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## **COMMUNITY COMES OUT IN FORCE TO SUPPORT LONG ISLAND CHILDREN'S MUSEUM**

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### **Cupcakes & Cocktails Shines Light on Community Impact & Partnership**

The Long Island Children's Museum (LICM) recently hosted its annual fundraiser, Cupcakes & Cocktails, a vibrant celebration designed to immerse guests in the creativity, discovery, and diverse programs that the Museum offers to the community. The event is hailed as one of the region's most enjoyable and ambitious gatherings, thanks to broad participation from various business sectors and the enthusiastic support of individuals and families.

The 2024 Cupcakes & Cocktails event not only entertained but also enlightened nearly 300 guests about the range of community programs LICM provides. A "day-of-event" matching challenge initiated by two of the Museum's founders encouraged guests to contribute to LICM's mission. This initiative resulted in a remarkable single-day donation total of \$60,000. When combined with matching funds, event sponsorships and ticket sales, auction items and raffle sales, the total funds raised for this year's fundraiser reached an impressive **\$780,000**. These vital contributions, representing nearly one-third of the contributed revenue the museum raises annually, enable the Museum to continue its mission of supporting the well-being of children and families through the transformative power of play.

This year's festivities were inspired by LICM's recent collaborative mural project, "Kaleidoscope of Imagination," the 1,100-sq-ft outdoor public art piece that welcomes visitors to the Museum and celebrates LICM's role in the Long Island community. The mural was created with the input of our community under the direction of artist Viktoriya Basina. Titled "Kaleidoscope of Imagination," it captures images and themes that reflect the Museum, its audience and Long Island.

The evening was a true testament to community connections," said LICM President Erika S. Floreska. "We are incredibly grateful for the overwhelming support we received at Cupcakes & Cocktails. This event not only provides an opportunity highlight our program successes but also underscores the importance of play in children's development."

The event also served as a platform to honor outstanding community contributions. This year, LICM presented the **Great Friend to Kids Award** to long-standing corporate partner **National Grid**. This award recognizes community champions who enhance children's lives.

Since 2010, National Grid has invested over \$1 million in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) programming at LICM, serving as the lead funder for initiatives like the Westbury School District STEM Partnership, STEM Explorers, powered by Green Teens and the annual STEM weekend. Administrators and teachers from the Westbury School District enthusiastically supported the award presentation, expressing gratitude for the positive impact of the LICM/National Grid partnership on their students.

Event co-chairs **Lisa Warren** and **Alexandra Marino**, and their dedicated committee, orchestrated a remarkable evening that highlighted the Museum's multifaceted role as a community gathering space and hub for creative exploration. **Emcee Ally Ali** (WBLS 106.1) added an exciting touch with live updates from around the night's activities.

The evening put young talent in the spotlight; from Jr. Emcee **Lucianna-Marie Singh's** delightful interviews on the "yellow" carpet to captivating performances by **Laura Martinez** (*Amor Eterno*), **Constance Castillo**, and the **Uniondale High School Show Choir**, the night was filled with magic. A heartfelt moment came from **Bridget Orellana**, a Together to Kindergarten alumna, who shared her inspiring journey and the profound impact of the Museum's Pre-K program on her educational success. Their contributions reminded guests of all the confidence, creativity, and foundational learning that LICM fosters.

[\*\*View full list of Cupcakes & Cocktails sponsors and underwriters.\*\*](#)

## **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.