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Contact: Cecilia Clark, cclark@cdm.org; 408-221-3814

Autumn Young, ayoung@cdm.org; office 408-673-2861 cell 408-656-4038

Cultural Competence and Inclusion Center Stage at Children's Discovery Museum of San Jose

Museum Launches Proud of My Family Weekend, New LGBTQ Advisory Board, and a Welcoming Statement

San Jose, CA – August 16, 2016 – Cultural competence and inclusion take center stage as [Children's Discovery Museum of San Jose](#) hosts a [Proud of My Family](#) weekend on August 27 & 28, in partnership with the museum's new **LGBTQ Advisory Board**.

Visitors will enjoy activities designed to celebrate all types of families at the [Proud of My Family](#) weekend. The program (*activities below*) is coordinated in partnership with the museum's **LGBTQ Advisory Board** comprised of parents, professionals and individuals who represent and support the LGBTQ community including the [Santa Clara County Office of LGBTQ Affairs](#), [The Health Trust](#), the [Billy DeFrank LGBTQ Community Center](#), the [LGBTQ Youth Space](#), the [Gender Identity Awareness Network](#), and others. The museum has a long history of using advisory boards to create community and cultural celebrations rooted in authenticity, a spirit of discovery, and a commitment to excellence.

"The museum strives to create a welcoming and inclusive environment for all members of the community," said Marilee Jennings, executive director of [Children's Discovery Museum of San Jose](#). "What's important with this initiative is that the advisory board is helping us better understand the LGBTQ community by sharing their unique perspectives, universal language, and best practices around staff training, programming, and marketing strategies. This will better equip us to serve the evolving needs of all families," added Jennings.

The new **LGBTQ Advisory Board** of community members and museum staff meets monthly to discuss and make recommendations on how to best serve the changing needs of youth and families, including helping plan the [Proud of My Family](#) weekend to coincide with [Silicon Valley Pride](#).

“Our community is stronger when we embrace diversity. Kids and adults can explore what makes them unique and special. [Proud of My Family](#) creates a fun, educational, and family-centered space to celebrate Pride,” said Maribel Martinez, manager of [Santa Clara County Office of LGBTQ Affairs](#), the nation’s first county office dedicated to LGBTQ individuals and families, and member of the museum’s advisory board.

Proud of My Family Activities

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• August 27, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.• August 28, 12 noon to 5 p.m. |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Theatre – Rainbow dance party. Make a dance accessory.○ Central Park exhibit– Make friendship bracelets. Take a family photo. Participate in rainbow reflections. Gather information at tables featuring local partner organizations.○ Rainbow Market exhibit – Decorate a cornhusk doll with colorful fabrics.○ Garden – Experiment with sun prints.○ Art Loft – Create family and self-portraits inspired by books.○ Wonder Cabinet exhibit – Storytime: The Family Book; Art Studio: Paint the colors of the rainbow. |

All activities are included in the price of museum admission.

Children’s Discovery Museum’s Welcoming Statement: The museum strives to be a community anchor that helps build awareness and understanding among people of diverse ages, backgrounds, ethnicities, genders, sexual orientations, socioeconomic situations, religions, abilities, and family configurations. We believe that our community wants the best for its children, and it is our goal to create opportunities for today’s children to become tomorrow’s visionaries. [<click here to learn more>](#)

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[About Children’s Discovery Museum of San Jose](#)

With over 150 interactive exhibits and programs, **Children’s Discovery Museum of San Jose** is one of the largest museums of its kind in the nation. Since opening its doors in 1990, CDM has welcomed over 7 million visitors and has offered new exhibits each year that respond to children’s diverse educational needs. The striking 52,000 square foot purple building was designed by Mexico City-based architect Ricardo Legorreta and is a beacon of discovery. Encompassing the broad themes of community, connections and creativity, hands-on exhibits invite self-directed, open-ended explorations. For more information about the Museum, visit www.cdm.org.