

An Enchanted Evening at *The Wonder Ball*



(From left) Massachusetts First Lady Lauren Baker, Governor Charlie Baker, Lianne Leventhal, Jessica Slater, Sam Slater, Giuliana Rancic, Bill Rancic, Carole Charnow, and Alexander Leventhal at the fifth annual Wonder Ball.

On Saturday, November 17th, nearly 400 of Boston Children's Museum's closest friends celebrated at the Museum's fifth annual *Wonder Ball* gala to benefit the Museum and ensure that every child, regardless of physical, developmental, or economic challenges, has the opportunity to visit and enjoy the Museum.

Massachusetts Governor Charlie Baker and Mrs. Lauren Baker, event co-chairs Lianne and Alexander Leventhal and Jessica and Sam Slater, and celebrity hosts Giuliana and Bill Rancic joined guests to help raise nearly \$560,000 to benefit the Museum's access programs. This support helps allow thousands of children and families to visit the Museum every year through free or discounted admission or through programming to fit special needs. Guests delighted in an enchanted forest themed evening, featuring a scotch bar, *Unlock the Wonder* donation game, and an after dinner dance party with DJ Hectik. The Museum is so grateful to the generous support of all of the event's individual, corporate, and foundation sponsors.

Please save the date to celebrate with us next year! The sixth annual *Wonder Ball* will be held at Boston Children's Museum on Saturday, November 23rd, 2019.



A Letter from Carole

As I write this, we are gearing up for a fantastic holiday season at the Museum. Our indoor Sock Skating Rink is open and families are enjoying the fun in our wintry *Snowmazing!* village. Wheelock Family Theatre's exclusive performance of *Elephant & Piggie's "We Are in a Play!"* starts December 14th and will include nineteen performances with 5 actors and live music. I hope you can find time to join us and share in the holiday joy and wonder! In the meantime, you can read here about the many amazing things that have happened recently at the Museum. I wish you the very best for 2019 and thank you for your support of the Museum.

Sincerely,

Carole Charnow
President & CEO

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Boston Mini Maker Faire 2018



Over the weekend of October 6th & 7th, 150 Makers and thousands of visitors took part in the annual *Boston Mini Maker Faire* at the Museum. The Museum and Fort Point Channel boardwalk were transformed into a celebration of discovery, creativity, and ingenuity. The Museum was joined by partners Artisan's Asylum and NE First, and sponsors Autodesk, BNY Mellon, BOSEbuild, Google, MathWorks, National Grid, and Vertex, to make the Boston Mini Maker Faire possible.

Highlights for visitors included sawing wooden cars with Eliot School of Fine and Applied Arts, learning to solder with You-Do-It Electronics, and carving sand for poured aluminum with Stonybrook Fine Arts. Additionally, the Museum was thrilled to welcome a scaled down version of Burning Man's RayActivation that was reassembled on the plaza by Makers and volunteers, as well as Spanish artist Okuda, who launched his Seaport District residency on October 6th at the Faire.

"Boston Children's Museum is exceptionally grateful to our many volunteers that helped make the weekend a success, and to our generous partners and sponsors who see the importance of supporting the creative and rewarding process of making and invention," said Carole Charnow, President and CEO of the Museum.

For more information on the Faire, please visit <https://boston.makerfaire.com>



Boston Children's Museum is Snowmazing!

It's the most wonderful time of the year! From November 29th to January 16th, *Snowmazing!* is back at Boston Children's Museum and is sure to delight the entire family.

Please join us for an exclusive showing of Wheelock Family Theatre's *Elephant & Piggie's "We Are in a Play!"* or show off your Olympic moves on our Sock Skating Rink. On December 22nd and 23rd, the Museum will host a special "Cocoa with Characters" event, complete with a hot chocolate bar. Boston Children's Museum is grateful for the generous support of *Snowmazing!* sponsor, the Massachusetts Education Financing Authority (MEFA), and looks forward to celebrating the holidays with your family!

