
playtimes

from Boston Children's Museum to our friends | issue #10 | spring 2019

Museum Launches CreatedBy Festival in Partnership with STEM Week



The Museum has announced it will produce and host a new event aimed at families, students, and playful learners of all ages. The CreatedBy Festival 2019 (formerly the Boston Mini Maker Faire), is an annual showcase of ingenuity, imagination, and cross-disciplinary creativity. The Festival will bring together artists, engineers, inventors, fabricators, Museum staff, and local makers for an all-ages event featuring exhibitor showcases, hands-on workshops, demonstrations, talks, performances, food, and more.

The Festival has the support of several key partners, including Mass. STEM Week, a statewide initiative to engage students in hands-on science, technology, engineering, and math activities, Artisan's Asylum, New England FIRST Robotics, and Olin College of Engineering.

The Festival will take place at Boston Children's Museum on October 25-26th. On Friday, October 25th, elementary school students, educators, and exhibitors will come together for a full day of robust workshops, hands-on activities, and fun STEAM programs at Boston Children's Museum. The Festival will host prominent education-focused and technology-focused organizations to teach, share, and inspire the visiting school groups.

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A Message from Carole

While spring is here with brighter days and warmer weather, I did not want to let winter go by without thanking you for your amazing support of the Museum the past few months. Many thousands of you visited the Museum and enjoyed performances, STEAM programs, making activities, sock skating, and art, health, and cultural experiences. It is gratifying when what we offer resonates with so many families. I hope you enjoy reading about recent and upcoming happenings at the Museum in this issue of Playtimes, and I hope you have the opportunity to visit with us soon!

Sincerely,

Carole Charnow
President & CEO

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TJX Support of \$1 Friday Nights

The TJX Companies, the leading off-price retailer of apparel and home fashions, is the prime sponsor of the Museum's \$1 Friday Nights, when visitors of all ages can enjoy the Museum for \$1 from 5-9 pm. TJX is the parent company of T.J. Maxx, Marshalls, HomeGoods, Sierra, and Homesense in the U.S., as well as other international off-price retailers.

\$1 Friday Nights is one of the Museum's most beloved and enduring programs. Spanning four decades, this popular evening attracts over 55,000 people each year, 10 percent of Boston Children's Museum's total visitation. \$1 Friday Nights provide families with an amazing value and the opportunity to experience the many hands-on exhibits and programs that inspire young learners.

"We couldn't be more thrilled to have The TJX Companies, Inc. as our \$1 Friday Night sponsor," said Carole Charnow, President & CEO. "With their support, we can continue this popular 40+ year's tradition of access to one of Boston's treasured destinations. This sponsorship ensures that families of all means have an opportunity to visit the Museum and experience hands-on engagement and playful learning at an affordable price. Also, like many of our visitors, I am a frequent customer of all of the TJX stores, and I am excited by the possibility of the many ways we can bring more fun and value to our visitors!"



A child engaged in a STEAM Lab activity



A child playing with bubbles in PlaySpace

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On Friday evening, featured exhibitors will bring an array of demonstrations, activities, and spectacles to kick-off the immersion into STEAM principles and applications. On Saturday, October 26th, the event will continue with even more exhibitors, activities, take-home projects, and hands-on fun! In addition to a variety of artists and performers, you will see roboticists, 3D fabricators, augmented and virtual reality innovators, textile artists, metal-forging, and much more.

To keep up with event exhibitors and happenings:
www.CreatedByFestival.com

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FESTIVAL 2019

Museum to be a Focus of Boston-Kyoto Sister City 60th Anniversary



Adult visitors to the Museum are often puzzled by finding an historic Japanese House in a museum for children. The *Japanese House*, originally built in the late 1800s, and once home to a Kyoto silk

merchant's family, was dismantled and brought to Boston Children's Museum in 1979 as a gift from Kyoto to Boston to commemorate the 20th anniversary of their sister cities relationship. To date, it is considered to be the most generous gift from a foreign sister city to the American community, and it has been a special treasure to both visitors and staff alike at the Museum for 40 years.

2019 marks the 60th anniversary of the Boston-Kyoto Sister Cities relationship. The Museum will celebrate this occasion throughout the year by hosting programs and gatherings promoting the value of friendship and cultural learning. In April, Mayor Kadokawa of Kyoto and his delegation will come to Boston to celebrate TOMODACHI Friendship at the Museum. In May, Ikenobo Boston will invite our visitors to explore the art of Ikebana flower arrangement. In June, 90 students from Doshisha

Elementary School in Kyoto will visit Boston and the Museum. More special programs are planned in summer and fall 2019.

The Boston-Kyoto Sister City 60th Anniversary Celebration kick-off event was held at Boston City Hall on March 26th. With the Mayor's office and the Japanese Consulate in attendance, a new logo to represent the anniversary was officially introduced to various community leaders of both cities. We hope you will be able to join us and share friendship in our many events and programs during the year.



Museum visitors decorating Hachimaki (headbands) during Boston Children's Museum's Japanese New Year Celebration

Celebrating 150 Years at Boston Children's Hospital

Boston Children's Museum is proud to honor Boston Children's Hospital's 150 years of service to the children and families in our community. In recognition of this tremendous achievement and their longstanding commitment to children, the Museum has installed two commemorative window displays in our first floor lobby.

In collaboration with the Museum, Boston Children's Hospital has highlighted important moments from the Hospital's distinguished past that will connect with the Museum's family audience. With glass milk bottles, cow figurines, and many of the Hospital's archival images, the first window celebrates the world's first milk lab, which began at Boston Children's Hospital. Milk is still a focal point at the

Hospital today, as doctors continue to develop innovative treatments to help children dealing with milk allergies.

