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**Children’s Museum of Denver at Marsico Campus Recognized as a 2018
Recipient of Nation’s Highest Museum and Library Honor**

***National Medal for Museum and Library Service Recognizes Colorado Museum’s
Community Contributions***

WASHINGTON, D.C. (May 1, 2018) – The Institute of Museum and Library Services today announced the Children’s Museum of Denver at Marsico Campus of Denver, Colorado, as one of 10 recipients of the 2018 National Medal for Museum and Library Service, the nation’s highest honor given to museums and libraries that make significant and exceptional contributions to their communities. Over the past 24 years, the award has celebrated 182 institutions that are making a difference for individuals, families, and communities. The award will be presented at an event at the U.S. Institute of Peace in Washington, D.C., in May.

The Children’s Museum of Denver at Marsico Campus first opened its doors in a converted school bus in 1973. Since then, the museum has served the metro-Denver community as the leading informal learning institution for young children and their caregivers. Over the last decade, attendance has grown by 124 percent, reaching more than 550,000 annually. The museum ranks as one of the top museum-related attractions in the region due to its ability to attract ethnically and culturally diverse audiences, and address the developmental needs of young children.

“It is a pleasure to recognize the 10 distinctive recipients of the National Medal of Museum and Library Service,” said IMLS Director Dr. Kathryn K. Matthew. “Through their programs, services, and partnerships, these institutions exemplify the many ways that libraries and museums are positively transforming communities across the nation.”

Selected from 29 national finalists, the 2018 National Medal for Museum and Library Service winners represent institutions that provide dynamic programming and services that exceed expected levels of service. Through their community outreach, these institutions bring about change that touches the lives of individuals and helps communities thrive.

“Our museum is about preserving childhood and promoting play as an approach to significant learning. We emphasize that children (and their grown-ups) own their own experiences, push their boundaries, and challenge themselves beyond what they thought possible,” said Mike Yankovich, President and CEO, Children’s Museum of Denver at Marsico Campus.

As part of the ceremony and celebration, community member Rebecca Paschall will travel to Washington, D.C. with Yankovich to accept the National Medal on behalf of the museum and provide a personal account of the power the museum has had in the community. Paschall, whose three sons immediately bonded with staff, became part of a community of families with children who have special needs. “I never felt alone when I was at the museum,” said Paschall. “I will always be touched at how the museum helped our family find a safe place for our children who have these special needs to play and learn together.”

“I’m so pleased to see the Children’s Museum of Denver at Marsico Campus, a fixture for families in our community, receive this recognition for the many ways in which it advances education and creativity. From its humble roots on a converted school bus 45 years ago to its now nine-acre exhibit space, the Children’s Museum has blossomed into a world-class institution. Its unique hands-on and interactive exhibits make learning exciting and fun. This medal is well deserved,” said Rep. Diana DeGette.

Following the ceremony, [StoryCorps](#)—a national nonprofit dedicated to recording, preserving, and sharing the stories of Americans—will visit the Museum and provide an opportunity for community members to share stories of how the Museum has affected their lives. These stories are preserved at the American Folklife Center at the Library of Congress.

For a complete list of 2018 recipients and to learn more about the National Medal winners, visit <https://www.ims.gov/news-events/news-releases/ims-selects-top-10-museums-libraries-national-medal-museum-and-library>.

About the Institute of Museum and Library Services

The Institute of Museum and Library Services is the primary source of federal support for the nation's libraries and museums. We advance, support, and empower America’s museums, libraries, and related organizations through grantmaking, research, and policy development. Our vision is a nation where museums and libraries work together to transform the lives of individuals and communities. To learn more, visit www.ims.gov and follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

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 568,000 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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