

Cupcakes & Cocktails

Thursday, September 26, 2024



Benefitting

Long Island Children's Museum



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About the Event

Cupcakes & Cocktails is the Long Island Children's Museum's premier annual fundraising event, designed to unite the community in support of our vital educational resources, access initiatives, cultural experiences, interactive exhibits and dynamic theater presentations. This high-profile event attracts business leaders, educators, government officials, community partners, artists, and performers from across the region, all coming together to network and collaborate on advancing the well-being of children through the power of play.

The evening revolves around a simple yet powerful concept - immersing guests in the same magic and wonder that children experiences at the Long Island Children's Museum (LICM) every day.

As attendees explore our two-story interactive exhibit space, they will be captivated by live performances, engage with creative activity stations designed to spark their imaginations, revel in the thrill of our gift basket extravaganza and savor gourmet treats and inventive cocktails. Don't miss out on our delightful dessert surprises!

This special night also offers LICM the opportunity to honor visionary leaders and corporate trailblazers dedicated to fostering brighter futures for children.



Message From Event Co-Chairs

"The greatest gift a community can give its children is a place where they can grow together in understanding and respect."

Tonight exemplifies the extraordinary achievements we can reach when our community unites for a common goal. From our initial planning and meeting to the arrival of our first guests, Cupcakes & Cocktails has been a journey of hard work, dedication and collaboration. This event, like the Museum it supports, highlights the power of collective effort and community spirit.

We are deeply grateful for the incredible support and enthusiasm you have provided. Your presence tonight not only makes this event possible but transforms it into something truly extraordinary. The Children's Museum continues to thrive thanks to your generous contributions and steadfast belief in our mission.

For over 30 years, LICM's success and growth have been fueled by the dedication of our community. Each exhibit we create, every program we offer, and every child we inspire is a direct result of your support. As you explore the Museum this evening, you will experience firsthand the magic that happens here every day.

We extend a special thank you to our sponsors, organizing committee members, Museum staff and Board of Trustees. Your collective efforts and unwavering support have been crucial to the success of this special night.



Your dedication inspires us every day, and we look forward to continuing this incredible journey together to support our community's children.

With heartfelt appreciation,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lisa Warren".

Lisa Warren
Event Co-Chair

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Alexandra Marino".

Alexandra Marino
Event Co-Chair



A Letter From Museum President & Board Chair

Dear Friends and Supporters,

One of the great joys of our annual gathering is the chance to celebrate (and maybe even boast a little) the remarkable strides the Long Island Children's Museum has made over the past year and give a sneak peek into the coming year. Thanks to your unwavering generosity, we have achieved incredible milestones, and we are thrilled to share some of these highlights with you:

Welcoming All - We are dedicated to ensuring that everyone can experience the joy and enrichment our Museum offers. By prioritizing accessibility and inclusivity, and addressing concerns about cost and judgement, we strive to be a place where everyone is welcome. Over the past year, we've seen exponential growth in attendance from military families, families with children with disabilities, and households utilizing WIC or SNAP benefits from across the region.

Igniting Early STEM Enthusiasm - Our 14-year initiative in the Westbury School District to foster early engagement with Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) expanded significantly in the 2023-24 school year. We now serve all first, second and third graders, as well as K-12 students with special needs. This growth and adaptability are a direct result of our partnership with tonight's *Great Friend to Kids* recipient, National Grid (See page 13 for a visual summary of our impact in the Westbury School District.)

Excellence Recognized - The Museum's burgeoning national reputation for innovative STEM programming played a crucial role in LICM recently securing a prestigious National Science Foundation grant - one of only three direct awards to Children's Museums in the last five years. This endorsement from the NSF underscores LICM's role as a leading force in hands-on, innovative learning experiences, made possible through National Grid's early and sustained support of our STEM initiatives.

Record-breaking year - The Children's Museum's attendance has not only rebounded from COVID's impact, but we've seen a significant visitor surge clamoring for the immersive experiences that LICM



Erika Floreska

Scott Burman

provides. The Museum's audience growth and broad demographic appeal enriches visitor interaction and strengthens our community.

Looking to the Future - Building on our strong foundation and responding to community needs, our next year will focus on expanding the well-being of children and families through the transformative power of play. Guided by this simple mantra, we will continue to uplift, engage and strengthen our connection with the Long Island community.

This year's Cupcakes & Cocktails is inspired by our new community mural, "*Kaleidoscope of Imagination*." A kaleidoscope perfectly encapsulates the Museum, not only the vibrant and multifaceted experiences that happen here, but the range of ways that we support the community. We hope that tonight, you'll have several "turn the dial" moments, discovering something new about LICM and exploring the depth and breadth of our innovative programs and future aspirations.

