



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**National Endowment for the Arts awards \$10,000 to the Children's Museum
to help fund art-focused programming**

Award provides opportunities for a local artist to share their work with children and families – including underserved populations – visiting the Children's Museum of Denver at Marsico Campus

Please note: The name of the Children's Museum has changed.

Please use "Children's Museum of Denver at Marsico Campus" in all publications.

Denver, CO— The National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) announced an award of \$10,000 to the Children's Museum of Denver at Marsico Campus to support *pARTicipate*, an arts project that will feature a professional guest artist and provide a variety of art programming to the Museum.

Through *pARTicipate*, the artist's engagement and unique programming will be designed to involve Museum guests in the artist's work, including children from low-income schools and children with disabilities. The project will leverage The Art Studio, the Museum's new art space dedicated to engaging young children and their grown-ups in the arts and art-making, including painting, mixed media, a clay studio and an Artist-in-Residence program.

"Providing rich arts experiences for children is a key focus at the Children's Museum of Denver at Marsico Campus," said Mike Yankovich, President and CEO of the Children's Museum. "Through art, children develop their identities. They learn to express themselves and see different perspectives. And, they develop important skills like collaboration, invention and communication. We are thrilled to partner with the National Endowment for the Arts to create opportunities for young learners to interact with, and learn from, one of our community's many talented artists."

In its first 50 years, the NEA awarded more than \$5 billion in grants to recipients in every state and U.S. jurisdiction, the only arts funder in the nation to do so. Recently, the NEA announced awards totaling more than \$27.6 million in its first funding round for fiscal year 2016, including the Challenge America award of \$10,000 to the Museum.

The Challenge America category supports projects that extend the reach of the arts to underserved populations whose opportunities to experience the arts are limited by geography, ethnicity, economics,

or disability. Challenge America grants are comparatively small investments that have a big impact in their communities.

“The arts are part of our everyday lives – no matter who you are or where you live – they have the power to transform individuals, spark economic vibrancy in communities, and transcend the boundaries across diverse sectors of society,” NEA Chairman Jane Chu said. “Supporting projects like the one from the Children’s Museum of Denver at Marsico Campus offers more opportunities to engage in the arts every day.”

For more information on *pARTicipate* and other projects included in the NEA grant announcement, go to arts.gov.

About the Children’s Museum of Denver at Marsico Campus

The mission of the Children's Museum of Denver at Marsico Campus is to create extraordinary experiences that champion the wonder and joy of childhood. They believe in kid-powered learning and every day, their 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 at Marsico Campus has served the metro-Denver community as a learning institute dedicated to the education and growth of young children and their caregivers. The Museum provides rich play experiences and a dynamic learning environment for children to joyously learn through innovative and interactive hands-on exhibits, engaging daily programming and year-round special events. Last year, they served nearly 330,000 children and their grown-ups.

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

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