



the new children's museum™

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THE NEW CHILDREN'S MUSEUM OPENS IMMERSIVE THEATRE INSTALLATION
***Teatro Piñata* by local artist and theatre designer David Israel Reynoso**

November 10, 2021 — Downtown San Diego — On Nov. 11, The New Children's Museum will unveil ***Teatro Piñata***, a theatre-based installation where the stage, ticket booth and curtain are just the beginning of the journey. ***Teatro Piñata*** is an engaging, immersive installation that celebrates the magic of theatre through striking "behind-the-scenes" visual worlds utilizing theatrical tricks, props, costumes, dramatic lighting and a soundscape that heightens the senses.

David Israel Reynoso and his **OPTIKA MODERNA** theatre company developed the installation through virtual community workshops as part of the Museum's long running Mass Creativity program. Reynoso designed *Teatro Piñata* theatre kits that were delivered to seven community centers for children to create at home. The children shared their work with the artist, providing inspiration and becoming part of the installation that opens this week.

"The story of *Teatro Piñata* is introduced as a mysterious pop-up caravan theatre that arrives at The New Children's Museum with two children who care for and travel with it," said Reynoso, an Obie award-winning theatre designer. "The installation brings the story of *Teatro Piñata* to life inviting children to explore the expansive, surreal and magical backstage world of theatre that sparks imagination and play, and exposes us to new perspectives."

The 2,000-square-foot installation took two months to fabricate. Reynoso and creative teams from OPTIKA MODERNA and The New Children's Museum built the installation from scratch in the space that previously housed *Sketch Aquarium*. "This space was originally designed to be used as a theatre, so it's a nice connection," explained Reynoso. "Children are encouraged to use their imagination to create scenes, costumes, story-telling and dialogue in this mysterious travelling theatre."

Reynoso created this project specifically for children and families, combining his love for theatre with a lifelong fascination with Mexican papier-mâché figures and piñatas that began when he was a child in Guadalajara. And much like a piñata, what's inside *Teatro Piñata* brings delight to anyone who cracks it open.

Funding for *Teatro Piñata* is provided in part by presenting sponsor, the Institute of Museum and Library Services and major supporters, Laurie Mitchell and Brent Woods, and Debby and Hal Jacobs.

[Link to Photos](#)

- Artist David Israel Reynoso headshot (Photo Courtesy of David Israel Reynoso)
- *Teatro Piñata* stage (Photo Courtesy of The New Children's Museum)
- *Teatro Piñata* stage with kids (Photo Courtesy of The New Children's Museum)
- *Teatro Piñata* ticket booth (Photo Courtesy of The New Children's Museum)
- *Teatro Piñata* backstage (Photo Courtesy of The New Children's Museum)
- *Teatro Piñata* dressing room (Photo Courtesy of The New Children's Museum)
- *Teatro Piñata* mirrors (Photo Courtesy of The New Children's Museum)
- *Teatro Piñata* shadow puppets (Photo Courtesy of The New Children's Museum)

About the Artist David Israel Reynoso

David Israel Reynoso is a San Diego-based theatre designer whose work is often seen at The Old Globe and La Jolla Playhouse. He is a recipient of a San Diego Foundation Creative Catalyst Award as well as a 2011 Obie Award for *Sleep No More* the mysterious, non-linear theatre production in which audiences could touch, smell and even taste. He also founded [OPTIKA MODERNA](#), the innovative, immersive theatre company that creates “bold experiences that allow participants to peer through the eyes of another.” OPTIKA MODERNA collaborators on *Teatro Piñata* include Sonya Calderon, Nicholas Ponting, Emily Schmit and Dave Buess. The group presented *Optika Piñata* at this year's La Jolla Playhouse POP UP Without Walls (WOW) event and *Portaleza* for last year's Digital Without Walls series. To learn more about Reynoso, watch our Artist Talk [here](#) and [visit his website](#).

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 50,000 square foot 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 2,000-square-foot satellite location called the Art + Play Space in Del Mar. To learn more, visit thinkplaycreate.org or follow them on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) or [Twitter](#).

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