

PARTNERS IN PLAY

Your Museum. Your Impact.

A LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



Hello Friends!

As you know, **LICM is more than a museum.**

We're committed to connecting all our communities' children, and those who care for them, to a life of wonder, imagination, and exploration.

We believe in a world where the well-being of children and families is centered and supported through **the power of play.** This is why **LICM matters to so many families.**

Today, **we're asking for your support** to ensure that our work can continue at a time when families need it most.

Like many nonprofits across the country, we're facing a moment of real financial strain. Federal grants that have made many LICM programs and exhibits possible are no longer available, and economic uncertainty continues to impact both charitable giving and Museum visitation. With half of LICM's annual operating budget dependent on donations, sponsorships, and grants, **your support is more essential than ever.**

Even as we navigate these challenges, we remain focused on delivering meaningful experiences for our visitors. **With your help,** we're launching new exhibits and exciting programs to engage our community!

If you believe in what LICM stands for, **we invite you to get involved.** See all of the ways you can support LICM on the next page of this newsletter or in **my video message.**

No matter how you choose to give, **every dollar and action makes a difference.**

Thank you!

Edna S. Floresha

DONOR SPOTLIGHT:

GAY THOMAS & JEFF HANSON

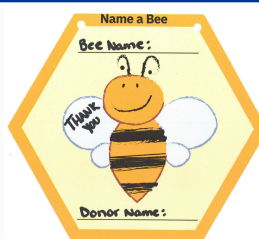
It is one of LICM's favorite things when those who support our work are active participants in the delivery of our mission. As this year's *Great Friend to Kids Award* recipients, **author Gay Thomas and her partner, Jeff Hanson, personify that support.** They are strong, active believers in the power of play, the power of the story, and the power of partnership. As supporters of LICM's **Honey Hoopla** celebration, they are passionate about giving back. "For us, philanthropy (*from the Greek 'love for humanity'*) is not as much about charity or donations or tax advantage, as it is about strategically and compassionately **INVESTING** in what the world needs to *get right* in the future." Not only did they participate in



Jeff Hanson and Gay Thomas at LICM's 2024 Honey Hoopla for book reading and signing.

this unique honey bee-focused, educational, family-friendly event two years in a row, Gay and Jeff also supported LICM's efforts to upgrade its technology infrastructure. **"Because children are always the future of every generation, investing in this future through the unique mission and community-oriented platform that LICM has created is an incredible philanthropic opportunity for us - and hopefully for many, many others across the region and beyond."**

Gay shares that her favorite part of doing a theatrical reading of her children's book, ***Beezy County Fair: A Bee Tale***, in the LICM Theater was how the theater staff brought her characters to life by creating 3D puppets!



SAVE THE DATE:

HONEY HOOPLA

August 16, 2025

You can also **name your very own Honey bee** in our Hive!

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DINOSAURS FOSSILS EXPOSED

See them before
they're gone!

May 17 - August 31st

Sponsored by



SEE WHAT'S HAPPENING AT YOUR MUSEUM!

LICM has an exciting summer planned, full of hands-on, interactive experiences that bring learning to life through the power of play. **Click the links below** for tickets and info.

OUR BACKYARD AND H2Oh!

- Included with general admission, our interactive, [outdoor sensory garden](#) is now open for the summer!

VISIT OUR "ARTISTS' CORNER"!

- Experience "[Visibility of Disability](#)" in residence now through Aug 26th.

SPECIAL EVENTS & FESTIVALS

- [Honey Hoopla](#): Saturday, August 16
 - Meet a Beekeeper, see the hive, or try some honey
- [Name A Bee](#): Now through August 16
 - [Donate \\$10](#) to have your name and your bee's name featured in our Hive exhibit.

LICM THEATER PERFORMANCES

- [Unbox-a-Saurus for Us!](#) Be there as a never-before-seen dinosaur is revealed! Select dates from July 23 through August 27.
- [Beezy County Fair: A Bee Tale](#): Author reading and book signing with Gay Thomas at [Honey Hoopla](#) on August 16.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR OPENING DAY!

