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“We’re Growing Together”: The New Children’s Museum To Add 8,600 Square Feet of Learning, Joy and Creativity

Museum works to raise \$650,000, with community’s support, to create more room for exhibits, popular art studio and programming

SAN DIEGO – June 17, 2024 – By the end of the year, The New Children’s Museum (NCM) will have even more opportunities for visitors to think, play and create with a 8,600 square foot expansion that not only provides more gallery space and classrooms but expands the San Diego-based Museum’s wildly popular art-making studio space. That is, if the community can help the Museum raise \$650,000 by the end of August.

With over 1,800 visitors coming to the Museum on any given day, slots for the Museum’s current popular art-making studio space, which can only accommodate between 12 to 15 students at a time, fill up within hours of opening. The expanded studio space will now be able to accommodate upwards of 200 guests at a time, who will be invited to explore a variety of ideas, materials and hands-on techniques, including ceramics. The Museum’s hope? That not only will there be more for visitors to do but that older visitors, from 7-years-old to high school aged, will have more to enjoy.

“The New Children’s Museum is, really, a space for everyone,” says **Elizabeth Yang-Hellewell (she/her), Executive Director and CEO of The New Children’s Museum**. “As our audiences grow, so must our organization grow to nurture the creative space our visitors need to explore their creativity and fulfill their curiosity at new levels.”

The New Children’s Museum’s three-story location, which opened in 2008 in the heart of downtown San Diego, was originally designed by Rob Quigley. Well-respected San Diego-based architect Jim Brown (he/him), was brought on to create a low-impact design within the original building footprint that honors Quigley’s vision. In addition to the expanded studio space, visitors will be able to enjoy classes, programs and events in an all-new education commons on the Museum’s upper level.

“Art plays such a vital role in helping us discover who we are and explore the world around us” says **Gabrielle Wyrick (she/her), Chief Curator & Director of Audience Engagement**. “Here at The New Children’s Museum, we believe that all young people deserve access to opportunities to develop their creative potential and this expanded space will help us provide that access to thousands of youth each year.”

Funding thus has been provided, in part, through grants and private contributions. The New Children’s Museum still needs to raise \$650,000 by the end of the year to fully fund its expansion.

The community can support the upcoming expansion by visiting <https://thinkplaycreate.org/join/donate/>.

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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](#).

About Jim Brown

Jim Brown's decades-long career spans the fields of furniture making, public and gallery art, architecture, construction and community building. His work explores 'making' at a variety of scales and techniques, creating projects that strive to redefine the role of design in society and that exhibit a curiosity of process. Along with his upcoming renovation of The New Children's Museum, Brown has designed and supported thoughtful, community-based works across the San Diego region, including The Museum of Us, the Center for Trinational Belonging, the J. Paul Getty Museum's Central Garden and the Library at El Colegio La Esperanza in Tijuana, Mexico. Brown is the Director and founder of Bread & Salt, a community based art complex in Logan Heights, and teaches architecture at the School of Art + Design at San Diego State University. Brown was recently awarded 3 American Institute of Architects design awards for his efforts supporting cross-border communities through innovative, community-centered designs.