



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

May 6, 2015

## ***Joy Park: An Outdoor Adventure* brings 30,000 square feet of nature-based play to the Children's Museum of Denver**

*New outdoor exhibit will open June 13, 2015*

**Denver, CO** – Imagine a vast space filled with a fusion of outdoor elements: caves and canyons, hills and valleys, ruins and forts, and bridges and streams. Then, picture children whirling by on zip lines, rolling down hills, cartwheeling through a meadow, building dams in streams and spelunking through a tunnel. It all blends into one cohesive outdoor adventure, designed for children and their grown-ups to get dirty, explore together and learn about the environment through year-round unstructured outdoor play.

“More children than ever before are spending their free time indoors,” said Mike Yankovich, Museum president and CEO. “Yet, we know that outdoor play is an essential component of learning that enhances social development, alleviates stress and strengthens motor skills. That’s why we set out to create an accessible, heart-pumping, dynamic space for children to explore - through joyful, unbridled play.”

Working with landscape architectural firm, Mundus Bishop, the education and exhibits teams at the Children’s Museum of Denver designed *Joy Park: An Outdoor Adventure*.

To create an experience that encourages curiosity and exploration, the Museum’s exhibit designers drew inspiration from Colorado’s unique outdoor landscape. As a result, the components of *Joy Park* are features that one could see while traveling through Colorado, including sand dunes, boulders, peaks, canyons, rivers, waterfalls and an apple orchard, complete with a 1948 Chevy farm truck, among other elements. Throughout the exhibit, children and their grown-ups will be encouraged to explore with all their senses, to make observations and test predictions, and to engage in play that incorporates invention, creativity, risk-taking, leadership and collaboration.

“Joy Park will be a place unlike any other in our region, where children can push the boundaries of their imaginations, gain self-confidence, and truly become the heroes of their own stories,” said Sarah Brenkert, Director of Education at the Children’s Museum of Denver.

Joy Park will debut on June 13, 2015. It is the first of six new Playscapes opening in conjunction with the Museum’s expansion project to double its size. The entire project will be completed in late 2015.

Joy Park is made possible through collaboration with Denver Parks and Recreation and support from a generous anonymous donor, the Colorado Health Foundation, the Melvin & Elaine Wolf Foundation, Jenna & Walker Stapleton/Harmes C. Fishback Foundation, El Pomar Foundation, Joe, Judi and Betsy Wagner, Wagner Equipment Co., as well as other generous campaign donors.



### About the Children’s Museum of Denver:

The Children's Museum of Denver believes in kid-powered learning. Every day, expertly designed exhibits and programs open doors for Colorado's curious young minds to express what they know and to discover, create and explore more - on their own terms.

Since 1973, the Children’s Museum of Denver has served the metro-Denver community as a learning institute dedicated to the education and growth of young children, newborn through age 8, and their caregivers. The Museum provides rich play experiences and a dynamic learning environment for children to joyously learn through innovative and interactive Playscapes (hands-on exhibits), engaging daily programming and year-round special events. Last year, they served more than 359,000 children and their grown-ups.

Working with general contractor, Fransen Pittman, architectural firm, OZ Architecture, and owner’s representative firm, Wember Inc., the Museum is currently under construction on a \$16.1 million expansion to create a 9-acre campus and new experiences; doubling the size of the current facility. The expansion is slated for completion in late 2015.

The Children’s Museum of Denver is a 501(c)(3), private non-profit organization, and a Tier II SCFD member.

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