



the new children's museum™

200 west island avenue san diego, california 92101 t 619 233 8792 f 619 233 8796 thinkplaycreate.org

**media contact**  
Emily Yu  
619 795 1265/  
858 926 6247 (cell)  
[eyu@thinkplaycreate.org](mailto:eyu@thinkplaycreate.org)

## **New Painted Object Opens on Mass Creativity Day at The New Children's Museum**

*A visitor favorite gets an update with a new giant object for children to paint*

**SAN DIEGO – June 16** – On Saturday, June 24, The New Children's Museum will be hosting its 11<sup>th</sup> annual Mass Creativity Day and revealing a new, giant object for visitors to paint on its [Paint Patio](#). The big reveal will kick off the Mass Creativity Day festivities at 9:30am and visitors attending that day will be the first to add paint splashes to the new object.

The Painted Object has been a mainstay and favorite activity for Museum visitors since 1994 when the first large-scale painted object, a *1954 Truck*, was introduced. Subsequent painted objects that have followed include a *VW Bug*, *Penelope the Whale*, *Junk Yard*, *Paint Farm*, *Go West!*, and the most recent *Flower Truck*. Although the object has changed throughout the years, the concept has remained the same – a giant and unusual canvas for children to splatter paint on and express themselves.

Unlike previous objects, the new Painted Object will be the first life size sculpture created by artists Ingram Ober and Marisol Rendón. Inspiration for the object was crowdsourced from children participating in a Painted Object Design Challenge workshop held in the Museum's makerspace, [The Rosso Family Foundation Innovators LAB](#), during the spring. In this workshop, participants used their imagination to draw and build a model sculpture out of recycled materials. Three concepts – *The Skate Cat*, *The Something*, and *The Loving Dragon* – were selected and a public vote was held to choose one of these concepts to be the next Painted Object.

“The collective design process was inspiring. We created models of three to choose from but over 150 unique designs were submitted, and the creativity was impressive. We wish we could fabricate them all,” said Rendón and Ober, who have collaborated with the Museum in the past, including Rendón's [Wobbleland](#) installation at the Museum.

The surprise reveal of the new Painted Object will take place on Mass Creativity Day, a celebration of art, creativity and community with live performances, family-friendly art-making activities, food and free admission to the Museum all day.

Mass Creativity Day is the culminating event of the Museum's signature Mass Creativity program that held free art-making workshops at seven different community centers throughout San Diego County from April to June. This year's theme, *The Realm of Joy*, is inspired by artist Wes Bruce's installation, *The Wonder Sound*, at the Museum. At the workshops, community

members made windchimes, buttons, vision boards, poems and painted giant canvases in response to the prompt, “What brings you joy?” These artworks will be on display at Mass Creativity Day. The participating community organizations include Barrio Logan College Institute, Casa Familiar, City Heights Weingart Library, Skyline Hills Library, The Hillcrest Youth Center by The San Diego LGBT Community Center, Solutions for Change and SBCS (South Bay Community Services).

“The Mass Creativity program is all about engaging our community to be part of the art-making process and be able to identify with the artworks and installations at our museum,” said Gabrielle Wyrick, Chief Curator and Director of Audience Engagement at The New Children’s Museum. “Mass Creativity Day, a celebratory day of community and creativity, also seemed to be the perfect opportunity to reveal the new Painted Object, which is the result of crowdsourcing ideas directly from our young visitors and including them in the process of bringing art to life as well.”

The day of celebration will include performances by Naruwan Taiko, Monarch School Dance, transcenDANCE, AbunDANCE with Keomi Tarver, and storytelling by Teatro Izcalli. Plus, several art-making activities for all ages in the Museum Park. Island Avenue in front of the Museum will be closed to traffic for the festivities.

Mass Creativity 2023 is made possible in part by The G.A. Foster Legacy Foundation, U.S. Bank, Samuel H. French & Katherine Weaver French Fund, Cushman Foundation, Cox Communications, First 5 San Diego, and the City of San Diego.

<b>WHO</b>	The New Children’s Museum
<b>WHAT</b>	Mass Creativity Day – outdoor festival or art, creativity and community
<b>WHERE</b>	Museum Park, 200 W. Island Avenue (across from Museum) San Diego
<b>WHEN</b>	Saturday, June 24, 9am-3pm New Painted Object Reveal at 9:30am

**Useful links:**

- [Mass Creativity Day website](#)
- [Mass Creativity Day program](#)

**About the Artists**

Ingram Ober and Marisol Rendón both work as artists, designers and educators. During the last 15 years, they have collaborated on projects in public art, museum exhibitions and social/civic events. Besides their creative practice, both work for community colleges within San Diego county as tenured professors and coordinators of mixed media three-dimensional design and art programs at their respective institutions. As collaborators and individual artists, they have both exhibited with the Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego and the California Center for

the Arts, Escondido. They have exhibited at and worked closely with The New Children's Museum in different programs as artists, designers, educators and public outreach program developers. Ober has served as a member and chair for The New Children's Museum's artist advisory board/committee and Rendón is a member of The New Children's Museum's Board of Directors.

### **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](https://thinkplaycreate.org) or follow them on [Facebook](#) or [Instagram](#).