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## **CHILDREN'S MUSEUM EXHIBIT ENCOURAGES VISITORS TO UNCOVER THEIR INNER EXPLORER**

**GARDEN CITY, NY** – Visitors to Long Island Children's Museum will have the opportunity to view three unique destinations that few people ever get to see as they take a visual expedition to the Antarctic Peninsula in a new exhibit in residence through June 20.

"Slow Down! Explore... A Journey to the Falkland Islands, South Georgia and Antarctica," recreates the 24-day expedition that Claire Flynn, LICM's STEM Initiatives Program Director, participated in as a 2019 Grosvenor Teacher Fellow with National Geographic and Lindblad Expeditions.

The mission of the Grosvenor Teacher Fellow program is to expand educators' geographic knowledge with hands-on, field-based experiences that they will bring back to their classrooms, communities and professional networks. Flynn was one of 45 highly respected educators from the United States and Canada selected to participate and the only Fellow from an informal education institution. In addition to this exhibit, Flynn's experiences have been woven into public programs and school outreaches to inspire the next generation of global explorers and planetary stewards.

Major exhibit support for "Slow Down! Explore... A Journey to the Falkland Islands, South Georgia and Antarctica" has been provided by Empower Solar. Additional exhibit support has been provided by Sven & Kristin Lindblad-The Wanderlust Fund, Beechwood Homes, REI, PSEG Long Island, Howard and Sherri Lippman and Waste Tech.

The exhibit was originally planned for spring 2020, but COVID-19 changed that. "After a year when travel was put on hold and people were forced to stay home we anticipate even more interest in this exhibit," said LICM President Suzanne LeBlanc. "We know that people are yearning to see new places and this exhibit takes visitors to destinations few might ever get to see in person."

In "Slow Down! Explore ..." visitors will take part in Claire's experience, slowing down their pace to understand the complexity of the world around them. During her 16,000-mile journey, she saw wildlife and hiked, skied and kayaked across a variety of landscapes. These experiences underscored how important it is for us as human beings to take care of our earth.

"This experience taught me how important it is to stop and allow yourself to take in everything that is happening around you," says Flynn. "We only really care about those things we notice," Flynn adds. "I hope that the visitors who see this exhibit and who hear me talk about my experiences will take that to heart so that they become stewards of our natural world."

In her interactions with students and Museum visitors, Flynn is quick to acknowledge that her adventure was one that few of them may duplicate, but that doesn't diminish their opportunities to be an explorer. "Going far away isn't what makes you an explorer," she shares. "There is a lot to see, wonder about and notice at home."

The exhibit introduces other scientists who are working to protect the planet and provides tangible activities that allow all visitors to become citizen scientists in an Empowerment section of the exhibit. Scientists featured include Heather J. Lynch, Associate Professor of Ecology and Evolution at Stony Brook University; Dr. Hannah Kriesell, post doctoral researcher at the Norwegian University of Science and Technology; and Skye Moret, Assistant Professor in the Collaborative Design + Design Systems MFA/MA program at the Pacific Northwest College of Art.

Underwater photography in the exhibit has been provided by Paul North, polar expedition diver with Lindblad Expeditions/National Geographic and founder of Meet the Ocean, a not-for-profit educating the public on the importance of the saltwaters of our planet.

Visitor Notes: Long Island Children's Museum's exhibits and programs are designed for children aged 0-12 years. For the safety of all visitors, adults are not permitted to enter the Museum Exhibit Floor without children during normal visitation hours.

LICM has planned dedicated time just for grownups to view "Slow Down! Explore... A Journey to the Falkland Islands, South Georgia and Antarctica" on Saturday, June 5 from 4-6 p.m. Reservations are required for this free evening, which will include a photo presentation by Claire Flynn. Reservations can be made at [licm.org/exhibits](http://licm.org/exhibits)

### **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 275,000 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.