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FREE ADMISSION ALL SUMMER LONG FOR MILITARY FAMILIES

The New Children's Museum kicks off their annual military free summer

May 24, 2019 – San Diego, CA – The New Children's Museum is offering free admission all to military families this summer through Blue Star Museums. The program kicked off Wednesday with a reception with families from the USO, STEP (Support the Enlisted Project), among other military organizations. Making brief remarks in support of the Museum's military effort were Supervisor Nathan Fletcher, County of San Diego (District 4,) Tony Teravainen, President, CEO & Co-Founder of Support The Enlisted Project (STEP), Captain Frank Curtis ("Curt") Jones, Chief of Staff for Navy Region SW and Manuel Rodriguez, San Diego Market President, U.S. Bank.

"The New Children's Museum has a long history of support for the San Diego military community and we are honored to provide this opportunity to those who are serving our country," said NCM Executive Director Judy Forrester "We are excited that military personnel throughout San Diego County (and beyond) will be able to enrich their summer by participating in our inventive and engaging art experiences."

Blue Star Museums is a collaboration among the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA), Blue Star Families, the Department of Defense and more than 2,000 museums across the country. The program offers free admission to all active duty military personnel and their families, including National Guard and Reserve, beginning this week through Labor Day.

"As we launch the tenth summer of Blue Star Museums, it remains a privilege for the National Endowment for the Arts to serve members of the military and their families through this program," said Mary Anne Carter, acting chairman of the NEA. "Whether it's an art museum, science center, or botanic garden, there are so many wonderful opportunities for military families to share a memorable experience exploring our nation's museums."

The free admission program is available for those currently serving in the United States Military—Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, Coast Guard as well as members of the Reserves, National Guard, U.S. Public Health Commissioned Corps, NOAA Commissioned Corps, and up to five family members. Qualified members must show a [Geneva Convention common](#)

[access card](#) (CAC), [DD Form 1173 ID card \(dependent ID\)](#), or a [DD Form 1173-1 ID](#) card for entrance into a participating Blue Star Museum.

The New Children's Museum's military effort is sponsored in part by U.S. Bank, BAE Systems, the David C. Copley Foundation, the Issa Family Foundation, Point the Way Foundation, the USS Midway Foundation and the Walter J. & Betty C. Zable Foundation.

About the National Endowment for the Arts

Established by Congress in 1965, the National Endowment for the Arts is the independent federal agency whose funding and support gives Americans the opportunity to participate in the arts, exercise their imaginations, and develop their creative capacities. Through partnerships with state arts agencies, local leaders, other federal agencies, and the philanthropic sector, the Arts Endowment supports arts learning, affirms and celebrates America's rich and diverse cultural heritage, and extends its work to promote equal access to the arts in every community across America. Visit arts.gov to learn more.

Blue Star Museums is a NEA program that support military personnel and their families. Others include [Creative Forces: NEA Military Healing Arts Network](#) and grants awarded to nonprofits to support projects that reach military and veterans. Follow Blue Star Museums on Twitter @NEAarts and @BlueStarFamily, #bluestarmuseums.

About Blue Star Families

Blue Star Families builds communities that support military families by connecting research and data to programs and solutions, including career development tools, local community events for families, and caregiver support. Since its inception in 2009, Blue Star Families has engaged tens of thousands of volunteers and serves more than 1.5 million military family members. With Blue Star Families, military families can find answers to their challenges anywhere they are. For more information, visit bluestarfam.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. 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](#).