



the new children's museum™

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A BRIDGE TO A NEW YEAR

New year, new art at The New Children's Museum

SAN DIEGO – January 24, 2019 - This year promises to be a show stopper at The New Children's Museum – including a local partnership to refurbish the Paint and Clay Studio, a significant new installation by an international artist and an artist residency culminating in a reimagined Tot Studio. All of this and more can be accessed by entering the Museum through an exciting new bridge creatively designed by Tijuana-based artist PANCA.

Smile! It's a new year at The New Children's Museum!

Chula Vista-born artist Panca has been an integral part of the vibrant Tijuana-San Diego border art scene for many years. Her distinct visual style is part of murals she's painted throughout San Diego, including a recently completed four-story tall piece at Bread and Salt. Her work for the Museum includes strokes of color that draw visitors across the Museum's entry bridge in the 48-foot-long mural *SMILE*, installed just in time for the new year. Playful eyes and hearts (or are they noses?) are scattered through these lines of color, creating the impression of deconstructed, curious faces.

"I have always remembered the time I visited the Museum as a child and got to paint the iconic truck," said the 32-year-old Panca. "It was the first time I got to paint something on a large scale. It's so cool to be here now exhibiting at the Museum as a commissioned artist."

San Diego State University Design Students Create New Clay Studio Furniture

In keeping with their mission of sparking creativity and critical thinking, the Museum collaborated with SDSU School of Art and Design students for the past year to enhance their popular outdoor studio space. Students in SDSU's first ever course, Community Partnership in Applied Design, along with Adam J. Manley, designed prototypes.

"It's been great to tap into a group of creative college students with this project," said Lani Bautista Cabanilla, Manager of Visitor Programs at the Museum. "We're proud to provide students with real-life design experience while also getting a beautiful finished product for our Museum. We hope to see this turn into annual partnership with SDSU."

The newly designed tables, benches and stools will be installed at the end of January. The project was supported in part by Seth Sprague Educational and Charitable Foundation. Additional support provided by Tony and Cristina Yahyai.

International Artist Toshiko MacAdam

Perhaps the biggest piece of news for 2019 is a newly commissioned work by internationally recognized fiber artist Toshiko MacAdam. Originally from Japan and currently residing in Canada, MacAdam is best known for her climbable large-scale textile structures. She was inspired to create textile playground spaces after children climbed into a three-dimensional textile sculpture that she was exhibiting. Her playscape structures are made almost entirely by hand and each is one-of-a-kind. MacAdam will be onsite installing a new original work on the Museum's upper level beginning in late Spring.

"From the first time my son played in MacAdam's "[Woods of Net](#)" Pavilion at the Hakone Open Air Museum in [Japan](#), I dreamed of collaborating with her," said Tomoko Kuta, Deputy Museum Director. "We are thrilled to be working with Toshiko, someone who creates beautiful, immersive sculptures and who understands the needs of children."

Childsplay Artist Tanya Aguiñiga Returns for Artist Residency

Tanya Aguiñiga was first commissioned for The New Children's Museum's grand opening in 2008. Then a budding artist from the San Diego-Tijuana region, she created *Texture Forest*, a whimsical toddler play space. In the decade since, she has developed her career and has been featured in *American Craft Magazine* and PBS's *Craft in America Series*. In 2018, she received the inaugural Johnson Fellowship which recognizes artists who have made significant contributions towards positive changes in US communities. She is currently exhibited in a group exhibition at the Renwick Gallery, Smithsonian American Art Museum through late spring.

Aguiñiga will be an artist in residence at the Museum, participating in workshops throughout San Diego through their annual Mass Creativity program, while also reimagining the popular Tot Studio on the Museum's upper level.

"I first started working with the Museum 10 years ago when I made *Texture Forest*," said Aguiñiga. "I loved creating an environment that children could play and interact with! Now, as a mother, I'm even more excited to come back to my hometown of San Diego/Tijuana to create an immersive experience for the community. I believe in the Museum's mission and absolutely love working with their incredible staff who I've become very close with!"

The new Tot Studio is slated to open this Fall. Funding for this project provided in part by the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS).

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. Located downtown, the Museum collaborates with contemporary artists to design and create art installations and educational programs for children. 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. In 2018, the Museum celebrated its 35th year in San Diego and its 10th year as The New Children's Museum downtown. To learn more, visit thinkplaycreate.org or follow them on [Facebook](#) or [Instagram](#).

Supporting photos:

1. *Smile* by Panca (2 photos)
2. SDSU collaboration (photo of classroom; photo of furniture)
3. Toshiko MacAdam (photo of Japan installation, photo of artist)
4. *Texture Forest*, Tanya Aguiniga (photo of art installation, photo of artist).