



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 5, 2018

Children's Museum of Denver at Marsico Campus named a finalist for the Institute of Museum and Library Services 2018 National Medal

Museum honored for community service and focus on accessibility

Denver, CO. - March 5, 2018 - Today, the Institute of Museum and Library Services announced that the Children's Museum of Denver at Marsico Campus is among 29 finalists for the 2018 National Medal for Museum and Library Service.

The National Medal is the nation's highest honor given to museums and libraries for service to their communities. For 24 years, the award has celebrated institutions that demonstrate extraordinary and innovative approaches to public service. The 2018 National Medal seeks to honor institutions who strive to be accessible to all, despite financial and socioeconomic barriers.

Accessibility is a top priority for the Children's Museum of Denver at Marsico Campus. With the help of community partners, the Museum has developed and launched multiple access programs which strive to provide free family memberships, free or greatly reduced daily admission, and free school programs to children, families, and schools in need.

"The Children's Museum has worked tirelessly to ensure a visit to the Museum is within reach for all Colorado families," said U.S. Representative Diana DeGette. "The Museum offers multiple programs that provide free or greatly reduced admissions and memberships to at-risk Colorado families."

This year alone, the Museum provided nearly 100,000 admissions to children and families through multiple access avenues, which include the Sponsored Admissions and Memberships Program, the SNAP Access Initiative, and Growing Scientists: Sparking STEM in Early Childhood.

"The 29 National Medal finalists showcase the tremendous ability of libraries and museums to serve as vital community resources," said IMLS Director Dr. Kathryn K. Matthew. "The Institute of Museum and Library Services is honored to recognize these leading institutions. We congratulate them on the work they are doing across the United States."

IMLS is encouraging guests and community members to share their Children's Museum story on social media. To #ShareYourStory, please visit www.facebook.com/USIMLS or www.twitter.com/us_imls and use #IMLSmedals.

National Medal winners will be announced later this spring. Representatives from winning institutions will be honored for their extraordinary contributions at the National Medal Ceremony on May 24 in Washington, D.C.

Two other Colorado institutions, Mancos Public Library and Pueblo City-County Library District, were also honored. To see the full list of finalists and learn more about the National Medal, visit the [IMLS website](#).

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 approximately [120,000 libraries](#) and [35,000 museums](#) and related organizations. Our mission is to inspire libraries and museums to advance innovation, lifelong learning, and cultural and civic engagement. Our grant making, policy development, and research help libraries and museums deliver valuable services that make it possible for communities and individuals to thrive. 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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