



the new children's museum™

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THE NEW CHILDREN'S MUSEUM REIMAGINES ART

Multiple artist commissions planned for 2021 after Museum reopening

SAN DIEGO – April 29, 2021 –The New Children's Museum has announced eight artist commissions for 2021, each developed during the pandemic and scheduled to launch throughout the year. The arts-based children's museum is reopening after being closed for 14 months (May 7 member opening, May 21 public opening). The Museum is reopening in phases and intends to have all three levels of its 50,000-square-foot building open by July, 2021. The phased approach enables the Museum to follow health and safety guidelines for its visitors and staff, as well as to reimagine what art and play could look like in the post-pandemic world.

"We continued to collaborate with artists to plan installations throughout the long closure, anxiously awaiting the day we would be able to reopen," said Reed Vickerman, interim executive director of The New Children's Museum. "Like all of our installations, the new work will be immersive and engaging. We've given a lot of thought to what children have gone through over the past year – and empathy, compassion and resilience are themes that the artists are incorporating into their work."

WES BRUCE

The Wonder Sound Garden, June 2021

Wes Bruce is back at the Museum to create a new outdoor space opening in June. Bruce collaborated with the Museum in 2016 on [The Wonder Sound](#), a multi-level installation with rooms, tunnels and bridges that immerses children in unique illustrations, stories and poetry. For the installation's five-year anniversary, Bruce returns to complete *The Wonder Sound Garden*, an open-air space that extends the current installation onto the Museum's upper patio. *The Garden* will pay tribute to the natural cycles of San Diego, from small earthen dome structures to xeriscapes of native succulents, and serve as a healing space for visitors to gather together again as a community.

Note to media: Wes is in the Museum working on the installation from May 9 – May 20.

PANCA

El Más Allá, July 2021

Taking over the Museum's lower level in July will be the immersive [El Más Allá](#) by artist Panca. The title *El Más Allá* is a Spanish phrase that translates to "a world beyond this one," which the Museum believes will offer hope and healing after the challenges of the past year. Giant climbable sculptures surrounded by floor-to-ceiling murals will provide the opportunity for

exploration and discovery. A 40-foot tube slide will transport visitors into the installation from the main level, along with a smaller slide for younger children.

Note to media: Panca is in the Museum working on the installation from April 19 – May 7. Fabrication will continue through mid-June.

RISA PUNO

In the Balance, August 2021

Risa Puno's project for the Museum explores the myriad ways we are connected, a network made even more visible through our experiences with the COVID-19 pandemic. In Puno's installation, a dense network of balancing beams creates a labyrinth-like effect. Navigation of the installation, which will be installed in the Museum Park, requires emotional intelligence as much as physical exploration. In this work, Puno is inspired by the indigenous Filipino concept of *kapwa*: a recognition of shared identity in community.

TANYA AGUIÑIGA

tikitiko Reimagined, August 2021

In the fall of 2019, Tanya Aguiñiga envisioned a space where toddlers could learn anti-bias through empathetic experiences in the Museum's toddler space, [tikitiko](#). In a year where the need for anti-racist practice is clearer than ever, Aguiñiga revisits the project with a new sensitivity drawn from the COVID-19 pandemic and the Black Lives Matter movement. She will be reinforcing the space as a meeting ground where families can explore a more just and equitable world.

DAVID ISRAEL REYNOSO

Teatro Piñata (working title), October 2021

Acclaimed theatre designer David Israel Reynoso turns to a children's museum, where play (of a different kind) abounds. Reynoso's installation will be inspired by the Museum's [Mass Creativity](#) community workshops throughout San Diego. *Teatro Piñata* will be a new way of looking at theatrical experience where the stage and curtain are only the beginning of the journey to the collaboration, co-authorship and risk-taking that happens behind the scenes.

ANDREA CHUNG

STEAM Artist-in-Residence, November 2021

Andrea Chung's work often helps to reveal the systems in which we all participate. This makes her ideal for The Rosso Family Foundation Innovators LAB Artist Residency, in which artists share the ways art and science converge in their artwork. Chung's hands-on workshop, debuting in late 2021, will share her passions, which could include her use of cyanotype printing, the histories of particular materials or any of the many curiosities she investigates in her work.

For more information, click here for [Reimagining Brave, 2021 Artwork at The New Children's Museum](#).

The Museum is currently fundraising to support these initiatives and reopening efforts with lead support from The Dow Divas Investment Club, Institute of Museum and Library Services,

National Endowment for the Arts, City of San Diego, The Albatross Foundation, The Conrad Prebys Foundation, San Diego Gas & Electric, U.S. Bank, Cox Communications, Inc and the Museum's Board of Directors.

About The New Children's Museum and its Reopening

The New Children's Museum is located at 200 W. Island Avenue, between Front and Union, and will be reopening in phases, starting with its Main Level and new "outdoor experience" on Island Avenue and the adjacent park. With the health and safety of its guests and members a top priority, the Museum has instituted health and safety protocols including capacity limits, mask requirements and social distancing guidelines. Reservations prior to visiting are required and available on their website at thinkplaycreate.org/visit.

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. To learn more, visit thinkplaycreate.org or follow them on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) or [Twitter](#).

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