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## **Slide Into Winter Fun at LICM with Snowflake Sock Skating's Return!**

Get ready to glide into the snowy season at the Long Island Children's Museum (LICM) with the return of the popular *Snowflake Sock Skating* exhibit! This beloved seasonal experience invites visitors to slip on "sock skates" and glide across an innovative, high-tech synthetic surface that simulates ice skating without the cold and runny noses.

As winter weather limits outdoor play, LICM offers the perfect indoor escape, where kids can twirl, spin, and burn off energy in a smooth, safe, and fun environment. And the winter magic doesn't end there—once off the rink, families can explore the museum's enchanting Snowflake Village. Children can cozy up by the rink-side "fire" pit, step inside a giant snowman for hot cocoa, bake sweet treats at the village holiday shop, or even take a turn "staffing" the rink ticket booth. It's a winter wonderland of interactive fun!

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### **Benefits of Play**

LICM's *Snowflake Sock Skating* experience supports physical and mental well-being. Director of Education, Ashley Niver, explains, "Research shows that family relationships are strengthened through play, and kinesthetic activities boost endorphins. This exhibit offers a unique opportunity for children and families to engage in creative, active play together, especially during the colder months when outdoor activities may be limited."

Niver also highlights the exhibit's immersive features, such as oversized gingerbread houses and snowy scenes, which inspire dramatic play and social-emotional learning. "Children use their imagination, collaborate with others, and build connections with grown-ups and peers in a winter wonderland setting."

### **Winter Programs and Activities**

To complement the exhibit, LICM will host a variety of public programs during its run. For opening weekend (November 16-17), families can create their own winter wonderland scene with a moving skater (Let's Skate), and craft sensory snowman squishy toys (Snowman Sensory Balls). Both activities will run from 1-3 p.m.

Additional hands-on activities will take place throughout December, including:

- **Snowy Day Snowflakes:** Craft your own paper snowflakes (Tuesdays to Fridays, December 3-20)
- **Let's Skate:** Make a moving skater on December 15
- **Snowy Scenes:** add your magic touch to the walls of our Snowy Day-themed room and help illustrate our collaborative story! (Dec 23, 24, 26 and 30)
- **Snowman Sensory Balls:** Craft a snowman squishy toy on December 28 (Winter School Break)

*Snowflake Sock Skating* will be on display through January 5, 2025. Then, on January 18, 2025, the museum will debut *Moon to Mars*, an exciting exhibit created by created by the Omaha Children's Museum and designed with support from NASA's Deep Space Exploration Systems at Johnson Space Center.

### **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.