Thank you once again for being here, and for being such an integral part of our community. Let's continue our work together to create a brighter and more playful future for all children.

Erika Floreska
President

Scott Burman
Board Chair



Mission, Vision & Values

Mission Statement

“Connecting all our communities’ children, and those who care for them to one another and a life of wonder, imagination and exploration. Here, children discover their passions and their relationship to the world we share.”

Vision Statement

Centering the well-being of children and families through the power of play.

Core Values

We value creativity and the importance of learning through the power of play.

We embrace diversity.

We are dedicated to respect and access for all.

We are committed to excellence.

We nurture cooperation and kindness.

We value the trust of our community and continually seek to earn it.



Event Sponsors

Leadership

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Children's

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~

Scott Rechler
Chairman Emeritus

~

Erika S. Floreska
LICM President



Event Committee

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Susan Waiter



Great Friend to Kids Award

nationalgrid

Represented by Mauri Myers-Solages

Spotlights the contributions of community champions who are enhancing the lives of children through education, health and community building.

Communities thrive when there is a shared commitment to empowering the next generation. Tonight, Long Island Children's Museum is delighted to spotlight a remarkable partner whose dedication to this principle embodies the essence of collaboration and innovation: **National Grid**.

National Grid's support of education, STEM and skills training programs positively impact lives and help to grow the future energy workforce needed to enable the energy transition. Understanding the pivotal role of educators, National Grid invests in both the commitment and resources needed to ignite curiosity and foster learning.

This commitment has been in evidence since Long Island Children's Museum's earliest days and has grown year over year. They now serve as the lead partner of LICM's major educational initiatives sparking enthusiasm for STEM among elementary school students and nurturing high school students' interest in these topics through the development and delivery of play-based learning for Museum visitors. With over \$1M in sponsorship support since 2010, National Grid has been the lead sponsor for the Westbury STEM Partnership, STEM Explorers powered by Green Teens, and LICM's annual STEM Weekend.

The LICM/National Grid partnership has made a remarkable impact on the Westbury School District since 2010:

- More than 430,000 hours of hands-on STEM learning have been provided to students.
- Over 12,000 students have actively engaged in STEM education.
- District teachers have benefited from nearly 8,500 hours of STEM professional development.

The partnership has led to the training of over 150 high school "Green Teens" through the STEM Explorers program, who have then developed and delivered **377 workshop activities** for Museum visitors.

The company's Social Impact team is committed to accelerating social mobility through skills and workforce development. They work to empower communities through sustainable initiatives in education, energy and the environment, and social and economic justice. They believe it is their responsibility to leverage their resources to address societal challenges, enhance the workforce, and foster a more resilient future.

Serving more than 20 million people across New York and Massachusetts, National Grid is at the forefront of advancing a clean energy future. By transforming electricity and natural gas networks, they are committed to reducing greenhouse gas emissions and fostering a more sustainable world.

The Long Island Children's Museum proudly recognizes National Grid for their exceptional contributions to STEM education and for their dedication to enhancing the communities where they live, work and play.



Westbury STEM Partnership

Launched in 2009

Collective Impact. Experiential Learning. Inspiring Futures.



8,406

Hours of STEM Professional Development for Teachers



12,161

Students Engaged



20,619

Family Members have Attended STEM Family Nights at Westbury Schools



220

Dissections: Cow Eyes



101

Fish



6,421

Owl Pellets



432,602

Hours of Hands-on STEM Learning

District-wide STEM programming in our community for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Grade, and now all K-12 students in special education classes!

Powells Lane



Drexel Avenue



All schools are within **5 miles** of LICM



Park Avenue



Long Island Children's Museum

“ When we did the praying mantises this year, using the wonder chart was so good to see what the kids were thinking. I felt more confident this year. I actually put my hand in to touch [the praying mantises] and the kids put theirs in to touch. Me being more confident made them more confident as well.

– Third Grade Teacher



Program

6 - 7 p.m.

Kaleidoscope Lounge for Sponsor Social Hour (2nd floor)

Violinist, Singer, and Caricaturist

6:30 - 7:30 p.m.

Continuous Cocktail Party, Dinner and Entertainment

Silent Auction & Prize Baskets available (until 9 p.m.)

Appetizers, bars, and activities available (1st and 2nd floors)

Incrediboosts 360 Photo Experience (1st floor)

Dinner (opens at 7 p.m.)

8 - 8:30 p.m.

