



the new children's museum™

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THE NEW CHILDREN'S MUSEUM EXPANDS LEADERSHIP AMID RECORD GROWTH

Two seasoned San Diego development professionals join Museum

July 12, 2017 — Downtown San Diego — The New Children's Museum, an arts-based children's museum in the heart of San Diego's Marina District, is expanding its leadership team by welcoming seasoned development professionals Erin Decker and Jane Rice.

Decker and Rice come on board as the Museum looks forward to its 10th anniversary and embarks on a bold five-year vision. Their exceptional expertise in philanthropy and stewardship are critical components as the Museum seeks to build capacity and expand its reach to the community. With plans that include enhancements in exhibitions, education and programming, the Museum will continue to serve children and families within its four walls as well as more broadly throughout the county.

The Museum's unique approach of collaborating with contemporary artists to create room-sized interactive installations continues to resonate with locals and tourists alike and admissions are 40% higher than last year. "The kind of growth we've experienced over the past couple of years requires stellar leadership with a strong vision for the future," said Judy Forrester, CEO and Executive Director since late 2015. "With their demonstrated success in San Diego and beyond, Erin and Jane complement our talented senior team as we prepare for continued growth."

Erin Decker joins the Museum as Vice President of Development, after over a decade in non-profit arts fundraising. Most recently, she held the position of Senior Associate Director of Development at the La Jolla Playhouse. Ms. Decker serves on the Steering Committee of the San Diego Regional Arts and Culture Coalition and enjoys active membership with Americans for the Arts, the Association of Fundraising Professionals, Escondido Charitable Foundation, and North County Philanthropy Council. Ms. Decker received her B.A. from UCLA, where she studied International Economics and Spanish. Along with her husband Doug and their daughter Eliza, Ms. Decker is a proud resident of Escondido. In her spare time, she enjoys singing with the San Diego Master Chorale, cooking, traveling, backpacking, jogging, and playing tennis.

"My career has been devoted to enhancing lives and educating the public through the arts, and I look forward to continuing that work at this innovative, vital organization," Decker said. "It is an honor to support an institution that champions creativity, confidence, and community in San Diego's future generations. I can't wait to get started."

Jane Rice joins the Museum as Vice President of Advancement, after a long career in the arts in both New York and San Diego. Rice spent the last eight years as Director of Special Donor Projects and Centennial Campaign Director at the San Diego Symphony, and the twelve years prior to that as the Director of Institution Advancement at the Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego. Rice

began her career in New York, holding positions at both the Museum of Modern Art and Whitney Museum of American Art. Rice received her BA Honors Degree from Trevelyan College at Durham University in England and a Masters from the Harvard Graduate School of Education. She also received a Certificate in Arts Administration from the Institute in Arts Administration at Harvard. Rice served as faculty and on the Museum Management Institute Advisory Committee of the J. Paul Getty Trust. She has been a speaker and panelist at the American Association of Museums Conferences and served as the President of the Art Museum Development Association. In recognition of her work, Rice holds Director of Institutional Advancement Emeritus titles at both the San Diego Symphony and Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego. Rice lives in La Jolla.

"Children from all backgrounds should have access to art and the creative process," Rice said. "I am delighted to be joining The New Children's Museum as their VP Advancement. This position combines my passions for children's education and contemporary art. I look forward to serving."

Board Chair Tiffany Archer works closely with the Museum senior staff and is pleased with the new hires. "I am thrilled with the incredible leadership in place at the Museum," said Archer, who has been Board Chair since January of this year. "Erin and Jane have strong connections in San Diego and the proven ability to generate support for arts institutions. I am truly excited for what the future holds as we continue to grow and expand our ability to create a lasting impact in the lives of children in our community and beyond."

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.

The Museum opened in 1983 in La Jolla as the Children's Museum/Museo de los Niños and reopened downtown as The New Children's Museum in 2008. The Museum brings families together in a rich educational environment that fosters creativity — blending the best elements of children's museums, contemporary art museums and community resources. The Museum collaborates with contemporary artists on an ongoing basis 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 and will be celebrating 35 years in San Diego and 10 years downtown in 2018.

Key Upcoming Museum Events

- October 14, 2017: **Studio 200 on Island** Annual Fundraising Benefit Event
- October 19 – 22: **Without Walls (WOW)** in partnership with the La Jolla Playhouse, where the Museum is one of four key downtown locations

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