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NY ISLANDERS CO-OWNER HONORED BY LONG ISLAND CHILDREN'S MUSEUM

Jon Ledecy to Receive Community Leadership Award on September 23

The sound of laughter, music and fun coming from the Long Island Children's Museum on any given day is par for the course. But when it's the "big kids" who are the source of a night of noise it's a sure signal that it's time for the Museum's annual fundraiser, *Cupcakes & Cocktails*. The September 23 event signals the return of the unique event to the Museum after more than two years, due to the COVID-19 closure of the Museum and a switch to a *virtual* event in the fall of 2020.

Jon Ledecy, co-owner, NY Islanders, will be honored by the Children's Museum at this year's event for his deep commitment to community, which aligns with LICM's own mission. This commitment was on display at his first press conference announcing his involvement with the team. "I feel very strongly that a team is a community trust. For me, it's all about community service. There's so much that a team can do to forward a community's agenda. It's a place where fans of all different economic strata can get together and come together in a community.

"I can't think of a more appropriate recipient for the LICM Community Leadership Award than Jon Ledecy," said LICM President Suzanne LeBlanc. "Jon embodies the spirit of 'community' and weaves it into every interaction he has. His philosophy that a team can bring diverse people together and create a community mirrors LICM's mission and outreach efforts."

Ledecy's involvement with professional sports ownership began in 1999 when he bought the Washington Capitals of the National Hockey League and an interest in the Washington Wizards of the National Basketball Association with partner Ted Leonsis. He later sold his partnership interest and started a foundation that dedicated itself to the education of inner-city children in Boston, New York and Washington.

Jon Ledecy is a private equity investor who has been the co-founder or initial investor in companies that have raised over \$20 billion in financing. He founded U.S. Office

Products in 1994 and by 1997 the Company had become the fastest entrant ever in the history of the Fortune 500 with annualized sales of nearly \$4 billion.

Ledecky is an honors graduate of Harvard College and also graduated from Harvard Business School. He is a Trustee of the U.S. Olympic and Paralympic Foundation, and served on the National Commission on Entrepreneurship and at the U.S. Chamber of Commerce. He has also been honored as the Anti-Defamation League Man of the Year and was the International Franchise Association's "Free Enterprise Award" winner.

The *Cupcakes & Cocktails* fundraiser offers guests the opportunity to immerse themselves thoroughly in the institution they are supporting and watch its mission come to life. During a continuous cocktail party, guests enjoy hands-on activities and live performances and can bid on unique experiential auction packages. The night is designed to let supporters rediscover their "inner child" and experience the Museum as young visitors do throughout the year.

Community support positions the LICM fundraiser as one of the most successful on Long Island. Through corporate sponsorships, event tickets and auction sales, the event is targeted to raise \$800,000 enabling the Children's Museum to produce programs that support social and emotional growth, education equity, and connections between children, families, teachers, and community partners that foster the development of our next generation of scientists, artists, educators, entrepreneurs and citizens.

About the Long Island Children's Museum

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. 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.