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Children's Discovery Museum of San Jose Honors Sylvia Acevedo at "Keep on Playing" Gala

Girl Scout, NASA Rocket Scientist, STEM Entrepreneur to Receive Legacy for Children Award during a Playful "Adults-Only" Evening at the Purple Museum

San Jose, CA – May 31, 2023 – Sylvia Acevedo's interest in science was ignited while stargazing on a Brownie Girl Scout trip when she was young. The best-selling author and STEM entrepreneur has been reaching for the stars ever since. Past CEO of Girl Scouts USA and NASA rocket scientist Sylvia Acevedo is the 2023 Legacy for Children Award honoree presented annually by Children's Discovery Museum of San Jose. She will be honored at the 23rd annual "Keep on Playing" adults-only "fun-raising" event to be held at the museum in downtown San Jose on Saturday, June 24 at 6 p.m.

"Sylvia's work has inspired girls and Latinx youth to overcome obstacles and challenge expectations to become leaders and innovators in STEM fields," said Marilee Jennings, executive director of Children's Discovery Museum of San Jose. "She's led by example and blazed the trail for many women in corporate America, nonprofits, and in government. I'm thrilled to honor Sylvia for a lifetime of achievements and visionary leadership."

Acevedo overcame many traditional expectations to become the first Latinx to graduate from Stanford University with a master's degree in engineering. This launched her career as a rocket scientist at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory where she worked on the Voyager 2 and Solar Polar/Probe missions. Acevedo went on to lead teams at tech companies including Dell, Apple, IBM and Autodesk, and later shaped education policy for Hispanic children after appointed as a White House Education Commissioner by President Obama.

Coming full circle from her early days as a Brownie, Acevedo transformed Girl Scouts USA and introduced a record-breaking 146 badges and civics programs in STEM, the outdoors, and entrepreneurship as CEO from 2016-2020, before writing the best-selling book, "Path to the Stars: My Journey from Girl Scout to Rocket Scientist," in English and Spanish. She has received numerous awards including "America's Top 50 Women in Tech," Forbes Magazine and #7 on "The Badass 50: Meet the women who are changing the world," by InStyle Magazine.

For more information on Sylvia Acevedo, visit <https://sylviaacevedo.org/>.

2023rd Annual Event Details

The themed “Keep on Playing” gala will emphasize the importance of play for everyone, regardless of age, as adults will have full rein of the Purple Museum and all the exhibits without competition from youngsters. Performers from “Catalyst Arts” will imbue the festivities with an unstuffy evening of fun and “FLS+Presents” will perform a high-energy blend of hip-hop, improv and vocal stylings. Guests can build and launch their own rockets outside in Discovery Meadow, craft a “Seeing Stars” space-themed kaleidoscope, snap a commemorative photo in front of the stagecoach or photo screen, and enjoy delicious food and beverages that will appeal to diverse palates.

For more information about the upcoming 2023 event, visit: <https://cdmlegacy.org/the-award/>

“Keep on Playing” Legacy for Children Award

Each year the [Legacy for Children Award](#) honors an individual who has made a tremendous difference in the lives of children. Some of the past recipients include Dallas Mavericks CEO Cynt Marshall, violinist Roberta Guaspari, astronaut Steve Smith, Sesame Street actor Sonia Manzano, civil rights activist and author Ruby Bridges, Steve Wozniak, Olympic medalist Kristi Yamaguchi, Mister Fred Rogers, astronaut Dr. Sally Ride, and former 49er and Raider Ronnie Lott.

“Keep on Playing” supports the museum’s mission of inspiring children’s creativity, curiosity and exploration through hands-on educational exhibits, in-depth programming, and cultural events designed to help children grow into the visionaries and global citizens of tomorrow.

Last year’s 22nd annual event raised \$1.2 million.

About Children’s Discovery Museum of San Jose

Kids lead the way at Children’s Discovery Museum of San Jose, exploring and discovering through open-ended, play-based learning. Over 150 hands-on exhibits and programs in the sciences, humanities, arts, nature, and health spark curiosity and ignite family fun where children build life skills in creative and critical thinking, problem solving, and confidence. The award-winning nonprofit celebrates people and diverse cultures, creates authentic connections, and builds global understanding. Inspiring creativity, curiosity, and lifelong learning inside the stunning 52,000 square foot purple building designed by world-renowned Mexico City architect Ricardo Legoretta, and outside in the half-acre nature space, has welcomed nearly 10 million visitors since 1990. www.cdm.org