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For Immediate Release

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Proud of My Family Weekend *Ramekon O' Arwisters Social Justice Crochet Jam and Rainbow Women's Chorus*

San Jose, CA – August 7, 2017 – [Children's Discovery Museum of San Jose](#) will host its third annual [Proud of My Family](#) weekend **August 26 & 27**. This public event is part of the museum's ***Inclusion and Cultural Competence*** strategic commitment to build awareness and understanding among people of diverse ages, backgrounds, ethnicities, genders, sexual orientations, socioeconomic situations, religions, abilities, and family configurations. Visitors will enjoy activities designed to celebrate all types of families (*activities below*).

New this year is the appearance of award-winning artist [Ramekon O' Arwisters](#) and the [Rainbow Women's Chorus](#). O' Arwisters will lead museum visitors in a [Crochet Jam](#), a public art-making experience that has gained him notoriety since introducing the activity in 2012. This inclusive public art makes no attempt to judge the creative process or finished product while engaging people to think differently about the role of art in building community. His social-art practice is rooted in a cherished childhood memory that's steeped in the African-American tradition of weaving in a calm and non-judgmental environment without rules or limitations.

The Rainbow Women's Chorus will perform songs on **Saturday, August 26** with messages of strength, equality, and justice, mixed with humor, fun, and celebration. The chorus has been performing since 1996 and became a non-profit organization in 2001.

"Our goal is to always make every family feel welcome and celebrated at the museum," said Marilee Jennings, executive director of Children's Discovery Museum of San Jose. "This event helps foster understanding while recognizing that families come in all types of configurations and that what binds us are the shared hopes and dreams for our children and their futures."

The event was originally conceived and 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.

Proud of My Family Activities

August 26, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

August 27, 12 noon to 5 p.m.

Art Loft: Crochet Jam by Ramekon O' Arwisters

Theatre: Saturday: August 26: Rainbow Women's Chorus, 1 p.m., 2 p.m.
Sunday: Rainbow Dance Party, Make a dance accessory

Central Park

Exhibit: Make friendship bracelets. Participate in rainbow reflections. Gather information at tables featuring local partner organizations.

Rainbow Market

Exhibit: Decorate a cornhusk doll with colorful fabrics.

Wonder Cabinet

Exhibit: Storytime: The Family Book

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, the museum has welcomed over 8.3 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.