Dear NCM Community,

This past year was an incredible year at The New Children’s Museum (NCM), and it is my pleasure to share with you our 2022 Annual Report and update you on some of our major accomplishments and impactful work from this past year.

Entering my second year as Executive Director and CEO, it was clear the needs of children and caregivers changed due to the pandemic, and NCM plays a vital role in our community to meet these new needs. Families are searching for more intentional spaces to foster critical social-emotional learning, while also providing opportunities for more accessible forms of play and creativity. To meet this new challenge, in 2022 we welcomed our new Chief Curator (Director of Audience Engagement, Gabriela Wycczyk), who helped our talented NCM team reimagine how we could create spaces and activities that are more accessible to everyone.

With accessibility in mind, NCM commissioned San Diego-based artist, Michelle Montoya, to create, Breathe Room, a sensory-friendly space where visitors of any age can lie down, look up, and breathe. The installation features intricate knitted sculptures made of repurposed T-shirts that move and hang from the ceiling. Its rhythmic up and down movement replicates breathing cycles, reminding us to look up, slow down and focus on our breath. Additional elements include Hugs — oversized, stuffed sweater forms with weighted arms that offer a comforting embrace, and Pods — organic knitted forms children can nestle inside and take a calming break.

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I’m honored to lead this truly exceptional and innovative arts organization in the next phase of its development. Next year will be our 40th year in San Diego and our 15th year as The New Children’s Museum, and it is shaping up to be the biggest in the organization’s history.

On behalf of The New Children’s Museum’s Board of Directors and leadership team, I want to thank our members, donors, supporters, and friends for your continued support. Your involvement is critical to helping us continue to be an innovative and creative resource for the San Diego community and beyond.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Yang-Hellewell, Executive Director • CEO

2022 annual report

PUBLISHED IN 2024

2022 budget $6.7M

Thank you to our generous 2022 Donors ($1,000+)

2022 REVENUE

2022 EXPENSES

WELCOME TO OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

2022 by the numbers

232,386 Attendance + Outreach

5,682 Member Households

5,370 Art Learning Kits

4,648 Virtual School Visits

30+ Community Organizations Partnered with NCM

Visitors received access to NCM through one of our qualifying Access Programs

31%
highlights of 2022

SUMMER CAMPS RETURN
JUNE – AUGUST 2022
Summer Camps made a joyous return to NCM after being closed due to the pandemic, featuring instruction from artists and educators. Each camp offers a dynamic blend of classroom exploration, where participants delve into art projects and acquire new skills, alongside physical activities within our vibrant spaces. It’s a holistic experience fostering creativity, learning, and fun for all attendees.

MASS CREATIVITY
JUNE 2022
NCM proudly relaunched its signature community program, drawing its largest crowd since the shutdown with 1426 attendees. The workshops saw 318 eager participants, marking a triumphant return for the organization in its first year back. This enthusiastic response reaffirms NCM’s commitment to serving and engaging with its vibrant community.

THE WORLD OF LES MOR AND MOR NO MOR
MARCUS DERIDDER + TAYLOR MCCABE
OPENED AUGUST 2022
The World of Les Mor and Mor no Mor was an interactive mural that spanned from the Museum’s main level to the upper level. The mural depicted two worlds: Les Mor on the upper level with friendly feathered fellows, and Mor no Mor on the main level with mischievous cave dwelling creatures.

BREATHING ROOM
MICHELLE MONTJOY
OPENED SEPTEMBER 2022
Breathing Room is a quiet space meant for pause in an otherwise highly active environment. The installation features intricate knitted sculptures made of repurposed T-shirts that move and hang from the ceiling. Its rhythmic up and down movement replicates breathing cycles, reminding us to look up, slow down and focus on our breath.

AUTHENTIC SELVES STUDENT EXHIBITION
PARTNERSHIP WITH WORDS ALIVE
OPENED IN NOVEMBER 2022
The artworks on display in the Authentic Selves exhibition were created by students in grades 4-12 as part of the Words Alive Art & Lit program that connects students to the power of reading, writing, art and each other. This 2022 project was inspired by books with themes of celebrating our authentic selves, resilience, courage, belonging and friendship.

LOS TROMPOS
HECTOR ESRAWE + IGNACIO CADENA
OPENED OCTOBER 2022
Inspired by the popular children’s toy, Los Trompos consisted of six colorfully woven, life-size spinning tops located in the Museum Park. Children were invited to team up to rotate the tops and climb inside for a spin, encouraging joyful play and collaboration with others. In Spanish, Los Trompos translates to “The Spinning Tops,” and the colorful surfaces of each top were woven in the traditional style of Mexican artisans.