THE NEW CHILDREN’S MUSEUM RAISES $250K AT ANNUAL GALA

Guests experienced a colorful evening of “being the art” and supporting access. The New Children’s Museum welcomed 375 guests and brought in $250K at last weekend’s Studio 200: Be the Art fundraising event chaired by Edwardo and Taryn Gillison. Guests embraced the theme, arriving in white as a “blank canvas” and “became the art” as the night went on.

One of the event’s highlights was graffiti artists “Crown One” and “Brisk” of Writerz Blok who used stencils and graffiti to create one-of-a-kind designs on guests’ clothing. Artist Risa Puno (In the Balance, currently on display in the Museum’s park) stepped in to paint and transform guests’ outfits into something colorful. Another highlight was the return of BetaMAXX, a live 80s band, who brought the party into the street and turned Island Avenue into a festive dance floor.

All the Museum’s commissioned art installations were open throughout the event. Museum staff, adorned in paint-splattered T-shirts and glowing lanyards, helped guests interact and play like children do every day. Popular activities included sliding down the 40-foot slide into El Más Allá, by PANCA, climbing into Wham-mock!, by Toshiko Horiuchi MacAdam and exploring the many rooms in The Wonder Sound, by Wes Sam Bruce.

New to this year’s event, the Museum hosted an art show featuring work by several of their commissioned artists, including Risa Puno, David Israel Reynoso, Wes Bruce, Mariol Rendón, Ingram Ober, Katie Ruiz, Kurosh Yahyai, Matt Picon, Sonya Calderon, Eva Struble, Jose Venegas and the late Ernie Silva. Artists in attendance at the event include Risa Puno (In the Balance), David Israel Reynoso (Teatro Piñata), Marisol Rendón (Wobbleland), Eva Struble (Ocotillo Sunset), Ingram Ober and Jose Venegas.

Proceeds from the evening will go toward the Museum’s access programs enabling children and families to experience art and the Museum at little to no cost to them. Catering was provided by Feast on This and bar service was provided by San Diego Wine and Culinary. Raphael’s Party Rentals and Mackie handled the décor, rentals, lighting and production. Presenting sponsors were Laurie Mitchell and Brent Woods; Lynn Gorguze and Hon. Scott Peters.

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 https://thinkplaycreate.org/