



Contact: Maureen P. Mangan

Direct Line: 1-516-224-5828

## **MUSICIAN & MUSEUM CO-FOUNDER ELECTED BOARD CHAIR OF LONG ISLAND CHILDREN'S MUSEUM**

**Roni Kohen-Lemle**, an Old Westbury resident, was elected Board Chair of Long Island Children's Museum. Kohen-Lemle, a musician, was one of six artists, educators and business leaders who founded the Children's Museum, which opened to the public in 1993. LICM President Suzanne LeBlanc announced the appointment.

"Roni Kohen-Lemle brings a record of steadfast support and unwavering enthusiasm for the programs, performances and people that make the Children's Museum shine," said LICM President Suzanne LeBlanc. "I can't think of a better person to challenge and inspire her colleagues on the board and the Museum's staff as we embark on a new Long Range Strategic Plan for the Museum."

From its earliest days, Roni Kohen-Lemle has championed for the Children's Museum to present the full spectrum of the performing arts and secured the first funding grant to ensure that live theater programs were part of the visitor experience. Her commitment to ensuring that children have exposure to the performing arts can also be seen in her spearheading of the development of the LICM Theater and the first music gallery in the current Museum.

"While it's wonderful to see how many people over the years have experienced the Museum as a place for family enjoyment, what is even more exciting is to watch how LICM's reputation has grown based on the impact of its various Community Outreach and Access programs," said Kohen-Lemle. "As aspirational as the founders were, even we never imagined how far reaching the Museum's impact would extend. I look forward to seeing recognition for these programs expand." LICM Community Outreach Programs address kindergarten readiness for new immigrants, STEM programming for underserved school districts and access and inclusion resources for neurodivergent individuals and those with physical challenges.

Kohen-Lemle received an undergraduate degree from Oberlin College, a Juris Doctor degree from Cardozo Law School and graduate study in Music Therapy from NYU. A

registered Music Together teacher and a jazz singer, she has recorded a CD of poetry set to music, *Recuerdo*.

She served as President of the Board of Trustees in the Museum's formative years and returns as LICM enters another growth period. She currently chairs the Museum's Governance Committee and serves on the LICM Theater Advisory Committee. She has served as a board member of the Third Street Music School Settlement in New York.

### **About the Long Island Children's Museum**

The mission of the 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 250,000 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. 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.