



the new children's museum™

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THE NEW CHILDREN'S MUSEUM EXPANSION PROVIDES MORE ROOM TO THINK, PLAY AND CREATE

***Artopia: NCM Creative Studios* to Provide a New Hub for All Ages**

Grand Opening - April 12, 2025

SAN DIEGO – March 21, 2025 – This April, 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.

At the heart of the expansion is ***Artopia: NCM Creative Studios***, a newly renovated art studio located on the third level. **Programs, activities and workshops will be designed for visitors from toddlers, teens, adults, and all ages reflecting an expanded focus beyond previous studio offerings.** *Artopia* will offer art-making workshops, artist-led experiences, and opportunities for private event rentals, making it a versatile space for both individual creativity for multi-generational audiences and community gatherings.

In addition, a new **Education Commons** located directly off of the art studio space has been built out as a new hub for learning set to host workshops, early childhood programs, school programs, teachers institutes and more.

"With over 1,800 visitors coming to the Museum on any given day, slots for the Museum's Innovator's LAB, our current popular art-making studio space, were limited and filled up within hours of opening. ***Artopia: NCM Creative Studios*** will now be able to accommodate upwards of 200 guests at a time, offering workshops for toddlers, teens, adults, and all ages to explore a variety of ideas, materials, and hands-on techniques," said **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."

Programming will explore diverse mediums, including **painting (acrylic, oil, watercolor), textile and fiber arts, ceramics, and sculpture.** The space will also feature a **fully equipped ceramics studio with pottery wheels and an onsite kiln**, providing a full-circle experience from raw material to finished piece.

Current Workshops: <https://bit.ly/art-studio-march-25>

Art Studio Calendar:

https://thinkplaycreate.ticketapp.org/portal/pid/2/pages/studio_program_calendar

“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**. “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.”

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. The space was formerly staff offices and meeting rooms.

Grand Opening Celebration – April 12, 2025 (9am-4pm)

This special event will take place during normal Museum hours and will feature:

- **9:30am - A celebratory ribbon cutting** to officially open **Artopia: NCM Creative Studios**
- **A short program with speakers**, including Museum leadership, partners, and honored guests
- **Drop-in art-making stations featuring drawing, fiber arts, ceramics and sculpting, toddler-friendly sensory activities and more** where kids and visitors of all ages can get a taste of what is to come in future workshops
- **Access to explore Artopia: NCM Creative Studios** as part of their Museum visit. No additional ticket is required beyond Museum entry (membership or general admission ticket)
- **“ArtMark” Tile Opportunity** - Supporters can purchase an **engraved wooden tile** with a name, message, or quote, which will be assembled into a **mosaic wall** within the Studio space, creating a lasting legacy and inspiring future generations of artists.

[Link to images](#)

Renderings by James Brown, FAIA

Elizabeth Yang-Hellewell portrait - © The New Children’s Museum, 2025

Gabrielle Wyrick portrait - © The New Children’s Museum, 2025

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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. To learn more, visit thinkplaycreate.org or follow us on [Facebook](#) or [Instagram](#).