Program & Award Presentation (Main Stage - Lobby)

“Rhythm of the Night”

Composed by Diane Warren

Performed by Uniondale High School Show Choir

Emcee Welcome

Ally Ali (106.1 WBLI FM), Emcee

Lucianna-Marie Singh, Jr. Emcee

Sponsor Thank you

Lisa Warren, Event Co-Chair

Alexandra Marino, Event Co-Chair

Great Friend to Kids Award - National Grid

Represented by Mauri Myers-Solages

Presented by Scott Burman, Board Chair

Mission Moment

Erika Floreska, LICM President

8:30 - 9:30 p.m.

Cupcakes & Cocktails, Coffee and Desserts

Silent Auction & Prize Baskets available (until 9 p.m.)

Activities available (1st and 2nd floors)

Incrediboosts 360 Photo Experience (1st floor)

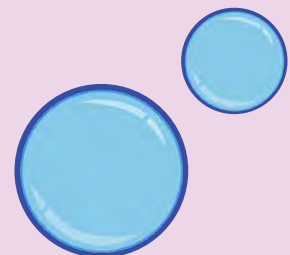
9:30 p.m.

Silent Auction & Prize Baskets Winners Announced

9:30 - 10 p.m.

Dance Party

Coffee & Desserts, Cocktails



Featured Entertainment & Artists

Ally Ali, Emcee

106.1, WBLI

Lucianna Marie Singh, Jr. Emcee

Together to Kindergarten Alumna

Olga Tourkina, Violinist

NY Music Entertainment

Gary Solorzano-Ruiz, Caricaturist

Adelphi University Student, LICM Educator

Laura Martinez, Singer

Constanza Castillo Rivera, Singer

Uniondale High School Show Choir

Rhythm of the Knight



Guest Artists



Ally Alli, Emcee

Ally is a 27-year-old radio host on Long Island's number one for all the hits, 106.1 WBLI. You can listen to her weekday mornings from 6-10 AM on the Skye Morning Show with Ally Alli. In her free time, she loves playing bingo, going to Target, tracking down the Jonas Brothers at whatever concert they're playing, watching Judge Judy, doing paint nights and pottery, cooking, and of course spending time with friends and family. Born and raised on Long Island, Ally is thrilled to be welcomed to Long Island Children's Museum for such a wonderful event!



Lucianna-Marie Singh, Jr. Emcee

Lucianna is a vibrant young talent with a passion for singing, dancing and acting. Her artistic journey began early, making her debut at the Garden City Community School concert at the age of three, and she was featured on the front page of the Garden City News that same year. By six, she had already landed her first speaking role in a Christmas pageant at St. Joseph School in Garden City.

This year, Lucianna-Marie earned accolades at the Access Broadway Regional Competition in Atlantic City, winning "Best Actress" and "Best Trio Vocals." She has also showcased her skills as a lead performer in plays at Scope Garden City High School and the middle School summer program.

In addition to her artistic pursuits, Lucianna-Marie has a keen interest in math, science and reading. Outside of her museum visits, she enjoys spending time at Barnes & Noble, local libraries, and attending French workshops. She often records reading shows with her little brother, Prince-Dev.

At five, Lucianna-Marie participated in the Children's Museum's Together to Kindergarten program under the guidance of Ms. Karoll Joseph, where she developed a deep appreciation for the museum and its offerings. As an enthusiastic alumna, she has contributed as a reporter and host at previous Cupcakes & Cocktails galas.

Her dreams are to become a doctor, a singer, and an actress, and she is excited to continue pursuing her passions.



Guest Artists



Olga Tourkina, Violinist

Olga Tourkina is an accomplished violinist with a distinguished background in performance and competition. A graduate of the esteemed Eastman School of Music, she has garnered numerous awards at international violin competitions. Born into a musical family in Mexico, Olga began her violin studies at the age of eight. By twelve, she was already captivating audiences as a soloist with multiple orchestras.

Her extensive experience performing across various musical ensembles in the New York area has enriched her ability to interpret a wide range of styles. Olga has also participated in numerous prestigious festival across Europe and the United States, showcasing her versatility and dedication to her craft.

Passionate about sharing her love for music, Olga collaborate with top professionals to offer exceptional music and entertainment services. She resides on Long Island, where she continues to make her mark as a concert violinist, educator, and member of several orchestras throughout the Tri-State area and Pennsylvania.

In addition to her performing career, Olga is the Founder and Director of NY Music Entertainment, where she brings her vision and expertise to the forefront of the music industry.



