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Shaping the Future: The New Children's Museum Opens Ceramics Studio in Artopia

New dedicated ceramics space expands artmaking opportunities for youth, teens, and adults

SAN DIEGO – September 2025 – The New Children's Museum (NCM) is excited to announce the official opening of its ceramics studio in its new creative hub, **Artopia: NCM Creative Studios**. This fully equipped multigenerational creative space provides youth, teens, and adults with the opportunity to explore clay through wheel-throwing, hand-building, and glazing, guided by experienced teaching artists.

Alongside the studio opening, NCM is launching the *Youth Ceramics: At the Wheel Series*, a four-week program for ages 8–13 this fall. Participants will learn essential techniques to create functional forms like bowls, cups, and vases, while building confidence and skill at the wheel. Artopia also offers an *Art Afterschool Series*, where young artists explore a variety of media and contemporary art-inspired projects including drawing, sketchbook practice, dying textile, hand-sewing and more.

To ensure more children can participate, NCM has introduced **Artopia Scholarships**, made possible through the generous support of the **ResMed Foundation**. These scholarships cover the full cost of both ceramics and afterschool programs and are awarded on a first-come, first-served basis to families who qualify based on financial need.

“We designed Artopia to be a space where young people can build skills, confidence, and creative voices through hands-on experiences,” said Elizabeth Yang-Hellewell (she/her), Executive Director and CEO of The New Children's Museum. “With the new ceramics studio, Art Afterschool programs, and the Artopia Scholarships, we're opening doors for more children in San Diego to explore, create, and express themselves in new ways.”

“Clay is a uniquely engaging material,” added Dawn Vitale (she/her), General Manager of Artopia Programs and Operations. “From hand-building to wheel-throwing, our ceramics programs allow young artists of all ages to foster creativity and self-expression connecting mindfully and in tangible ways.”



the new children's museum™

Families can learn more, register for programs, and apply for scholarships at

thinkplaycreate.org/artopia



About The New Children's Museum

The New Children's Museum inspires creativity and exploration through interactive art experiences for youth and families. Located downtown, the Museum collaborates with contemporary artists to design engaging installations and educational programs. To learn more, visit thinkplaycreate.org or follow the Museum on Instagram and Facebook.

About the ResMed Foundation

The ResMed Foundation supports programs that expand access to health, education, and creative opportunities for San Diego youth. Through its support of Artopia Scholarships, more children can participate in hands-on artmaking programs, fostering creativity and self-expression.