For information and to purchase tickets, please visit: <http://bostonchildrensmuseum.org/snowmazing2018>



Carole Charnow, President and CEO (left), officially opens Snowmazing! with the assistance of Blades the Bruin and Jonathan Hughes (second from right) and Ajea Stupart (right) representing Massachusetts Education Financing Authority (MEFA).

Jeri Robinson, Boston Children's Museum Icon, Retires



After a forty-five year career serving children and families at Boston Children's Museum, beloved Vice President of Early Childhood Initiatives, Jeri Robinson, will retire from the Museum this December. Over the course of Jeri's career at Boston Children's Museum, she has helped shape the lives of millions of children through her

legendary *PlaySpace* exhibit, groundbreaking early childhood development programming and community engagement, which includes her current position as a member of the Boston School Committee. Jeri's dedication to children and early childhood development spans her entire career, which began as a kindergarten teacher in the Boston Public Schools.

To culminate and celebrate Jeri's immeasurable impact on Boston Children's Museum and the broader children's museum and education fields, this past May, Jeri was awarded the *Association of Children's Museum's inaugural Champion of the Field Award*. In September, Mayor Martin J. Walsh, Boston Public Schools Interim Superintendent Laura Perille and Boston Chief of Education Turahn Dorsey joined

Museum Board Members and special guests at a celebratory breakfast to honor Jeri. At this celebration, Jeri was awarded *The Nan Bennett Kay Great Friend to Kids Award* by Museum Honorary Trustee Stephen B. Kay. Boston Children's Museum will be forever grateful to Jeri for her service and love of children and their families.



To honor Jeri's service, Boston Children's Museum has established *The Jeri Robinson Endowed Fund for PlaySpace*, to support Jeri's work in perpetuity by sustaining her beloved *PlaySpace* exhibit for future generations of children.



To support this endowment, please visit <https://community.bostonchildrensmuseum.org/JeriRobinsonPlayspaceEndowment>

Children and Media Use at Lunch and Learn



Dr. Seeta Pai, Executive Director of Education at WGBH and former Vice President of Research at Common Sense Media, spoke to guests at the Museum's November Lunch and Learn on "Children and Media Use: Trends and Tips." Dr. Pai, a graduate of the Harvard University

Graduate School of Education and mother of two, has led many research and evaluation initiatives focused on digital media, learning, education, and child development. Additionally, Dr. Pai's research

has included developing strategies focused on assisting underserved families, and focuses on cultural sensitivity and diversity through these initiatives. Dr. Pai explored the increased use of technology, and the large volume of "screen based and data based experiences" in today's culture. She engaged the audience with tips on how to explore the best educational content for families, and noted that parents ultimately should teach kids to be media savvy. "Children should be armed with the tools to make the decisions and judgments themselves. Even really young children can be taught the basics of good digital citizenship—how to be responsible, respectful, safe and they can also be taught to be critical thinkers," she noted.

Boston Children's Museum Unveils New Logo

Boston Children's Museum has unveiled its new logo, a simplified symbol of a child that emphasizes the power of active play and learning to empower children. Since its founding 105 years ago, the Museum has had eight logos. The most recent logo was introduced in 2003 prior to a major renovation and expansion of the Museum in 2007, steady growth in attendance, and the award of the National Medal for Museum and Library Service in 2013.



"We have been considering a change to the logo for several years," said Peter Broderick, Vice president of Marketing and Communications. "We wanted a visually contemporary symbol that conveyed energy and dynamism, but also made clear that the Museum is about child directed play that empowers children. The logo reinforces the idea that was first articulated by Michael Spock, who led the Museum in the 60's and 70's that 'the Museum is not about something, but for someone'."

The logo was created by the Museum's Creative Director, Karin Hansen, who envisioned the opportunity to create a symbol that is filled by

each child's experience. "There is a compelling element of everyday joy, discovery, and surprise in experiencing the Museum," said Hansen. "The celebratory nature of the child's gesture reflects that experience, and communicates the power in play to test limits, try new things, and gain confidence. It is not a generic experience, but is highly individual for each child.

To celebrate this individuality, I took the child out of the box of the previous logo and made it the central aspect of this logo, but with the new idea that the shape of the child symbol would be negative space, or a void, that can be filled by every child, from around the block to around the world."