Constanza Castillo Rivera, Singer

Constanza is a 22-year-old singer from Deer Park, NY, with a rich Chilean American heritage. Her musical journey began at just eight years old with the church choir at Roca de Salvacion in Patchogue. Over the years, she has expanded her repertoire and honed her craft, performing at weddings, events, and serving as a worship leader at her church.

With extensive experience engaging both intimate and large audiences, Constanza is dedicated to bringing music to a variety of settings and creating unforgettable experiences through her performances.



Laura Martinez, Singer

Laura is an 11-year-old singer specializing in Mexican regional music. Her musical journey began at the tender age of 3, and she has since graced a variety of prominent events including Pequeños Gigantes, El Salvador del Mundo, and Noche Latina, among others.

Guest Artists



Gary Solorzano-Ruiz, Caricaturist

Gary is a senior at Adelphi University, pursuing a major in Art & Design Education with a minor in Animation. His passion for drawing has been a constant in his life from an early age. He spent countless hours rewatching his favorite Pixar movies and delving into the behind-the-scenes processes that bring these films to life. This fascination with how diverse artists collaborate to create a single scene ignited his interest in the multifaceted world of animation.

Over the years, Gary explored various mediums and techniques, with a particular fondness for painting and drawing cartoons. He is deeply grateful for the unwavering support from teachers, friends and family that has been instrumental in his artistic development.

As he embarks on his senior year, his enthusiasm for becoming an educator grows each day. I believe art is a crucial part of a child's

development, providing a unique outlet for imagination and a means to express complex emotions. My aspiration is to share my passion for art and inspire future generations to explore their creative potential. Gary joined the staff of LICM in the roles of Educator and substitute Visitor Experience Coordinator in November 2023.



Uniondale High School Show Choir

Founded in 2010, Uniondale High School's Show Choir, "Rhythm of The Knight," proudly celebrates its 11th year of competition. In 2024, the choir earned the prestigious titles of Grand Champion at the Show Choir of America Competition.

Rhythm of The Knight has garnered widespread acclaim, with features on *NBC's Today Show*, *Steve Harvey*, *CNN*, *Fox 5*, *Good Day NY*, *ABC's Here and Now*, *The New York Times*,

and various local cable stations. The choir has had the honor of performing alongside music legends such as Barry Manilow, Ben Vereen, and the late Kenny Rogers.

Their impressive performance resume includes prestigious venues like Carnegie Hall, as well as high-profile events at NY Mets and NY Giants games, and Long Island Nets games. Known for their vibrant and energetic style, Rhythm of The Knight captivates audiences with their passionate performances and powerful voices, striving to inspire and uplift through their music.

Honoree Video Credits:

Production Company: Vertigo Media Group

Producer: Lisa Mirabelle

Director of Photography: Dustin Callendar

Vendors:

Caterer: Philip Stone Caterers

Audio Visual: NVision 360 Productions

Photobooth: Incrediboosts

Photographer: Dominick Totino Photography

Location Guide

Food Stations - First Floor

Moroccan Station • Peking Duck Station • Mexican Street Tacos • Foodtinis

Cocktail Bars

Lobby Bar - Main Lobby (First Floor)

All Things Bubbly - Bubbles Exhibit (First Floor)

Melody Lounge - Cafe (First Floor)

Kaleidoscope Lounge Bar - Pattern Studio (Second Floor)



Activities – First Floor

Silent Auction & Prize Baskets (Until 9 p.m.)

Inner Lobby

Continue the excitement and make a difference! Purchase raffle tickets and bid in our silent auction to support a world of imagination and learning!

Incredibooths 360 Photo Experience!

Outside Orange Studio

Step into the spotlight at our 360-degree photo booth where you can capture fun memories and unforgettable moments.

Mosaic Masterpiece

Orange Studio

Create a porcelain tile mosaic or a stunning piece of framed art.

Painted Silk Scarves

Orange Studio

Design a one-of-a-kind accessory that will add a splash of color to your wardrobe.

Location Guide

Activities – Second Floor

Walk of Fame

Stroll the red-carpet celebrating tonight's stars - our generous sponsors - on your way to Kaleidoscope Lounge.

Kaleidoscope Wonders

Community Gallery

Let your imagination soar with the endless pattern possibilities of a custom-made kaleidoscope.

Caricaturist

Kaleidoscope Lounge - Pattern Studio

Don't miss out on a fun keepsake - get a personalized caricature to take home!

Saltwater Stories

Kaleidoscope Lounge

Learn more about a new maritime exhibit experience coming to LICM in Fall 2025!

Icing on the Cupcake - 9:30 p.m.