Curious George is the star of the second window installation, honoring the 1953 book *Johnny Goes to the Hospital* written by Boston Children's Hospital, which later inspired *Curious George Goes to the Hospital*. Curious George has been a family favorite for years, helping generations of children understand the world around them through stories.

Please join us in celebrating Boston Children's Hospital—a true champion of children. Here's to another 150 years!

Third Annual Silly Soirée supports Museum Access



On Saturday, March 2nd, over 350 children, parents, and caregivers danced the night away in support of Boston Children’s Museum’s access programs that provide free or discounted Museum admission. The Silly Soirée, the Museum’s children’s ball, offers a night on the town featuring dinner, dancing, and most of all, fun!

Launched in 2017, this “silly fun” evening allows children and their adults a night on the town together in support of the Museum’s access programs that allow all children the opportunity to visit the Museum. Each year, approximately one third of all Museum visitors are admitted through free or discounted admission, and the Silly Soirée helps fund these initiatives that are core to the Museum’s mission. An event “by children, for children,” the event’s planning committee is comprised of children ages two through twelve who help choose the food, music, and activities while receiving an early glimpse of philanthropy and community support. Boston Children’s Museum is grateful to our friends that supported and attended the event, presented this year by The TJX Companies, Inc. and sponsored by The Children’s Workshop Foundation.



Left top: An attendee having fun on the dance floor

Left bottom: Silly Soirée committee members on the dance floor

Boston Children’s Museum Consulting On Science City at Union Station in Kansas City

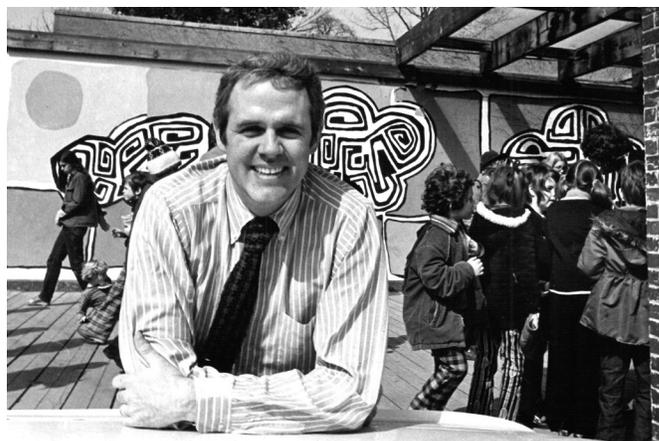
As the nation’s second oldest children’s museum, Boston Children’s Museum has long been a leader in creating early childhood informal learning environments for children ages 0–10. Engaging children beginning at a young age in STEM/STEAM experiences provides the foundation for life-long curiosity, learning and exploration.

With increased research demonstrating the importance of early STEM/STEAM experiences, the Museum has worked to leverage and disseminate

its expertise through consulting initiatives for other institutions. Currently, the Museum’s exhibits team is collaborating on a multi-year consulting project for Science City at Union Station in Kansas City to create three permanent early childhood exhibitions: *All Aboard!*, an exhibit on trains, *Creative Corner*, a messy arts space, and *Let’s Play*, an exhibit for 0–3-year-olds modeled on Boston Children’s Museum’s newest iteration of our renowned *PlaySpace* exhibit.

Remembering Mike Spock (1933–2018)

On December 7, 2018, Boston Children’s Museum mourned the loss of beloved children’s museum advocate and former Museum Director, Michael Spock. Spock, son of the legendary pediatrician Dr. Benjamin Spock, served as Museum Director from 1962–1986 and was instrumental in removing the Museum’s “Do Not Touch” signs, creating the world’s first hands-on museum. During his tenure, Spock led other groundbreaking initiatives through exhibit development including *PlaySpace* launched as the first exhibit designed for 0–3-year-olds and *What if I Couldn’t* which helped inform children about living with disabilities; national and international relationship building, including his stewardship of the relationship with Boston’s Japanese sister city Kyoto that allowed for the relocation of the 19th century *Japanese House* to the Museum; and the Museum’s relocation from Jamaica Plain to the Fort Port Channel in South Boston, now the gateway to the city’s booming Seaport District. Following his time at Boston Children’s Museum, Spock also



held positions at Chicago’s Field Museum of Natural History and the University of Chicago’s Chapin Hall Center for Children. Boston Children’s Museum is incredibly grateful to Michael Spock for his countless contributions to the Museum and the children’s museum field as a whole.

Staff Highlight: Melissa Higgins



Melissa Higgins is the Senior Director, STEAM at Boston Children’s Museum. She joined the Museum in March of 2018 to support and grow the Museum’s science, technology, engineering, art, and math (STEAM) initiatives for children and families.

For over a decade, Melissa worked at the Museum of Science, Boston. There, she directed the curriculum development efforts of the Engineering is Elementary program, a National Science Foundation-funded initiative to introduce elementary-aged children to engineering. Now used in all 50 states, the program has supported well over 5 million students in engaging in hands-on engineering experiences in

their classrooms. Melissa also worked at i2 Learning, where she helped support implementation of the first ever STEM Week experience in Boston Public Schools, and the education department of WGBH, Boston’s public television station, where she supported strategic planning and development.

Perhaps unsurprisingly, Melissa’s favorite areas of Boston Children’s Museum are the *Art Lab* and the new *STEAM Lab*, where visitors can engage in ever-changing hands-on activities. “Boston Children’s Museum has such a unique opportunity to engage kids and their grown-ups in creative STEAM experiences,” she says. “We’re able to use the Art and STEAM studios as innovation labs where we can try lots of new activities and approaches. We’re never bored when we’re working in those spaces, and I think that really comes through for our visitors.”

