



the new children's museum™

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NEW TOT STUDIO OPENING AT THE NEW CHILDREN'S MUSEUM

tikitiko by artist Tanya Aguiñiga opens October 11 with two-day Toddler Fest

SAN DIEGO – September 24, 2019 – The New Children's Museum has partnered with internationally acclaimed artist, designer and craftsperson Tanya Aguiñiga to create a reimagined Tot Studio, called *tikitiko*. The new studio space will be designed for toddlers and caregivers to make meaningful experiential connections around abstract, animal shaped forms covered in colorful, soft and furry textiles.

For the past three years, the Museum's Tot Studio has offered sensory-based engagement to stimulate brain development, motor skills and social interaction for the youngest Museum visitors. Aguiñiga's reimagined Tot Studio *tikitiko* will build on this premise and introduce toddlers to art in a new and interactive way based on her work. The studio will be located on the Museum's Upper Level, across from the Museum's latest installation *Whammock!* that opened in June.

"The Museum is focused on early learning through exposure to art and play, with the goal of developing critical skills," said Tomoko Kuta, the Museum's Deputy Director. "Our aim to support children and their caregivers is being brought to life in this new installation. Tanya's focus on care, empathy and compassion is incredibly important in today's diverse society and beautifully complements the work we are doing."

Aguiñiga's first commissioned art installation for The New Children's Museum was *Texture Forest*, created for its opening exhibition *childsplay* in 2008. The reimagined Tot Studio, *tikitiko*, is her second commissioned installation, and is the result of her artist-in-residency at the Museum throughout 2019, during which she engaged families in hands-on art workshops through the Mass Creativity program.

"Since the opportunity to create *Texture Forest* over 11 years ago, I had a child and spent a lot of time visiting spaces for children," said Aguiñiga. "I really wanted to work with the Museum again because now I know a lot more about children and their needs, especially when they're younger. You don't often get a chance to revisit a project, so it's a really incredible opportunity to come back."

To celebrate the opening of *tikitiko* on October 11, the Museum is hosting Toddler Fest in the park across the street from the Museum. Toddler Fest is a FREE two-day, outdoor festival offering story time, musical performances, finger painting, bubbles, food trucks and more. Toddler Fest will also feature an Early Learner Resource Fair for parents to visit local vendors with programs and information about early childhood development.

tikitiko is made possible by lead sponsor Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) and sponsor La Jolla Country Day School, with additional funding from Move Play Grow (Solana Beach). Toddler Fest is presented by La Jolla Country Day School with additional support from First 5 San Diego.

Key Dates for Press

Artist on site

Tanya Aguiñiga onsite 10/1 – 10/10

October 8

Media preview

9:30 – 11:00am (coffee/continental breakfast)

October 11

Members only opening

8:30 – 9:30am

Public opening

10:00am

October 11 – 12

Toddler Fest and Early Learner Resource Fair

Free and open to the public

9:00am – 12pm

Museum Park

About the Artist Tanya Aguiñiga

Tanya Aguiñiga is an internationally-acclaimed Los Angeles-based artist, designer and craftsperson who was raised in Tijuana, Mexico and San Diego. She holds an MFA in furniture design from the Rhode Island School of Design and a BA from San Diego State University. Tanya has exhibited in venues including the Renwick Gallery (Smithsonian American Art Museum, Washington, D.C.), The Museum of Art and Design (New York) and The Laguna Art Museum (California).

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](#).

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