Join us for a dance party to wrap up the evening as we come together to celebrate a fantastic night in support of our community's children.

Kaleidoscope Lounge

Enjoy an all new "VIP"-like atmosphere with a spectacular view of the stage and Main Lobby.



Silent Auction Items & Prize Baskets

READY TO BID?

Check out the amazing array of experiences, items, and shows in the Silent Auction and Prize Basket Gallery (First Floor - Inner Lobby)

FEATURED ITEMS:

New York Islanders VIP Experience
Piping Rock Club Golf Threesome & Lunch
Wine Lover's Retreat
Giant's Owner's Suite Box





Silent Auction Donors



Thank you to our Silent Auction Donors!

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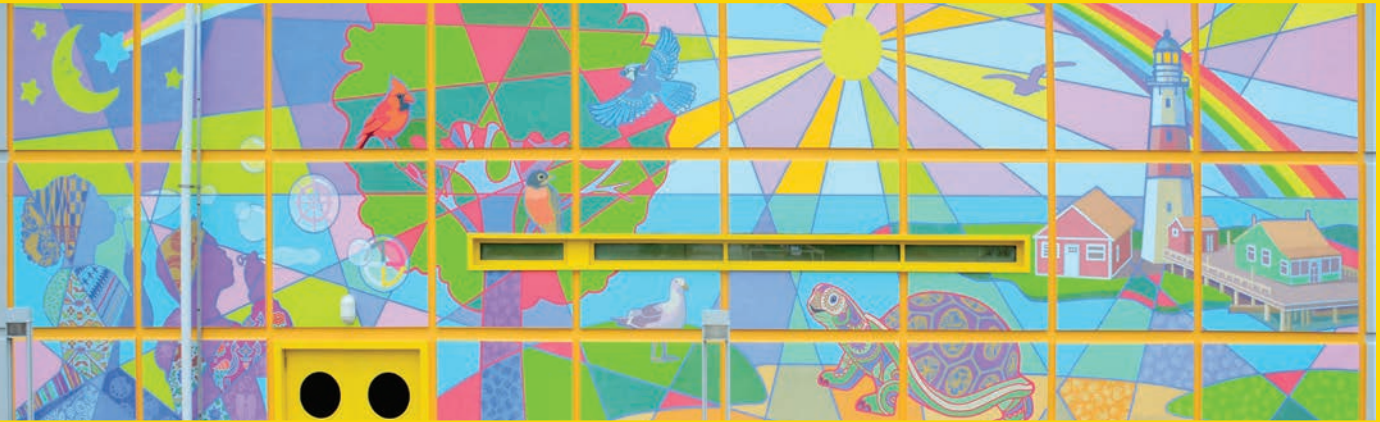
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Long Island Children's Museum
Long Island Museum

Long Island Nets
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Lisa & Lewis Warren
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Wrapped New York



Community Creativity



Tonight's Cupcakes & Cocktails is themed around our stunning new mural, "Kaleidoscope of Imagination," that graces the exterior of the Long Island Children's Museum (LICM). Spanning 1,100 sq. ft., this vibrant piece encapsulates the rich stories of our community, inviting visitors to explore and connect with our shared history.

To bring this mural to life, we embarked on an extensive search for the ideal artist, leading us to the talented Viktoriya Basina. The creative journey began in January 2024 with our interactive workshops, "Make Your Mark at LICM!" where Viktoriya engaged with community members to gather their ideas and inspirations.

Building on the insights from these workshops, Viktoriya crafted the first draft of the mural. In a subsequent round of workshops, she collaborated with LICM educators to gather feedback from visitors, allowing the community to play an essential role in shaping the design. This iterative process—much like crafting stories or composing music—reflects our commitment to creativity through collaboration. Viktoriya thoughtfully incorporated the feedback to refine her vision.

After finalizing the design, Viktoriya and her skilled assistants returned to her studio to begin painting the first segment of the mural, preparing for its installation.

On March 29 and 30, 2024, we hosted a lively paint party where LICM visitors added their personal touches to the mural, including their handprints and creative expressions.

Viktoriya then finalized the mural and the preparation and the intricate installation process began. Viktoriya and her talented assistants, alongside LICM staff, carefully mounted the mural, piece by piece on the Museum's exterior wall over the course of three days.

On May 10, 2024, we proudly unveiled "Kaleidoscope of Imagination" alongside families who participated in the painting days and workshops, elected officials and friends of the Museum. This mural stands as a testament to our mission, celebrating the vibrant history of Long Island and the diverse community we serve.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to muralist Viktoriya Basina and all the community members who contributed to this incredible project. "Kaleidoscope of Imagination" is not just art; it's a visual narrative of our collective community identity.