- Don't miss our new permanent exhibit, [Saltwater Stories](#), opening Saturday, October 11.

PLAN YOUR VISIT!

Check out the full [Events and Programming Calendar](#).



"PLAY" A PART IN THE IMPACT

Ways YOU can support what matters:

- Make a [single or monthly donation](#) to the Annual Fund
- Become an [LICM member](#) to enjoy member-only perks
- Make an [in-kind donation](#) of an item or service
- Reserve an award-winning [birthday party](#)
- Book a [private or corporate event](#) in a playful venue
- Schedule a [group museum visit](#) or [bring LICM to your organization](#)
- Attend a festival or performance in the [LICM Theater](#), or [name a theater seat](#) to leave a legacy
- Support our [Cupcakes & Cocktails Gala](#) by attending, sponsoring, or placing an ad in our journal

We are so grateful for your support!



FROM FIRE TO WATER: A UNIQUE GIFT

LICM partnered with the Shinnecock Nation to add a very special Indigenous artifact to LICM's new permanent exhibit opening this Fall. ***Saltwater Stories: We Need the Sea & the Sea Needs Me*** will feature a **mishoon** or canoe named "Lil Pine" or "Pewea Koowa", which was burned and dug out this past April on the Shinnecock Tribal ground. Children from the tribe participated in this very special traditional process.

"We truly appreciate LICM honoring our Indigenous culture by also gifting us our very own mishoon for our tribe in the spirit of this community partnership," states Cultural Steward Chenae Bullock. The mishoon arrived on June 30 with a ceremonial presentation honoring Indigenous traditions and is currently on display.

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UNLOCK MORE WITH MEMBERSHIP!

Did you know LICM has memberships that fit every family?

Our members enjoy many benefits, including unlimited free admission to the Museum, "member only" hours, discounts on birthday parties, the LICM Theater, and at the Museum Store, access to 200+ Children's Museums and Science Centers, and so much more! **Ask about our Grandparents and Corporate Memberships!**

Become a member today by visiting our website at licm.org/membership or in person at the Box Office. For any questions, please contact membership@licm.org.

Upcoming "Members Only" Hours (9am-10am):

Fri., July 11	Mon., July 21	Thurs., July 24	Sun., July 27
Sat., August 2	Wed., August 13	Sun., August 17	Thurs., August 28
Sun., August 31	Sun., September 20	Sat., September 21	



WAVES OF IMPACT: Disabilities Exhibit, Gold Medal Advocate

In partnership with The Viscardi Center, an innovative new "[Visibility of Disability](#)" exhibit is now in residence at Long Island Children's Museum. This inclusive exhibit features hands-on activities that help visitors understand different experiences of people with disabilities.

The Viscardi Center's **Dr. Chris Rosa** and **County Legislator Olena Nicks** were among the special guests at the opening reception in June. **Anastasia Pagonis**, a **Paralympic swimmer**, grew up coming to LICM and was excited to return with her guide dog to view her role in this informative exhibit. **This exhibit is a preview of the new Museum of Disability History opening this Fall.** Visit LICM and explore the exhibit until August 26th.



LICM Access and Inclusion Program Director, Beth Ann Balalos, Susan Waiter Tyranski, LICM Trustee, Glenn Tyranski, President & CEO of The Viscardi Center, Dr. Chris Rosa, Anastasia Pagonis, and LICM Director of Development, Nyrekia White at opening reception.

LEARN AND PLAY EXPO: A DAY FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

Community Care RX and the Long Island Children's Museum proudly partnered to host the first *Learn and Play Expo for People with Disabilities* on Monday, May 12, 2025, at Long Island Children's Museum. This special event welcomed families and individuals in residential programs from the disability community for an evening of exploration, play, and connection as part of the Museum's "Community Connections" partnership efforts to expand access to vulnerable populations.



