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Fifth Annual Proud of My Family Celebrates Inclusion and Diversity at Children's Discovery Museum of San Jose

San Jose, CA – June 10 2019 – Adding a positive voice to the national narrative around inclusion and diversity, <u>Children's Discovery Museum of San Jose</u> kicks off its fifth annual <u>Proud of My Family</u> event **June 22** (*activities below*). Children and adults will enjoy activities designed to celebrate all types of families, especially LGBTQ+ parents, relatives and friends.

The jam-packed day includes festive rainbow art activities, moving and grooving in the Rainbow Dance Zone, getting creative with the temporary art installation around the colors of the Pride flag, and learning from partner organizations that will be onsite sharing resources about the LGBTQ+ community. The <u>Rainbow Women's Chorus</u> will perform at 1:30 and 2:30 p.m. in the museum's theater.

The celebration culminates with a celebratory Pride Parade at 4:30 p.m., led by SV Pride.

The event supports 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.

"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."

Proud of My Family Activities

Saturday, June 22, 10:00 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Special Performance, Storytime, and Resources:

- Rainbow Women's Chorus will perform at 1:30 and 2:30 p.m.
- Storytime with Todd Parr's "The Family Book" at 12 noon and 2:00 p.m.
- Partners from the LGBTQ+ community will be on-site offering information and resources.

Day of Activities:

- Treat your family like royalty and fashion a family crown.
- Join in a *Rainbow Dance Party*. Stretch, jump, spin and move with colorful streamers, pompoms, capes, and accessories.
- Make rainbow friendship bracelets. Learn to tie knots and enhance fine motor skills by creating colorful yarn bracelets for friends and family.
- *Rainbow Reflections*. Learn the meaning behind each color of the Pride Flag and contribute to the installation by drawing an interpretation of each color.
- Family photo op. Strike a pose and make lasting memories with the colorful backdrop.
- Paint a rainbow around the room in the Art Loft.
- Craft a rainbow and magical designs on your face with paint.
- Fashion a cornhusk doll with colorful fabrics.
- Create rainbow magnetic masterpieces in the Art Studio.
- Explore the museum's outdoor space on a scavenger hunt, and build a colorful collage.

Cost of admission: adults: \$15; children: \$15; seniors: \$14; infants and members are free.

All activities are included in the price of museum admission.

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 <u>Santa Clara County Office of LGBTQ Affairs</u>, <u>The Health Trust</u>, the <u>Billy DeFrank LGBTQ Community Center</u>, the <u>LGBTQ Youth Space</u>, the <u>Gender Identity Awareness</u> <u>Network</u>, 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.

Children's Discovery Museum's Welcoming Statement

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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 award-winning museum has welcomed over 9 million visitors and offers new exhibits each year that respond to children's diverse educational needs. In 2017, *Bill's Backyard: Bridge to Nature* opened, doubling the museum's exhibit space with a half-acre of nature exploration and science and environmental education. The striking 52,000 square foot purple building was designed by Mexico City-based architect Ricardo Legorreta. 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 <u>www.cdm.org.</u>