



the new children's museum™

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**THE NEW CHILDREN'S MUSEUM ANNOUNCES REOPENING**

*Downtown museum to reopen after year-long pandemic closure*

**SAN DIEGO – April 7, 2021** – After being closed since March 16, 2020 due to the COVID pandemic, The New Children's Museum downtown has announced that it will reopen to the public May 21, with special “members only” days beginning May 7.

Due to the nature of its highly interactive, high-touch installations, the arts-based children's museum will be reopening in phases. The first phase includes the Main Level of the Museum, which features toddler favorite [Wobbleland](#), (by artist Marisol Rendón), its outside [Paint and Clay Studio](#) and several drop-in art activities. The Museum is also introducing an old favorite [Missing Links](#) (aka the Rainbow Jumpy) by Felipe Dulzaides. The colorful 10' x 25' jumpy has made many appearances since first being introduced for the 2009 *Animal Art* exhibition, including at other U.S. children's museums.

Two new murals were created during the closure, which guests will now be able to see in person. [Energized](#) by Regan Russell (unveiled in October, 2020) covers the large windows of the Museum's makerspace, the Rosso Family Foundation Innovators LAB, which faces Front Street and is visible from the outside. [Brian and the Bugs](#) by Katie Ruiz was completed last month (March, 2021). Inspired by her children's book *Brian the Wildflower*, the mural adorns a large wall and windows on the Museum's Main Level, which will welcome guests as they enter the 50,000 square-foot building.

The Museum is also introducing a new “outdoor experience” on Island Avenue and the adjacent Museum Park. With Island Avenue closed to traffic, the Museum will be featuring multiple activities including the *Apex Chariots* (by Roman de Salvo, also from *Animal Art*) along with other vehicles for children to ride in the street. Other activities for children include bubbles, a flowy muslin maze and a toddler area with books and other activities. There will be food trucks and seating for outdoor dining.

For the month of May, the Museum will be open three days a week - Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays. There will be two sessions each day, morning 9am-12pm and afternoon 1-4pm, with the noon hour (12-1pm) being reserved for cleaning and resetting. Reserved tickets are required for all guests, including members, to allow the Museum to limit capacity per guidelines.

With the health and safety of its guests and members as a top priority, the Museum has instituted health and safety protocols including capacity limits, mask requirements and social distancing guidelines. For details, see its [COVID Safer Play Policy](#).

The Museum plans to reopen its Upper Level in June (exact date unknown), which will open up visitor-favorites *Whammock* (by Toshiko Horiuchi MacAdam), *tikitiko* (by Tanya Aguiñiga), the *Rain House* (by Ernest Silva) and *The Wonder Sound* (by Wes Bruce) available for play. In late June or early July, the long-anticipated [El Más Allá by Panca](#) will open on the Museum's Lower Level. The immersive *El Más Allá* will span the entire Lower Level, and will be accessible via a 40-foot slide from the Main Level. Panca will be at the Museum finishing the installation off and on throughout the month of May, giving visitors the opportunity to see the art come to life.

For more details, visit the Museum's [Plan Your Visit](#) page.

### **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 closed due to the pandemic on March 16, 2020 and provided virtual experiences and creative activities online for a full year. The Museum is reopening to the public on May 21, 2021. To learn more, visit [thinkplaycreate.org](http://thinkplaycreate.org) or follow them on Facebook or Instagram.