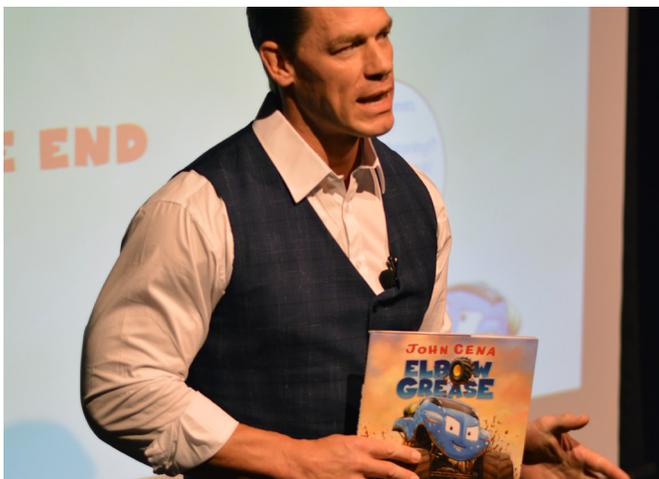


The new logo will be implemented on signage, business, digital, and other printed communications over the next several months.

To view the video:

<https://youtu.be/xGCcnSiSh3Q>

John Cena reads from his book *Elbow Grease*



On Friday October 26th, West Newbury native, humanitarian, wrestler, and actor John Cena visited Boston Children's Museum for a sold out special reading and signing of his *New York Times* bestselling children's book, *Elbow Grease*. The book follows the story of a monster truck with a can-do attitude, based on Cena's personal credo of hustle, loyalty, and respect in hopes of inspiring children to never give up. The Museum was thrilled to welcome Cena on a busy \$1 Friday evening, so that all interested families had the opportunity to meet him.

To view the video:

<https://youtu.be/Yj7nVtTtFts>

Staff Highlight: Neil Tembulkar



Neil Tembulkar, Project Manager for *Boston Mini Maker Faire*, joined Boston Children's Museum in April 2018. While attending University of Massachusetts, Lowell to earn a degree in Economics, Neil worked part-time at LEGO, sparking his interest in education and fascinating him with the imagination and creative

process. Upon graduating, Neil spent many years as an administrator, educator, and ultimately the President of a small STEAM Education start-up company in Burlington, MA called Einstein's Workshop. In 2018, Neil brought his keen interest in making, technology, and STEAM education to Boston Children's Museum in order to extend his impact and serve a community with more diverse learning backgrounds. The Maker movement has always intrigued Neil, specifically the way in which it celebrates human creativity through an educational lens, and provides inspiration for all visitors. Neil's favorite part of Boston Children's Museum is *Kid Power*—because of the persuasive “you-can-do-it” experience it provides for children as well as a reminder for grown-ups that children can thrive in challenging moments with support.

The Science of Play

Boston Children's Museum recently collaborated with the Association of Children's Museum (ACM) to present the webinar, “Prescription for Play: What Science Says About the Importance of Play for Children and Families.” Moderated by ACM Executive Director Laura Huerta Migus, the webinar featured Dr. Michael Yogman, Museum Honorary Trustee and former Board Chairman, in conversation with Dr. Kathy Hirsh-Pasek about the findings of their recent American Academy of pediatrics clinical report, “The Power of Play: A Pediatric Role in Enhancing Development in Young Children.” The conversation was introduced by Museum President and CEO Carole Charnow.

The complete webinar can be accessed by visiting: https://youtu.be/Y7PDBme_gWc

Young makers featured at Annual Meeting

Boston Children's Museum's October 15th Annual Meeting celebrated the power of young makers and featured a video presentation and panel discussion with five young makers highlighting their projects and speaking about what inspires them. Their projects included creating prosthetic limbs with a 3-D software and printer, saving endangered sloths, making custom guitars, and changing the conversation on diabetes by creating decorated personalized insulin pumps.

To view the video visit: <http://bostonchildrensmuseum.org/young-makers>

