



the new children's museum™

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Las Patronas Grant Helps Make Messy-Fun Safe and Accessible with New Handwashing Stations

SAN DIEGO – March 13, 2023 - At The New Children's Museum, a major priority is to ensure that kids have a chance to engage with contemporary art and have opportunities to discover, imagine and create. But it's equally important to ensure that the unique spaces downtown are safe, accessible and risk-free.

To help attain that goal, The New Children's Museum received a grant of \$18,625 from **Las Patronas** to upgrade and improve its popular outdoor Paint + Clay Studios' handwashing stations. Long-time favorites for their hands-on (and often messy) projects, the Paint + Clay Studios offer children and adults alike the chance to create art with their hands and take their projects home. Working with clay is not only fun, but is a great way to strengthen motor skills and improve dexterity.

The grant funds were used to purchase the sinks, faucets, and outdated plumbing elements needed to update the Museum's handwashing area and the drainpipes from *The Wonder Sound Garden* patio, directly above it. The replaced plumbing fittings and fixtures were original to the 2008 building and showed signs of 14 years of wear.

Since the advent of the Covid-19 pandemic, handwashing has moved beyond a matter of personal hygiene to become an essential public health practice. Removing barriers to handwashing in the Museum will help keep our visitors and our community safe.

"The outdated plumbing and stations built too high for children to access easily, posed a concern we needed to address," explained Elizabeth Yang- Hellewell, Executive Director. "The new sinks address our goals of promoting safety, independence and exploration among children, as children will no longer need an adult to assist them. For this, we are truly thankful to Las Patronas for supporting something that may not be glamorous but is truly essential."

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About The New Children's Museum

The New Children's Museum's mission is to spark creativity, exploration and a sense of belonging through interactive art experiences. 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 2023, the Museum is celebrating 40 years serving San Diego and 15 years as The New Children's Museum in its downtown location. To learn more, visit thinkplaycreate.org or follow them on [Facebook](#) or [Instagram](#).

About Las Patronas

Las Patronas is a philanthropic organization with a long history of giving. Since its inception in 1946, Las Patronas has donated almost \$26 million to over a thousand charitable institutions in San Diego. The funds distributed to these organizations are generated through year-long fundraising efforts and the annual presentation of the Jewel Ball, one of San Diego's most enduring social, cultural, and philanthropic traditions. All funds raised by Las Patronas stay in San Diego County and are distributed to many small grass-root nonprofits as well as larger, more visible organizations.

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