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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The New Children's Museum Union and Board of Directors Reach Agreement on Historic First Contract

SAN DIEGO (March 29, 2021) - Last week, The New Children's Museum workers and management made history by reaching agreement on their first union contract. The ratification of this collective bargaining agreement makes the Museum the first of San Diego's 45 museums to unionize.

The agreement governs wages, benefits and worker protections, and comes after more than a year of negotiations amid the challenges of the pandemic. It covers the workers who serve museum guests, execute programming and play, implement health and safety measures and make connections with the children and families who come through the Museum's doors each day.

Both museum management and staff praised the agreement's enhanced benefits and increased wages as well as its inclusion of protections for laid off and furloughed workers.

"This contract demonstrates the power of union workers at the bargaining table. Our members were able to negotiate immediate increases in pay, along with annual pay raises, sustained health care, and opportunities for more input on the job," said Nate Fairman, Business Manager for IBEW Local 465, which represents The New Children's Museum staff. "Workers are the heart of the Museum and deserve the respect that a fair contract brings."

The successful negotiation is significant as the Museum emerges from a year-long closure due to the pandemic.

“The Museum’s largest annual investment is in our people. Our employees are creative and diligent and care deeply about our mission,” said Museum Interim Executive Director/COO Reed Vickerman. “We are proud to invest in our employees and acknowledge their contributions to the Museum and San Diego’s children.”

The contract puts the workers of the arts-based children’s museum among the ranks of a growing number of museum workers nationwide who are unionizing, including at the SFMOMA in San Francisco, the Solomon R. Guggenheim and the Children’s Museum of the Arts in New York, the Museum of Tolerance in Los Angeles and the Philadelphia Museum of Art.

“We love our work, and we are proud to serve the Museum’s mission with passion and dedication. Our goal throughout this process has been to create a sustainable future for NCM workers,” said Jill Grant, a senior playworker at the Museum, and lead worker representative in bargaining. “This contract makes significant progress toward that goal - and we hope our successful negotiation inspires other museum workers to unionize.”

The milestone didn’t go unnoticed by San Diego’s elected leaders, with Mayor Todd Gloria applauding the workers and the museum management for forging an agreement during the pandemic.

“In a time of extraordinary challenge, it is heartening to see executives and union staff members at The New Children’s Museum come together to forge an agreement that invests in and respects museum workers. I applaud their efforts, and know their success will help San Diego’s children and families for many years to come,” he said.

The Museum will be reopening in early May with outside activities and programming in the adjacent Museum Park.

About The New Children's Museum

The New Children’s Museum (opened 2008) 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. The Museum has been closed due to the pandemic since March 16, 2020 and has been providing virtual experiences and creative activities online. With the recent change in tier status, the Museum will be announcing a reopening date soon. To learn more, visit thinkplaycreate.org or follow them on Facebook or Instagram.

About IBEW 465

Founded in 1904, IBEW Local 465 is a Labor Union who strives for dignity in the workplace for all of our members by collectively bargaining for better wages, benefits, and working conditions. We endeavor to organize all un-represented workers so that they may enjoy the benefits and protections of a Union contract. We proudly represent 2,800 workers in San Diego and Imperial Counties at the following properties: San Diego Gas & Electric, Imperial Irrigation District, Metropolitan Transit System, San Diego Trolley, Davey Tree, Utility Tree Services, VM Services and The New Children's Museum. More information can be found on www.ibew465.org

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