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LONG ISLAND CHILDREN'S MUSEUM RECEIVES FEDERAL GRANTS FOR EXHIBIT DEVELOPMENT AND AUDIENCE EXPANSION

Garden City, NY – Long Island Children's Museum is the recipient of two federal grants through the Institute of Museum and Library Services. The awards, issued through the agency's largest competitive grant program, *Museums for America*, will support an expansion of the Museum's LICM4all initiative serving children with disabilities and the research and planning phase for a new permanent exhibit at the Museum.

The *Museum for America* program funded 112 projects in total this year; LICM was one of only four organizations nationally to have multiple projects funded through this federal grant program. LICM will match funding support received for both projects.

"Long Island Children's Museum is grateful for the support provided by the *Museums for America* program," noted LICM President Suzanne LeBlanc. "This funding will support LICM activities that widen the audience able to enjoy museum experiences and assist in the development of a permanent exhibit that brings local history and culture to life for families and schoolchildren."

Long Island Children's Museum will plan, research, and develop the foundation for a new permanent exhibition, "**Saltwater Stories: Lured to the Sea.**" The exhibit will explore local maritime traditions and their impact on the historical, cultural and economic development of Long Island. During the two-year grant cycle, Museum staff will work closely with evaluation and exhibition development consultants to research, develop and test four possible themes for the exhibit. Target audiences will review the Museum's preliminary design, and focus group participants will discuss formats and techniques to promote lifelong learning for children and families. This new exhibit builds on the popularity of thematic maritime life programming on this subject offered at the Museum over the years.

LICM4all, a museum-wide initiative to reach, engage and better serve visitors with differing abilities, especially neurodivergences and mobility difficulties, is the second initiative receiving *Museums for America* support. Funding will assist the expansion of this initiative, including staff training, implementation of targeted programs and

enhanced facility components. The Museum will continue to work with an advisory committee and launch the Long Island Accessibility Consortium to share best practices with peer organizations to expand offerings for visitors with disabilities.

About the Long Island Children's Museum

The mission of Long Island Children's Museum is to connect all our communities' children, and those who care for them, to a life of wonder, imagination and exploration. At LICM, children discover their passions and their relationship to the world we share. The 40,000-square-foot museum welcomes nearly 250,000 children and annually. The private, not-for-profit institution chartered by the New York State Board of Regents, offers museum-based educational programs and cultural experiences, as well as an extensive community outreach program offered in schools, libraries and youth centers across Long Island. The Museum is the recipient of the 2012 National Medal for Museum & Library Service, the highest honor conferred on museums for extraordinary civic, educational, economic, environmental and social contributions.