



Providence Children's Museum
100 South Street, Providence, RI 02903

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For Immediate Release

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The *Creativity Initiative* transforms Providence Children's Museum

PROVIDENCE – After three years of planning, research and 'kid-testing', Providence Children's Museum is set to launch its *Creativity Initiative* on June 28, with dedicated new exhibit space and high-quality maker experiences designed to spark creativity in the community and inspire Rhode Island's kids to be innovators in the 21st century.

The first in a series of interactive exhibits will open to the public on June 28, from 5:00 – 8:00 PM, during a special MetLife Free Family Friday.

Providence artist Nick Carter, in collaboration with the Museum's Exhibits Team, has created 'Extravagant Properties: Line, Shape, and Color'. The environment explores geometry through the 2D and 3D worlds of points and lines in space. Little visitors and grownups will delight as they play with light, color, and patterns, taking charge and making their own designs. The exhibit will be on display through September.

In addition, the Museum's new state-of-the-art *Innovation Lab* and *Maker Studio* will provide young innovators with the chance to work with real tools and interesting materials.

"Providence Children's Museum is the only cultural institution in our 'creative capital' specifically focused on children under ten," said Executive Director Caroline Payson. "This is where they begin on the lifelong path of learning critical thinking and problem-solving skills, and we want to give all kids the best experiences and tools possible."

The *Creativity Initiative* kicks off with an exclusive Member and Donor Preview event on June 27, from 5:30 – 7:30 PM. Media are welcome to attend the Preview and the June 28 public opening.

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About the *Creativity Initiative*

The *Creativity Initiative* is Providence Children's Museum's groundbreaking three-year project that seeks to connect all children to Rhode Island's creative community. The *Initiative* includes a series of rotating exhibits developed in collaboration with local creatives and provides opportunities for families to engage with immersive environments. New exhibits will open each season.

A series of hands-on workshops, complementing the theme of each exhibit, will give little innovators a chance to peek behind the curtain of real-world creative thinking and explore, ask questions, and find their own answers in the Museum's new, hands-on *Innovation Lab* and *Maker Studio*. Children and their grownups will use authentic tools and materials, while trained Museum staff ensure a rich problem-solving experience. Professional creatives will also drop in for demonstrations and how-to sessions.

Throughout the Museum, interesting creative artifacts, on loan from regional artists, designers, and arts organizations, will be on display, giving children an up-close look at the step-by-step creative process.

The *Creativity Initiative* is funded in part by generous support from the Norman and Rosalie Fain Family Foundation, the Murray Family Charitable Foundation, the National Endowment for the Arts, the Carol A. Peterson Foundation, the Carter Family Charitable Trust, the Providence Journal Charitable Legacy Fund, the Hassenfeld Family Foundation, the Rhode Island Council for the Humanities, and the Rhode Island State Council for the Arts.

About Nick Carter

Nick Carter is an artist, educator and community organizer whose work often investigates pattern, color, and perspective. It is inspired by quilting motifs, urban architecture, and camouflage. Using translucent and reflective materials, Carter creates dynamic situations in site-specific environments like the Museum. Similar to flags, his paintings are often installed on wires or poles and are subject to shifting vectors of air and light.

For inquiries, press previews and interviews, please contact Associate Director Janella Watson at (401) 273-5437 ext. 126 and Watson@ChildrenMuseum.org or Communications Coordinator Kathleen Lester at (401) 273-5437 ext. 221 and Lester@ChildrenMuseum.org.

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Providence Children's Museum – Play Every Day!

Providence Children's Museum is located at 100 South Street in Providence's Jewelry District.

Open every day from 9 AM to 5 PM and select Fridays until 8 PM.

Museum admission is \$12.00 per person; always free for Museum members.

Call (401) 273-5437 or visit www.ChildrenMuseum.org.