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## **CHILDREN'S MUSEUM FUNDRAISER EXCEEDS \$800,000 AMBITIOUS GOAL**

### **Community Support Puts LICM over the Top!**

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Long Island Children's Museum's annual fundraiser, Cupcakes & Cocktails, has always been looked at as one of the most ambitious events in the region. Broad-ranging participation across industries, coupled with the support of individuals and families allowed the Museum to maintain that reputation as it exceeded its ambitious goal of \$800,000 at its September 22 fundraiser.

Cupcakes & Cocktails offers guests the opportunity to immerse themselves in the institution they are supporting. During the continuous cocktail party, guests enjoy hands-on activities and can bid on unique experiential auction packages. This year's event was themed around a celebration of 20 years of the LICM Theater, with singers, musicians and puppeteers who have performed on its stage moving center stage throughout the night.

The annual event allows LICM to recognize the contributions of outstanding members of the community. This year LICM named Museum co-founder **Roni Kohen-Lemle** the recipient of the **Great Friend to Kids Award**. The award spotlights the contributions of community champions who enhance the lives of children. In addition to her role in establishing the Children's Museum, Kohen-Lemle was recognized for her leadership in ensuring that the performing arts were an integral experience for Museum visitors; often introducing children to the magic of live performances.

The evening also saw LICM present its **Community Leadership Award** to **Alexandra and Michael Marino** (CEO, American Global). The Lloyd Harbor couple, parents of three young boys, are strong advocates of the Museum's role as a vital community

resource that supports children's growth through dynamic learning activities, hands-on exhibits and live performances. They are strongly committed to ensuring that these opportunities are available to more in our community through advocacy and philanthropic efforts.

LICM President Suzanne LeBlanc pointed to the respect the community has for the event's 2022 honorees, Roni Kohen-Lemle and Alexandra and Michael Marino as instrumental in ensuring that the event met ... and exceeded its \$800,000 goal.

"More than 350 corporations and individuals showed their admiration for the commitment and contributions our honorees have made to enhance the quality of life on Long Island."

LICM Board Chair Scott Burman (Principal, Engel Burman & President, EB Construction) also praised Event Co-Chair Scott Rechler (RXR Chairman and CEO), who issued a \$50,000 matching challenge grant in the final days leading up to the big day to push the event's fundraiser over the finish line. Burman who wore two hats at this year's event, working alongside Rechler as Event Co-Chair, thanked Rechler for his "generosity, leadership and long-standing commitment" to the Children's Museum.

Monies raised at the event account for nearly 20% of the Museum's annual operating expenses and support the Museum's permanent and traveling exhibits, visitor programs and performances, as well as LICM's extensive community access programs.

### **About the Long Island Children's Museum ([www.licm.org](http://www.licm.org))**

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. Additionally, the Children's Museum operates the historic Nunley's

Carousel in association with Nassau County, one of three intact Stein & Goldstein carousels still in existence.

LICM is accredited by the American Alliance of Museums (AAM), recognized as the field's gold standard for museum excellence and signifies a museum's quality, credibility and deep commitment to mission and community. Less than 3% of the nation's more than 30,000 museums have earned this recognition. LICM is currently the only children's museum in NY State, and just one of 16 nationwide, to achieve accreditation. 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.