This initiative was made possible through LICM's Community Voices Take Shape grant, supported by the National Endowment for the Arts, with additional backing from the Robert & Toni Bader Charitable Foundation.

NATIONAL
ENDOWMENT for the **ARTS**
arts.gov



Staff Acknowledgement

The Long Island Children's Museum would like to extend our warmest gratitude to our staff.

Keeping with this evening's theme of "community," together they have all demonstrated what beautiful things collaboration, creativity, and connectedness can produce.

THANKS TO YOU ALL!

Development Team

Educational Programming Team

Events Team

Exhibits Team

Executive and Finance Team

Marketing and Communications Team

Theater Crew

Special Projects and Community Initiatives Team

Visitor and Support Services Team

And every single LICM staff member who contributed to the planning and execution of Cupcakes & Cocktails 2024!



Leadership Sponsors



“Children see magic
because they look for it.”

—Christopher Moore



We are proud to honor

National Grid

as the recipient of the Great Friend to Kids Award.

Thank you to

Lisa Warren and Alexandra Marino

for your leadership and tireless work
as Cupcakes Co-Chairs.

Our love and gratitude to the
LICM Board of Trustees and Staff,
who work passionately to make
LICM a magical place!!

Roni Kohen-Lemle and Robert Lemle



Our love and gratitude to the LICM Board of Trustees and Staff, who work passionately to make LICM a magical place!!

*“Children see magic
because they look for it.”*

—Christopher Moore



Roni Kohen-Lemle & Robert Lemle

RECHLER
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**LONG ISLAND
CHILDREN'S
MUSEUM**

**CUPCAKES
&
COCKTAILS**

Neighborhood Sponsor



national**grid**

We are honored to be recognized by the [Long Island Children's Museum](#) and proud to support their invaluable work in shaping the future generation.

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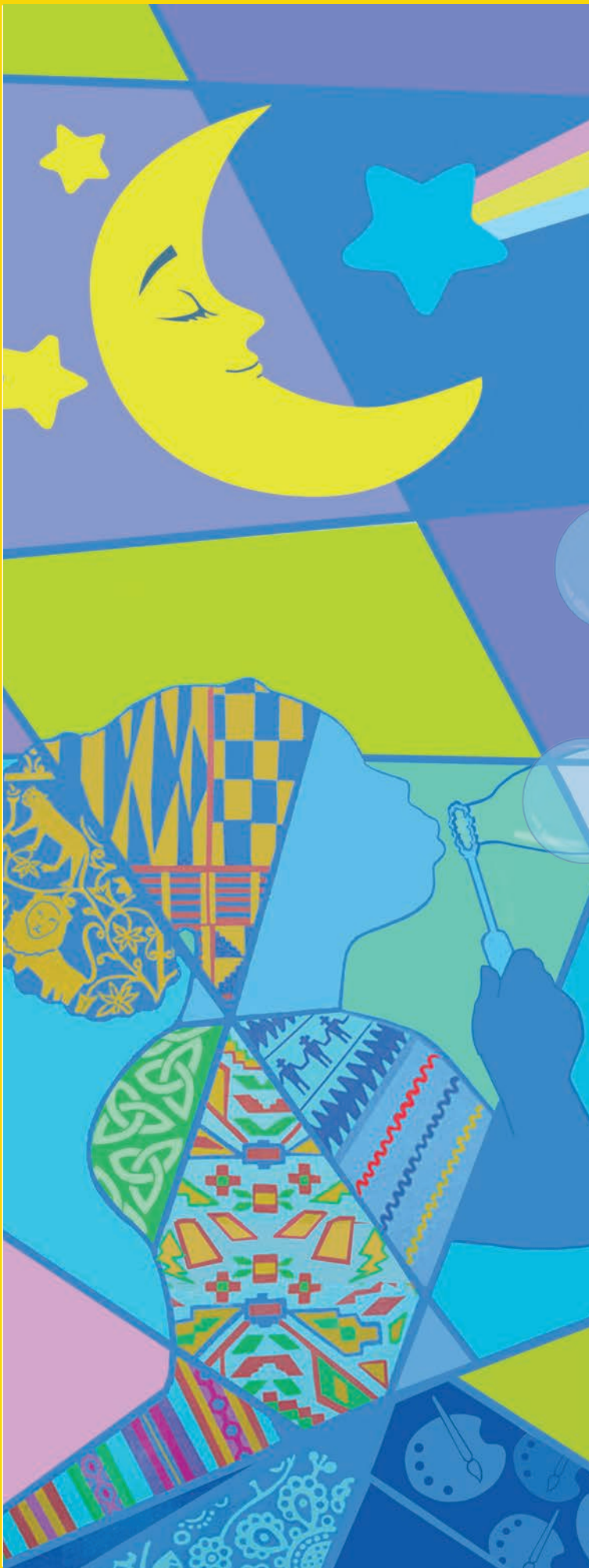
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Connection

Sponsor





Congratulations to the Long Island Children's Museum on a fantastic fundraising event!

