



Media contacts

Kerri Fox
VP Marketing + Communications
619 795 1524
kfox@thinkplaycreate.org

Toni Robin
TRPR
858 483 3918
tr@trprsandiego.com

The New Children's Museum Awarded \$249,739 IMLS Grant

One of 133 projects focusing on creative positive community change

SAN DIEGO – September 13, 2018 - The New Children's Museum was awarded a three-year grant for \$249,739 by the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS). The federal agency announced a total of 133 projects totaling \$19,932,000 as part of its competitive Museums for America initiative. The New Children's Museum grant was the sole award in San Diego County and one of only 21 awarded in California.

“These grants enable museums of all sizes and disciplines across the nation to make a difference in their local communities,” said Paula Gangopadhyay, Deputy Director of the IMLS Office of Museum Services. “This year’s Museums for America projects showcase the leadership vision and resourcefulness of hundreds of museums.”

The three-year project enables the Museum to partner with contemporary artists and San Diego community organizations in underserved neighborhoods to implement three cycles of annual artist residency programming. Expanding on work already undertaken with commissioned artists and community partners, the project is designed to meet identified needs of visiting families, as well as those that have not yet visited, and contribute to the artists’ ability to engage in community practice. The annual residency project will culminate in an interactive work of art for families to enjoy at the Museum, complementing the Museum’s exhibition plan for two to three smaller installations annually and one major anchor installation every five years.

“IMLS support helps solidify the direction of artist residencies at the Museum. Creating partnerships with our commissioned artists has been critical to our success as an arts-based children’s museum,” said Tomoko Kuta, Deputy Museum Director of The New Children's Museum. “This project lets us create experiences that meet the needs of current visitors while pushing us to reach new underserved audiences and share our work with the museum field.”

The Museum anticipates reaching nearly 10,000 children and family members in underserved communities through these efforts. The program will serve as a model for other museums to develop community-based exhibition and program development.

This marks the third IMLS grant received by The New Children's Museum in the past five years. A prior award helped fund the immersive installation *The Wonder Sound*, a two-year collaboration with the

community and artist Wes Sam Bruce that opened in 2016. The Museum is currently involved in *Comunidad*, a two-year IMLS-funded program designed to strengthen relationships and increase activities with community partners including Casa Familiar and South Bay Community Services.

About the Institute of Museum and Library Services

The Institute of Museum and Library Services is the primary source of federal support for the nation's libraries and museums. We advance, support, and empower America's museums, libraries, and related organizations through grantmaking, research, and policy development. Our vision is a nation where museums and libraries work together to transform the lives of individuals and communities. To learn more, visit www.imls.gov and follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#)

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 art installations and educational programs for children. In 2018, the Museum is celebrating 35 years in San Diego and 10 years as The New Children's Museum. To learn more, visit thinkplaycreate.org or follow them on [Facebook](#) or [Instagram](#).

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