Nearly 200 attendees enjoyed free play throughout LICM's 14 interactive exhibits while connecting with **20 human services agencies from across Long Island**. These agencies showcased vital support services and community programs for families with individuals of all ages who have intellectual and physical disabilities. Pizza and salad were provided along with drinks generously donated by **Liberty Coca-Cola**. Guests received sensory fidgets to take home.

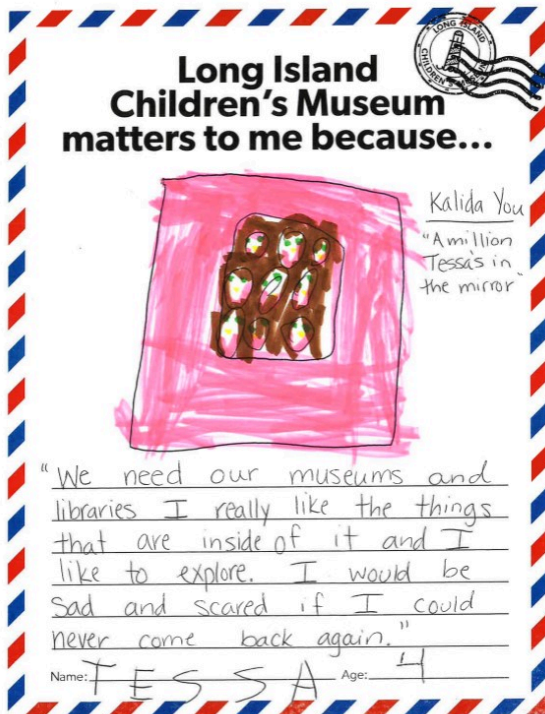


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WHY LICM MATTERS TO YOU

Hear from our families why LICM matters, or contact us at Development@licm.org to send in your own.

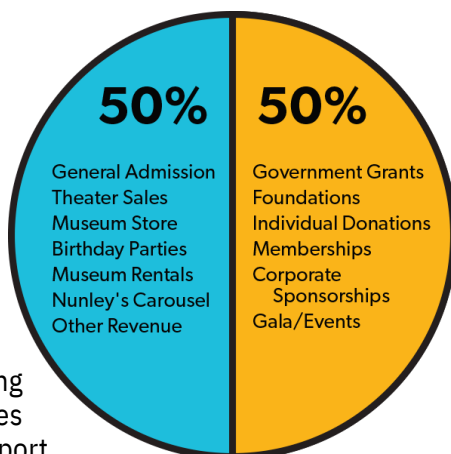


WHY SUPPORT THE POWER OF PLAY?

ANNUAL FUND

We rely on grants, corporate sponsorships, memberships and donations to fund nearly half of everything we do.

With your support, LICM can remain committed to creating learning opportunities for **all children**, support the well-being of children and families, and ensure that those with the greatest need have access to the Museum. **Find out how you can create impact [HERE](#).**



IT'S GALA TIME: JOIN US!



Long Island Association

Stories: We Need the Sea & the Sea Needs Me.

Cupcakes & Cocktails is LICM's annual fundraiser designed to celebrate the child in all of us.

For tickets, journal ads, sponsorship, and underwriting opportunities, contact Nyrekia White, Director of Development, at Cupcakes@LICM.org.

Announcing the 2025 Great Friend to Kids Award recipients!

We are proud to honor **Jeff Hanson and Gay Thomas** this year with this special award. New this year, we will also recognize our **Inaugural Nonprofit Partner**, the **Long Island Association**.

Party with us as we celebrate an in-gala preview of our new permanent exhibit, **Saltwater Stories: We Need the Sea & the Sea Needs Me.**

AWARDS & ACCREDITATIONS



LICM has received local and national recognition for its exhibitions, programs, and community initiatives.



To learn more, get involved, or to donate, visit www.licm.org/about/ or email us at Development@licm.org.



Long Island Children's Museum

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