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COMMUNITY LEADERS JOIN CHILDREN'S MUSEUM BOARD

Museum Strengthened by Addition of Two New Trustees

GARDEN CITY, NY – Two leading members of the region's academic and business community have joined the Long Island Children's Museum's Board of Trustees. Their appointments were announced by LICM President Suzanne LeBlanc. They will serve three-year terms on the Children's Museum's board.

The newly elected trustees are Brookville resident **Mukund Padmanabhan, PhD**, founder and president of the Guru Krupa Foundation and Wyandanch resident **Bernadine Waller, PhD, LMHC**, National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) T32 Research Fellow in the Department of Psychiatry, Division of Translational Epidemiology and Mental Health Equity at Columbia University.

"It is enormously gratifying when long-standing community partners choose to deepen their involvement with the Museum by joining the Board of Trustees," said LICM President Suzanne LeBlanc. "Their familiarity with LICM's mission, and success as a developer of community outreach initiatives and workforce development role are invaluable as we pursue continued growth on behalf of the families of Long Island."

In addition to his role as founder and president of the Guru Krupa Foundation, **Mukund Padmanabhan, PhD** is currently a partner and researcher at hedge fund Renaissance Technologies in New York. He earned a Bachelors in Electronics and Electrical Communication Engineering from IIT Kharagpur, India, and Masters and PhD in Electrical Engineering, from the University of California, Los Angeles.

He worked in the area of speech recognition at the IBM T. J. Watson Research Center where he managed the Advanced Telephony Speech Algorithms group. Dr. Padmanabhan has published over 80 technical papers in international journals and conferences and has been granted over 20 US patents. He is a recipient of awards from both his alma maters - the Professional Achievement Award from the UCLA Samueli School of Engineering in 2019 and the Distinguished Alumnus Award from IIT KGP in 2021.

Dr. Bernadine Waller is a nationally recognized leader in intimate partner violence research. Her ground-breaking research is nationally lauded and transforming the landscape of domestic violence service provision. She developed the first theories in the country that identify help-seeking among African American women. Her scholarship has been used to help shape the reauthorization of the *Violence Against Women Act* and is currently being used to reshape domestic violence service provision system in New York City. She has also been a subject matter expert in the *New York Times* and the *Atlanta Journal Constitution* and has written OpEd articles for *Newsday* and the *Huffington Post*.

A scholar-clinician, she has taught in academia for more than 12 years. She is as a member of the Women's Council, a sub-committee of the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) which accredits all schools of social work, and a member of the Research Capacity and Development Committee for SSWR. Waller earned a Doctor of Philosophy degree in Social Work and a Master of Arts in Mental Health Counseling from Adelphi University, as well as a Bachelor of Arts in Journalism, with a concentration in Legal Studies from Temple University.

In discussing their appointments, the new trustees praised the museum's record of success and position at the forefront of interactive educational institutions and cited a desire to contribute to the museum's role as vital community resource.

"I've been involved with LICM for several years and have been supporting a few of its initiatives," noted **Mukund Padmanabhan, PhD**. "Not only does the museum offer a valuable and entertaining experience to kids and families who visit, but it also has STEM programs that integrate directly into school curriculums and serve students in local school districts. The Museum is a valuable resource to the local community, and I look forward to increasing my involvement with the Museum by serving as a trustee."

"The Long Island Children's Museum is truly a beacon of light. It is more than a place where we foster our children's creativity, curiosity, and intellect, it is a place that has helped shape and launch my former students' careers," said Dr. Bernadine Waller, former career counselor at Adelphi University. "I am delighted to join the board to continue to advance its mission of becoming the premiere museum for children and families on Long Island.

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