

ACTIVITIES

Museum Milestone

As Long Island Children's Museum began planning for its 25th birthday season, the choice of what exhibit should take up residence in its traveling exhibit gallery moved center stage. What would best represent the creativity, ingenuity and problem-solving the museum inspires? What theme would have broad appeal to the inter-generational audience that LICM draws? What exhibit would highlight 25 years of relevance to families? The answer was found in Tinkertoy: Build Your Imagination, which will be in residence through Jan. 6, 2019.

The 1,500-square-foot exhibit, targeted to children ages 3-10, was developed by the Betty Brinn Children's Museum in collaboration with GB and Playskool, the infant/preschool toy division of Hasbro, Inc. Visitors to the exhibit will enjoy a variety of activities that promote imagination and collaboration:

- **The Welcome Gallery:** Celebrate the Tinkertoy legacy through a retrospective of the toy's history, and highlights GB technologies that improve communities around the globe every day.
- **Invent:** Children are encouraged to

think about where ideas come from, and to explore the emerging field of biomimicry—nature's influence on design. Visitors can match real inventions with their natural inspiration and create a design of their own.

- **Collaborate:** Dual-sided panels allow visitors to work independently or with a partner to create Tinkertoy designs.
- **Energize:** Children can explore GE's commitment to renewable energy as they use a kid-powered fan to test their own wind-powered Tinkertoy creations.
- **Change:** A Rubbe Goldberg-like contraption illustrates the power of creative thinking and how simple mechanisms work. The activity lets children select and position words to build silly, but thought provoking sentences that serve as the springboard for innovation.
- **Process/Connect:** Tinkertoy-inspired equipment lets children explore the concept of filtration, while a companion activity invites them to build ball tracks that illustrate how GB technologies help address the challenge of providing clean water.

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- **Develop:** Visitors will enjoy filling a life-size human form with Tinkertoy hubs, providing a great photo opportunity and revealing the elements of a healthy lifestyle.
- **Create:** This open play area reserved for children age 3 and older features a spectacular assortment of Tinkertoy pieces—the perfect place to build their imagination.
- **The Tinker Tank:** A walk-in size

replica of a Tinkertoy canister is the starting point for the exhibit's challenging scavenger hunt, a must for those with an eye for detail and a nose for knowledge.

Long Island Children's Museum will kick off the celebration of its 25-year history with the Ultimate Birthday Bash on Nov. 17-18, and present themed workshops, performances and special events over the next 25 weeks. For more information, visit www.licm.org.

—Jennifer Rauzi