Thank you for your dedication to inspiring creativity and curiosity in young minds.

Your hard work and passion are truly making a difference in our community!

**Selby Drummond
& Steven Dubb**

Family Sponsors



ACRISURE NY

IS PROUD TO SUPPORT



LONG ISLAND CHILDRENS MUSEUM



ACRISURE®



Alliant is happy to support such a great local museum that gives children the opportunity to learn and grow.

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Family Sponsor of the Long Island Children's Museum

American Global:

As a broker with a passion for building and development, we proudly support LICM - a place where our children can discover their own passions and build important lifelong skills.

Learn more at:

www.americanglobal.com



We are proud to support the
**Long Island Children's
Museum**

Congrats to the
Great Friend to Kids Award recipient

National Grid

Thanks to Mauri Myers-Solages

Bianca & Scott Burman





Thank you to
**Long Island
Children's Museum**

for creating a space where connection
and community come alive!

Congratulations to
National Grid

for receiving the Great Friend to Kids Award
to recognize the positive impact
they've had on
Long Island families.



**Teresa & Jason
Hirschhorn**

Expanding horizons

We are proud to support the Long Island Children's Museum and celebrate its dedication to enabling children, families and adults to explore art, culture and science through creative and engaging experiences.

See how our Long Island team supports our clients every day.



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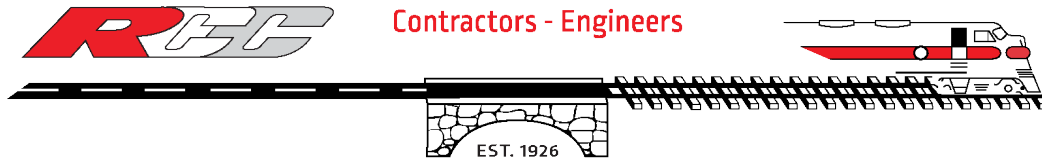
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Thank you to everyone involved for all the work and effort and dedication you put into the community. Congratulations to National Grid for the 2024 Great Friend to Kids Award.

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“When children pretend, they’re using their imaginations to move beyond the bounds of reality. A stick can be a magic wand. A sock can be a puppet. A small child can be a superhero.”
—Fred Rogers



Our kids and a neighbor playing pretend at LICM, c. 2008

Congrats to
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Thanks to the staff and board at LICM who work every day to create playful learning and joyful experiences for our visitors.

Erika & Roger Floreska

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In honor of my brother
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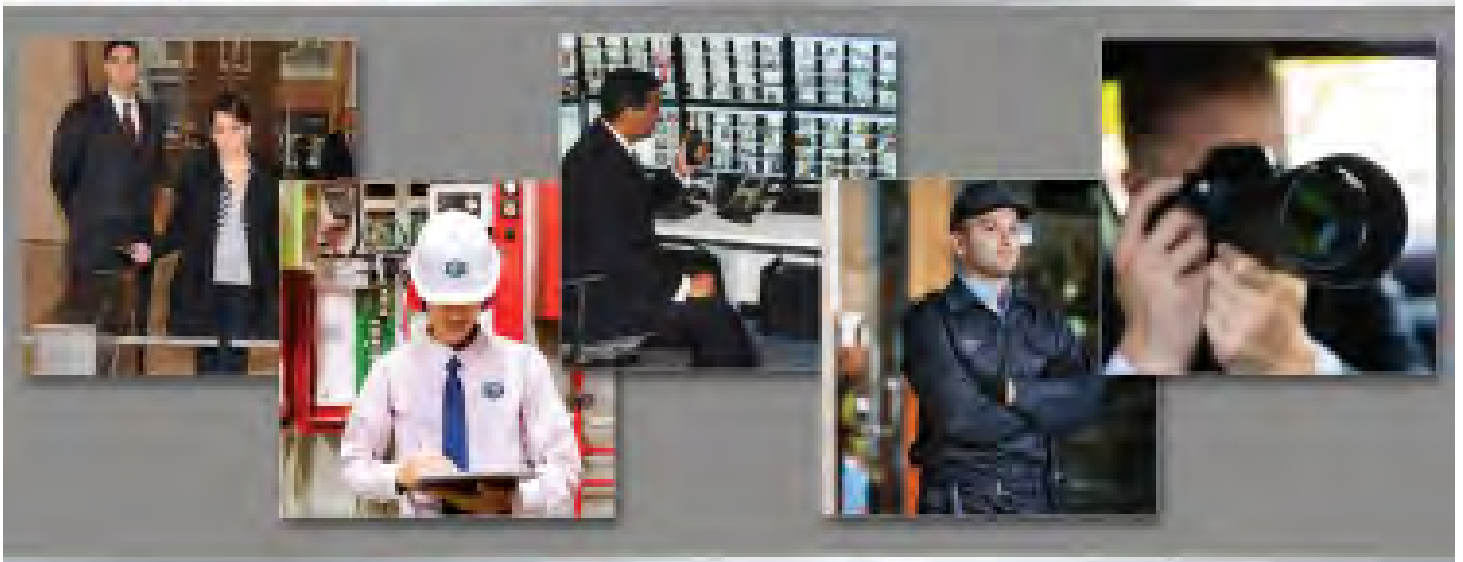
National Grid,

