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LOCAL ARTIST COMMISSIONED FOR COLORFUL NEW MURAL AT THE NEW CHILDREN'S MUSEUM, DOWNTOWN *NEA Art Works-Funded Project Includes Art Tool Kit for Children*

Ceremonial ribbon cutting on **October 22, 2:00 p.m**

San Diego, October 16, 2020 - The New Children's Museum has commissioned local artist Regan Russell to create a large scale mural on their Front Street window that will be completed and unveiled on October 22. Entitled *Energized*, the colorful, abstract image, printed on glossy vinyl represents the movement of the waves and energy rising according to the 36 year-old artist.

"We were originally planning on creating an in-museum project that projected light with an accompanying workshop for young visitors, but obviously all that changed with Covid," explained Russell, a UCSD graduate and resident of El Cerrito. "I've been inspired by this totally new concept and hope that the positive energy of the artwork comes across to all who view it."

As the Museum's 2020 artist-in-residence for the Innovators LAB, Regan Russell explores color, light and visual communication. Russell finds that working with color gives him a sense of discovery in the same way children learn. Working with Lani Bautista Cabanilla, NCM Senior Manager, Russell developed an accompanying project tool kit that will be distributed through the Ronald McDonald House. The hands-on project also works with colorful, transparent materials and encourages youngsters 6 + to see how light and color mix to create artwork.

"After being dark for so many months, this fully accessible mural helps bring to joy back to the Museum through its use of light, color and playful imagery. We are thrilled to be working with an artist again and keeping our **pARTners in Creativity** program active," explained Cabanilla.

ABOUT *ENERGIZED*

What is it?

Energized is a 28' by 13' mural installed on the windows of the Museum's makerspace, The Rosso Family Foundation Innovators LAB, which faces Front Street. Regan Russell studied the movement of the sun in the Innovators LAB to support his design process. The placement of abstract shapes and the color palette are deliberate. Over the course of several hours as the sun moves from east to west, *Energized* will create a vibrant color dance around the Museum. Learn more at [Energized](#).

When does it go up?

The mural was installed on October 14 and 15 on the Museum's east-facing windows. The museum will be having a ceremonial ribbon cutting on **October 22 at 2:00 p.m.** The artist will be available for questions and interviews. [Link to timelapse video.](#)

Who did it?

Regan Russell is a San Diego-based artist and illustrator whose work focuses on pop culture, identity and celebrity. Russell has exhibited works in a solo show at the Little Dame Shop and in group shows including the San Diego Central Public Library's Art Gallery, Thumbprint Gallery in La Jolla and Gabba Gallery in Los Angeles. Russell studied Visual Art at the University of California, San Diego. He lives in El Cerrito. www.reganrussell.com @reganrussell

Artist in residence

Through a National Endowment for the Arts Art Works grant, the Museum worked with Russell as their artist-in-residence to create the mural and host workshops. Given the pandemic, the Museum has creatively adapted the workshops into STEAM toolkits, which will include a link to a video workshop and all the creative materials needed to participate and create art with Russell. The kits will be delivered to the Ronald McDonald House, one of the museum pARTners in Creativity social service organizations later this month.

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](#).