 10 local professional artists. The CCF Fellows Program is a cornerstone program of The Foundation – Malin Burnham Center for Civic Engagement. A long range goal for the program is to establish San Diego as a place where creativity and all makers of art can thrive and to demonstrate the many ways that the arts bring meaning and value to the lives of San Diego residents. For more information about The Foundation visit <http://www.sdfoundation.org>.

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. The Museum collaborates with contemporary artists on an ongoing basis, both for large-scale thematic exhibitions, individual installations and educational programs for children. NCM is a non-profit institution funded by admissions, memberships and community support. To learn more, visit www.thinkplaycreate.org.

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