



the new children's museum™

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THE NEW CHILDREN'S MUSEUM EXPANDS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

New members join Board as new Executive Director takes the helm

SAN DIEGO – February 15, 2022 – The New Children's Museum welcomed 10 new trustees in 2021 and 2022 to serve on its Board of Directors. The new members join as several long-time Board members termed out during the 14-month pandemic closure. They will be working closely with recently-appointed Executive Director and CEO Elizabeth Yang-Hellewell, now in her second month at the Museum.

"Our Board members bring an energetic blend of professional experience and passion for the Museum that will serve our growing organization well," said Yang-Hellewell, who presided over her first Board meeting at the end of January. "The Museum has made a commitment to develop increasingly diverse, equitable, inclusive and accessible experiences for all audiences, and that starts with our Board of Directors. I look forward to working with this incredible group of people to build on our success and move the Museum forward."

Board leadership includes Board Chair Caroline Perry, Senior Vice President, Business Administration and General Counsel for the San Diego Padres and Vice Chair Rebecca Gennaro, Vice President and Senior Philanthropic Specialist for Wells Fargo.

The New Children's Museum welcomed the following new Board members in 2021 and 2022:

Claudia Amezcua

A life-long San Diegan, Claudia Amezcua is the Senior Director of Investor Relations at Qualcomm, having received both her bachelor's and master's degrees from San Diego State University. Her children have enjoyed outings to The New Children's Museum since they were toddlers, and she looks forward to her new Board position as a creative outlet. Claudia and her family reside in Chula Vista.

Cindy Bravo

Cindy Bravo has been with La Jolla Country Day School for over 10 years, currently serving as Director of Visual and Performing Arts. Cindy's early career includes arts education at Cal Arts and LACMA in Los Angeles. Cindy's commitment to interdisciplinary art and education centers on access and equity, which aligns with the Museum's efforts to become a more accessible and inclusive space for the community. Cindy has visited the Museum several times with her students, and currently resides in Mission Hills.

Lynda Forsha

Lynda Forsha is the Principal of Art Advisory Services and serves as Executive Director of Murals of La Jolla. Lynda has a long history with The New Children's Museum and strongly supports the art-centric, interactive and educational approach to the Museum's creative programming. Lynda lives in La Jolla with her husband, Robert Blanchard, who is a founding partner at Blanchard, Krasner & French.

Priya Huggett

Priya Huggett has been practicing law for 22 years and is currently General Counsel at Brixton Capital in Solana Beach. Her family has been members of the Museum for many years, and she supports its initiatives to expand into new communities and make art accessible to more people. Priya resides in Mission Hills with her husband Andy and their two children.

Danielle Moore

Danielle Moore is an attorney at Sheppard, Mullin, Richter & Hampton LLP and serves on the firm's Corporate Practice Group and Energy, Infrastructure and Project Finance Team in the Del Mar office. She has represented clients in a wide range of industries from renewable energy, technology and life sciences to hospitality, entertainment and manufacturing. A native San Diegan, Moore is a parent of an elementary-aged child and is passionate about making art more accessible to children and families in San Diego. She currently resides in Mission Valley with her family.

Erica Opstad

Erica Opstad has been with U.S. Bank for 24 years, currently serving as Senior Vice President, National Manager - Community Affairs. Erica is active on several boards, including Lead San Diego, the San Diego Chamber of Commerce and the ABA Foundation. Long-time supporters of the Museum, Erica and her husband Keith are art-enthusiasts and were featured in an NPR StoryCorps segment about the Museum. The Opstads live in Scripps Ranch with their son.

Bill Payne

Bill Payne currently serves as President and CEO of San Diego's Second Chance. He brings a unique perspective to nonprofit leadership from his long career specializing in information technology, service strategy and organizational change. He joined the Museum's Board to help increase access to the Museum and all it has to offer for all communities. Bill Payne and his wife Mary Grace Kristian live in Carlsbad.

Maryanne Pfister

Maryanne C. Pfister spent 12 years in marketing and communications in the high-tech industry before starting her own strategic marketing consultancy. Maryanne was a founding Director of the San Diego Zoo Global Foundation Board with a special interest in wildlife conservation. She is a Vice President on the Executive Committee of the Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego Board and is a member of the La Jolla Community Foundation committee. After living in multiple locations with her husband Irwin to accommodate their careers, they made La Jolla their permanent home in 2005.

Lawrence Taylor

Lawrence Taylor has worked at Brandes Investment Partners for 27 years and is a Director in Institutional Client Portfolio Management. He has been working with the Museum for the past four years as a member of its Investment Committee and is looking forward to contributing as a Board Member. A native of San Francisco, the Museum reminds him of his favorite place as a kid, The Exploratorium, a hands-on art and science museum originally housed in the Palace of Fine Arts. A graduate of UC San Diego, Lawrence has one grown child and lives in the Carmel Valley area.

Brian VanHatten

Brian VanHatten is a versatile technical and operations leader, currently serving as Inscripta's Senior Director of Operations. Brian became interested in the Museum's interactive art installations after attending its annual fundraising gala. He looks forward to helping bring art and creativity to more people in San Diego. Brian lives in Poway with his wife and two young children.

To see the full list of Board members, [click here](#).

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](#).

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