

NCM Media Contact

Byron Kimball (he/him)

619-732-0789 x297

byron@gomixte.com

The New Children's Museum Debuts Exhibit Honoring Life and Legacy of Science-Fiction Writer Octavia E. Butler

Exhibit invites people of all ages to experience this first-of-its kind exhibition focused on her early life and inspirations.

SAN DIEGO – March 8, 2024 – On March 9, The New Children's Museum of San Diego will premiere *Octavia E. Butler: Seeding Futures*, the first-ever exhibit for youth and multi-generational audiences focused on the life and work of American science fiction writer Octavia E. Butler (1947-2006).

Visitors will explore a large-scale installation inspired by Butler's childhood influences, experiences growing up in Southern California, and features murals by collaborating artist [Mithsuca Berry](#) (they/them). This installation imaginatively embodies the early creative influences of Butler's early life. Visitors will be inspired to imagine their own ways of thriving in community, how to positively shape and be shaped by the future. The exhibit will be presented at The New Children's Museum through late 2025.

Octavia E. Butler, author of visionary works such as the bestselling present-future novel *Parable of the Sower*, which has been adapted into an [opera](#) by Toshi Reagon and Berenice Johnson Reagon and graphic novel, *Kindred*, [adapted for the small screen by FX](#) and winning an [Eisner award](#) for the bestselling adaptation of *Kindred* graphic novel by Dr. Damian Duffy and John Jennings. Most notable, Butler was the first Black woman writer to win widespread recognition in the genre of science fiction, earned the genre's top honors and later a MacArthur "Genius" Fellowship ([1995](#)). She is revered not only for her beautifully simple prose, and timely stories, but also for her vision of futures where Black, Indigenous and People of Color are change agents, thriving in community. Her work continues to inspire generations of people from [all walks of life](#), including authors which her career paved the way for including triple-Hugo award winner N.K. Jemisin (*Broken Earth Trilogy*), Pulitzer Prize winner [Junot Diaz](#) (*The Brief and Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao*), Tomi Adeyemi (*Children of Blood and Bone*), and others.

"The exhibition taps into what Butler would have called her 'positive obsession' planted in the fertile ground of the museum," said Dr. Ayana Jamieson (she/her), founder of the Octavia E. Butler Legacy Network and advising curator of *Octavia E. Butler: Seeding Futures*. "We are thrilled and excited to share the beauty and ingenuity of Butler's life and legacy with more audiences. Butler is a compelling, imaginative young person urging you to 'write yourself in' to the future with no closed doors. To Butler, science fiction was a space for imagination 'to look at, examine, and play with absolutely anything' and the New Children's Museum is the perfect place for doing this!"

Over the next two years, inspired by Octavia E. Butler’s life and writings, The New Children’s Museum will explore science fiction through large-scale installations, artist projects, community partnerships and events that showcase how science fiction and speculative fiction offer ways for us to imagine better futures, together. Upcoming installations to accompany *Seeding Futures* will include works by New Mexico-based multi-disciplinary artist [Cannupa Hanska Luger](#) (he/him) and New York-based artist [Saya Woolfalk](#) (she/her).

“We are privileged to have the support of our artists, partners and the very legacy of Octavia E. Butler herself in bringing *Seeding Futures* to life,” said Elizabeth Yang-Hellewell (she/her), Executive Director and CEO at The New Children’s Museum. “It is this support and their collective visions that makes it possible for The New Children’s Museum to serve not just as a beloved space for young visitors in the heart of downtown San Diego but as a leading home for contemporary art.”

As part of the opening weekend, guests are invited to a free panel on March 9, from 2 to 3 p.m. Moderated by Dr. Ayana Jamieson (she/her) and including Pasadena-born visual artist American Artist (they/them) and journalist Lynell George (she/her), the conversation will explore the life and legacy of Octavia E. Butler and her far-reaching impact on thought leaders and creatives across disciplines. The event, free and open to the public, will be held at UC San Diego Park & Market. Those interested in attending must [RSVP](#) in advance

“Our hope is that *Octavia E. Butler: Seeding Futures* will not only inspire more programming but also be a space where youth of all backgrounds and identities see themselves reflected and are inspired to create their own stories,” said Gabrielle Wyrick (she/her), Chief Curator and Director of Audience Engagement at The New Children’s Museum. “We are honored to have the opportunity to celebrate Octavia E. Butler’s legacy in a way that we hope would live up to her vision of community.”

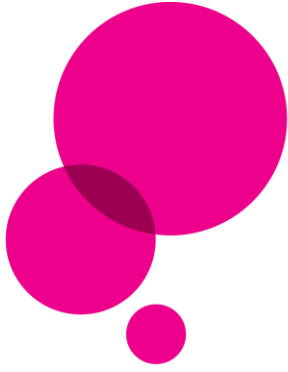
The New Children’s Museum has received important planning and programming support for *Octavia E. Butler: Seeding the Futures* from partners including the [Getty Foundation](#), the [Prebys Foundation](#), the [National Endowment for the Humanities](#), [California Humanities](#) and the City of San Diego.

Members of the media are encouraged to contact Byron Kimball (he/him, byron@gomixte.com) to schedule an advanced tour of the exhibit or an interview.

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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 celebrated 40 years serving San Diego and 15 years as The New Children’s Museum in its downtown location, welcoming almost 300,000 visitors through its doors. To learn more, visit thinkplaycreate.org or follow the Museum on [Facebook](#) or [Instagram](#).



the new children's museum™