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Lukehart, A., Cybersecurity Magazine, 2021.

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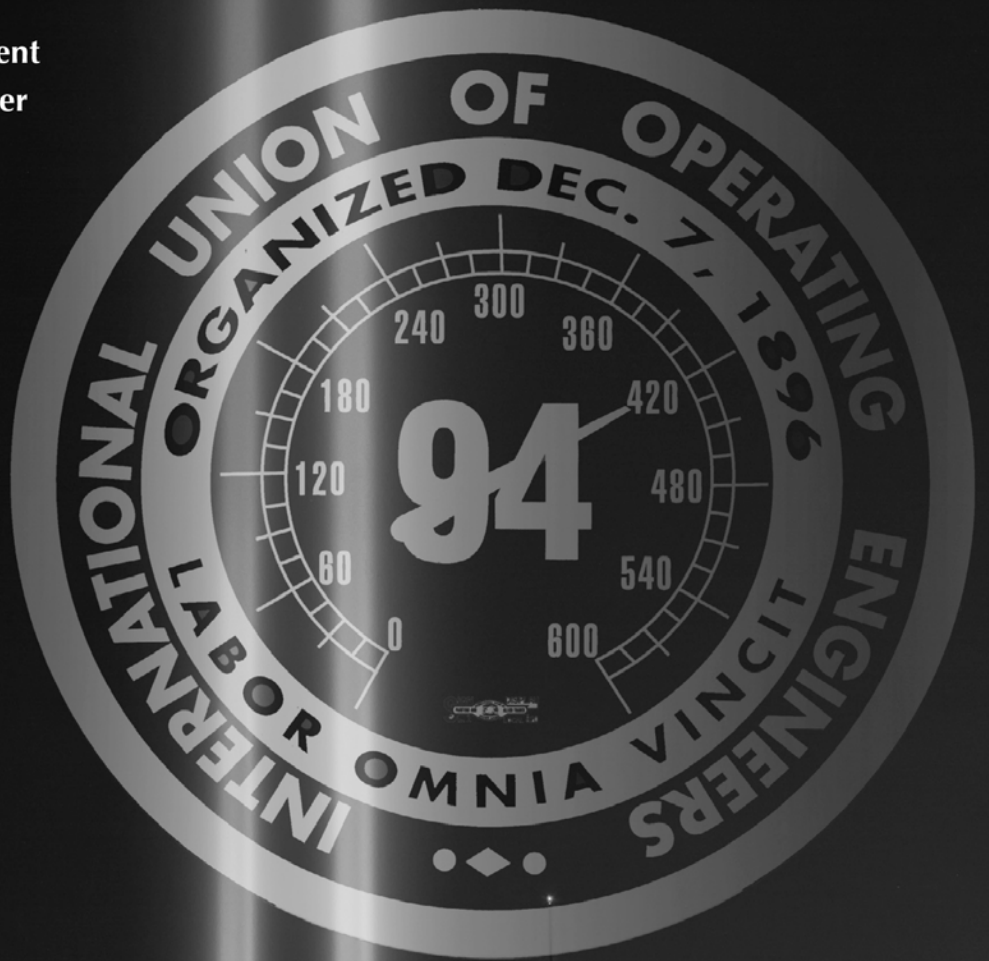
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