



## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **FOR MORE INFORMATION**

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## **A JOURNEY THROUGH THE NEW LOUISIANA CHILDREN'S MUSEUM IN NEW ORLEANS CITY PARK**

NEW ORLEANS (January 25, 2017) -- The Louisiana Children's Museum (LCM) "takes it outside" when it moves to a new location in New Orleans City Park in 2018. The new site will overlook a vibrant lagoon and the exhibits will bring a new level of interactive experiences designed to promote early childhood learning through play.

The new campus in New Orleans City Park will include five new exhibit galleries indoors, as well as a literacy center, a parent and teacher resource center, an edible garden, a sensory garden, and full-service café.

While the museum currently delivers dozens of educational programs, the new location has been specifically designed to be a social, cultural and learning resource for young children and their families focusing on literacy, environmental education, health and wellness, STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics), and arts and culture. These early childhood resources are critically needed, as historically Louisiana has ranked near the bottom in key child well-being indicators.

The new exhibits were designed by Gyroscope, Inc., an award-winning museum planning, architecture and exhibit design firm, located in Oakland, CA. "A new generation of interactive

experiences, creativity, water play, growing, cooking and eating will be flavored by regional input, and art and quotes from citizens of all ages, from 4 to 94,” said Julia Bland, chief executive officer of LCM. Seattle-based Mithūn was selected as the lead architect, supported by Waggoner & Ball locally.

## South Wing

The Welcome Porch invites everyone to visit the Louisiana Children’s Museum’s public offerings: the toy and book store, the parent-teacher resource center, literacy center and the waterfront Café. The VestiBlue, a nod to the iconic big blue doors on Julia Street, marks the main entrance to the re-imagined museum and is the threshold to the interactive experiences that await. Spaces and sponsors include:



- Talk & Play/Parent Resource Center (Entergy Charitable Foundation)
- Hello Foyer/Lobby (Oscar J. Tolmas Charitable Trust)
- Education Celebration Rooms 1 & 2 (JPMorgan Chase Foundation)
- Café Indoor Dining (Newman’s Own Foundation)
- Café Waterfront Dining Porch (Latter & Blum)
- Toy & Bookstore (Bloomberg Philanthropies in honor of Anne and King Milling)
- Board Room (Caroline Fayard)
- Executive Director’s Office (The Boh Family)

## Play With Me

This ground-floor gallery is designed to provide easy access for parents of young children with strollers. Infants and toddlers, three years and younger, will explore surroundings while resources are available to support parents in their journey as children’s first teachers. Exhibits and sponsors include:



- Sensory Lagoon (Cailyn Michael Parenton Foundation)
- In Dialogue (HCA MidAmerica/Tulane)
- Cypress Tree Book Nook (Amy and Stephen Farnsworth)
- Peek-a-Boo Puppet Theater (Perkin Fund)
- Early Literacy Sensory Wall (Pres Kabacoff, in honor of Martha Kabacoff)
- Discovery Zone

### Follow That Food

Located on the ground floor, Follow That Food will be one of the largest galleries. It will take children on a playful Louisiana food journey that starts in the fields and coastal waters, passes through the busy international port with stops at the market, kitchen, café and finally makes its way to the family table. Exhibits and sponsors include:



- Food & You Market (Linda and Gordon Kolb)
- Bean Counter (Gifts in honor of Joey Richard, CPA)
- Creole Kitchen
- Growing & Gathering
- Ports & Cargo
- Scents & Scales

### Dig into Nature

Overlooking the lagoon on the ground floor, this gallery is where children will discover the abundance of natural resources unique to Louisiana and the Gulf Coast Region. Through this tactile and textural set of experiences, visitors will explore the relationships between the diverse resources, ecosystems, plants and animals who live here. Exhibits and sponsors include:



- Nature Caring Station (The Frank B. Stewart, Jr. Foundation)

- Exploration & Innovation (American Petroleum Institute-Delta Chapter, New Orleans Geological Society, New Orleans Geological Society Memorial Foundation, Petroleum Industry Promoting Education, Professional Landmen’s Association of New Orleans, Southeastern Geophysical Society)
- Sedimentation Table (Alden and Margaret Laborde Foundation)
- Storytelling Nest (Jones Walker LLP)
- Nature Sharing Station (Freeport-McMoRan Foundation)
- Cajun Pirogue
- Promise Tree Portal

## Make Your Mark

Presented by the Goldring Family Foundation and Woldenberg Foundation

Enter the second floor to explore and enjoy exhibits celebrating New Orleans’ rich art and its architectural, musical, historic and cultural heritage.

Understanding our heritage will invite children to discover how to make *their* mark with their own original creations.

Exhibits and sponsors include:

- STEAM Studio (Louisiana Machinery)
- Jammin’ House (The Motwani Family)
- Jackson Square (Judith and Jeffrey Doussan)
- Design Studio (Henry and Pat Shane)
- Build Big Dreams (Whitney Bank)
- Book Nook & Light Tables (Wendell and Anne Gauthier Family Foundation)
- Shotgun House



## Move with the River

On the second floor overlooking the lagoon, this gallery will immerse children in an action-packed watery world where they will begin to explore the story of the Mighty Mississippi River. Follow the journey of our region's most abundant resource - *water* - from Lake Itasca, MN all the way through the Port of New Orleans to the Gulf of Mexico.

Exhibits and sponsors include:

- Mighty Mississippi (Bryan Subaru)
- In Dialogue Program Space (Associated Terminals & Turn Services)
- Rocks & Sprints Tot Spot (Associated Terminals & Turn Services)
- Water Wall (Capital One Bank)
- Dry Off Den



## Landscape Features

The journey continues in the Louisiana Children's Museum's dynamic outdoor environment. Exit the building to discover Uncle Bo's Sensory Garden. Pass through the beautiful Event Lawn and play a game of parachute. Turn the corner to find a cistern and runnel where you can jump and splash after a rainy day. Little ones can play hide and seek in the Burrow Hummock and crawl, balance and climb on the Toddler Lawn. Follow the sounds to the Music Hummock and climb over the Pelican's Perch to find the Floating Classroom and venture out on to the lagoon to observe wetland ecosystems.

- Courtyard
- Event Lawn
- Labyrinth & Lagoon Footbridge South (Winingder Family)
- Lagoon Footbridge North
- Uncle Bo's Sensory Garden (Gifts in memory of Gustaf W. McIlhenny)
- Floating Classroom (Canal Barge Company)
- Music Hummock (The Lewis and Stouse Families)
- Edible Garden (Ruth U. Fertel Foundation)
- The Dock and Boardwalk (Eugenie and Joseph Jones Family Foundation)
- Pelican's Perch (Kara and David Schonberg)

## About LCM

The Louisiana Children's Museum is the primary resource in the State of Louisiana developed specifically for young children and their families that is open to the public. Over three decades,

the Museum has celebrated generations of childhood experiences, inspired numerous careers and made many joyous connections.

The Louisiana Children's Museum is currently located at 420 Julia Street in New Orleans' Warehouse District between Magazine and Tchoupitoulas Streets. The Museum is open Tuesday through Saturday from 9:30 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. and Sunday from 12:00 p.m. until 4:30 p.m. General admission is \$8.50 per person for adults and children 12 months and older. LCM members receive free general admission. Visit [www.lcm.org](http://www.lcm.org) to learn more about the Louisiana Children's Museum or call 504-523-1357

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