



the new children's museum™

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THE NEW CHILDREN'S MUSEUM GALA INVITES GUESTS TO "BE THE ART"

Annual Studio 200 Gala to be held November 6, 2021

September 15, 2021 — Downtown San Diego — The New Children's Museum announced that it will be holding its annual benefit Saturday November 6, 2021, entitled **Studio 200: Be the Art**. Known for creativity and innovation, the arts-based children's museum first launched its **Studio 200 on Island** gala in 2015, an homage to New York's famed Studio 54 and a play on their address, 200 West Island. Each year for Studio 200, the Museum transforms its multi-level space into a vibrant, party atmosphere to raise funds for its access programs.

Costumes are a hallmark of the Museum's galas – but for **Be the Art**, there's a twist. Acknowledging our reemergence back into society after the pandemic, guests will come as a blank canvas (i.e. all white or solid color) and be transformed colorfully and artistically throughout the evening, creating their costume as they go.

"Our sensitivity to how children emerged from the pandemic largely influenced our work with artists this year, prompting us to incorporate bright colors and themes like empathy and resilience," said Reed Vickerman, the Museum's Interim Executive Director. "It is only fitting that this year's fundraising gala considers how adults have also resiliently emerged – and we're allowing them to express that in their own unique way."

Throughout the event, guests will have the opportunity to add color to their costume and transform themselves -- how colorful and creative is really up to them. Guests can use paint or chalk, or opt for other creative and colorful choices such as bling, temporary tattoos, jewelry, glitter, feather boas and face painting.

The Studio 200: Be the Art co-chairs are Ed and Taryn Gillison. Both active and involved in the community, each brings a passion for the Museum and its mission to planning the event.

"Taryn and I could not be more excited to be chairing this year," said Ed Gillison, Chief Engineer RMS Digital Transformation for Lockheed Martin and Museum Board Member. "After so many months of being unable to be with friends and family, we can reconnect with each other and celebrate the Museum's mission and experience the wonderful contemporary art that stimulates creativity and play. In addition to enjoying the art installations throughout the Museum, we're allowing event attendees to become a piece of art themselves."

“This theme really illustrates our shared experience over the past year and a half,” added Taryn Gillison, Portfolio Manager for the US Navy. “How guests transform themselves throughout the evening will be reminiscent of how we all changed and emerged from the pandemic.”

Gala attendees will have free rein of the Museum, including the ability to play in the immersive art installations. New this year will be the opportunity to slide down the 40-foot slide of *El Más Allá* (by artist Panca) and walk on *In the Balance*, (by artist Risa Puno) an interlaced structure of balance beams in the Museum Park. Guests will also enjoy art-inspired food, creative cocktails and playful performances, both inside and outside the Museum. VIP ticket holders (\$500+) will be invited to a pre-event artist reception for a first look at artist David Israel Reynoso’s *Teatro Piñata*, which opens to the public the following week.

Studio 200: Be the Art is raising funds for the Museum’s many access programs, which enable children and families to experience art regardless of their circumstances. Forgoing a live or silent auction, the Museum will have opportunities for guests to “fund a need” via a QR code.

“We continued serving children and families throughout the pandemic with virtual field trips and art kits, thanks to donors and friends who make our mission their priority,” said Kathleen Daugherty, Deputy Director of Philanthropy. “Gala guests will learn about our impactful programs throughout the evening as they work their way through the Museum. Instead of a traditional auction, we will be asking guests to support the programs or impact areas that speak to them the most.”

Studio 200 is sponsored in part by the generosity of Laurie Mitchell and Brent Woods, Tom and Cami Rosso, U.S. Bank, SDG&E and The New Children's Museum’s Board of Directors. Event partners include Feast on This, San Diego Wine & Culinary, Raphael’s Party Rentals and Maktive. Media sponsors include *Giving Back Magazine* and *Ranch and Coast*.

At this writing, the Museum is requiring that all attendees provide proof of full vaccination. Attendees will be encouraged (but not required) to wear masks indoors except when eating or drinking. Guidelines will continue to be updated as needed between now and the event date.

Gala Photos

- Ed and Taryn Gillison, co-chairs – all in white
- Ed and Taryn Gillison, co-chairs – with paint splashes
- Museum exterior (party shot)
- Museum interior (2019’s Studio 200)
- Be the Art logo

<https://thinkplaycreate.sharepoint.com/:f:/g/EtfnIAkr9zhFpTZCSKObtdEBBrP8GCnS8sG7sjuGn4U9tA?e=iFe88W>

Gala Event Details

- Date: Saturday November 6, 2021
- Time: Main event 6:30 – 11:00 p.m. (6-7:30 VIP Reception)

- Location: The New Children’s Museum, 200 W. Island Avenue, San Diego
- Ticket price: \$250 General; \$500 VIP
- Website: thinkplaycreate.org/be-the-art

About the Co-Chairs

Taryn and Ed Gillison have been involved with The New Children’s Museum for over 13 years, as members as well as advocates. Their enthusiasm for the Museum began when they visited with their young children, and has extended through their leadership as volunteers. Ed has served on the Museum’s Board for six years, participating in multiple committees including serving as Chair of the Audit and Education Committees. He created a partnership between Lockheed Martin and the Museum’s Innovators LAB, and spends time working with the Museum’s creative team when he has time. He also volunteers as the Executive Sponsor for Engineers in the Classroom in Colorado and San Diego sites. Taryn is active in Junior League of San Diego and Meals on Wheels.

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 addition to the downtown San Diego location, the Museum now has a satellite location called the Art + Play Space in Del Mar. To learn more, visit thinkplaycreate.org or follow them on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) or [Twitter](#).