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LONG ISLAND CHILDREN'S MUSEUM IS A 2023 BLUE STAR MUSEUM
LICM offers free admission to military and their families this summer

GARDEN CITY, NY - May 8, 2023 – Long Island Children's Museum will once again join museums nationwide in the Blue Star Museums initiative, a program that provides free admission to currently-serving U.S. military personnel and their families this summer. The 2023 program will begin at LICM on Armed Forces Day, Saturday, May 20, 2023, and end on Sunday, September 3, 2023. Find the full list of participating museums at arts.gov/bluestarmuseums.

Blue Star Museums is a partnership between the National Endowment for the Arts and Blue Star Families, in collaboration with the Department of Defense and participating museums across America.

"Participation in the Blue Star Museums program allows Long Island Children's Museum to model lessons of gratitude to our young visitors by demonstrating *our* thanks to service families across the nation," said LICM President Suzanne LeBlanc. "LICM has participated in the program since 2010 and looks forward to providing Blue Star families with memorable family time; a precious commodity for military families."

"We thank the 2023 Blue Star Museums who invite military personnel and their families to experience the many wonders they have to offer, whether it's a glimpse into the past, an encounter with awe-inspiring art, or a moment of discovery," said Maria Rosario Jackson, PhD, chair of the National Endowment for the Arts. "[NAME OF YOUR MUSEUM] is helping to enrich the lives of military families and build meaningful connections between our nation's military and their local community."

Blue Star Museums include children's museums, art, science, and history museums, zoos, gardens, lighthouses, and more, and hail from all 50 states, District of Columbia, and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

The free admission program is available for those currently serving in the United States Military—Air Force, Army, Coast Guard, Marine Corps, Navy, and Space Force, members of the Reserves, National Guard, U.S. Public Health Commissioned Corps, NOAA Commissioned Corps, and up to five family members. Qualified members must show a [Geneva Convention common access card \(CAC\)](#), [DD Form 1173 ID card \(dependent ID\)](#), [DD Form 1173-1 ID card](#) or the [Next Generation Uniformed Services \(Real\) ID card](#) for entrance into a participating Blue Star Museum.

LeBlanc noted that the Museum's annual participation in the Blue Star Museum program expands its year-round military admission discount that provides free LICM admission for one active duty, retired or spouse with military IDs, plus one child.

About the Long Island Children's Museum (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 adults 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.

About the National Endowment for the Arts

Established by Congress in 1965, the National Endowment for the Arts is the independent federal agency whose funding and support gives Americans the opportunity to participate in the arts, exercise their imaginations, and develop their creative capacities. Through partnerships with state arts agencies, local leaders, other

federal agencies, and the philanthropic sector, the Arts Endowment supports arts learning, affirms and celebrates America's rich and diverse cultural heritage, and extends its work to promote equal access to the arts in every community across America. To learn more, visit [arts.gov](https://www.arts.gov) or follow us on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), and [YouTube](#).

About Blue Star Families

[BlueStar Families \(BSF\)](#) is the nation's largest chapter-based military and veteran family support organization. Its research-driven approach fosters strong communities with a focus on human centered design and innovative solutions. Since its founding in 2009, BSF has delivered millions of dollars in benefits and impacted more than 1.5 million people each year. For more information, [click here](#) and follow along with Blue Star Families on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), and [Twitter](#).