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CHILDREN'S MUSEUM OFFERS AFFORDABLE, ENRICHING ARTS EDUCATION FOR YOUNG CHILDREN

Garden City, NY –Long Island Children's Museum (LICM) continues its role as a vital developmental resource for young children with its popular Little Learners Art Lab program. As a cornerstone of early childhood development in the community, LICM designs experiences that foster critical thinking, creativity and social growth during these formative years.

Each week, children are introduced to artists, techniques and genres through hands-on materials, artmaking and real-world inspiration. The Museum's curriculum helps young minds build critical thinking skills, expand vocabulary and support imagination through play, creation and exploration.

The weekly program provides exceptional educational value at a price point accessible to all families. Each Little Learners Art Lab class is \$4 with Museum admission (\$3 for Museum members). Tickets are required for each child participating.

The program is thoughtfully designed to build socialization skills in little ones while also creating meaningful connection opportunities for the "big kids" accompanying them. Parents, grandparents and caregivers benefit from social interaction with other grown-ups, too!

"Little Learners Art Lab was designed to stimulate imaginations and instill a love of art making in our youngest visitors," explains LICM Director of Education Ashley Niver. LICM's Early Childhood programs incorporate visual and performing arts elements in recognition of the importance of early exposure to the arts for young children's development. "Weekly sessions are designed to maximize the developmental value to children while keeping costs low for parents and caregivers.

Themes change weekly, offering new experiences for the young learned. Upcoming classes feature a diverse lineup of themed activities, including "Out of this World"

space exploration, nature-inspired "May Flowers" with Claude Monet influences, and "Under the Sea" creations using recycled materials.

Weekly Themes

May 1 - Out of this World!

To promote the remaining days of the Moon to Mars traveling exhibit, students and families will explore texture in this moon-themed activity!

May 8 - Great Big Book of Everything!

Create an exploration journal for all your crafts and adventures.

May 15 - May Flowers

Come create and collage with flowers inspired by Claude Monet's work.

May 22 - Art in Bloom

Students will paint a terracotta pot, plant a seed, and watch their creations bloom over the next few weeks!

May 29 - Crystallized Creations

Come experiment with us to see what happens when we add salt to our works of art.

June 5 - Auto Artistry

Explore texture and patterns while painting with various types of wheels. Students will also design their own miniature car!

June 12 - Dots of Expression: Fun with Pointillism

Come explore the techniques used in expressionism art!

June 19 - Picture Perfect Frames

Children will create abstract self-portraits that reflect who they are, and then design a unique frame to display their art.

June 26 - Under the Sea

Students will explore texture by making an octopus bubble wrap print. Students will also be using recycled materials to design and create their own jellyfish or other sea creatures.

Little Learners Art Lab provides families with high-quality early childhood education at a fraction of the cost of private art classes or specialized preschool programs. The program's affordability ensures that all children in the community have access to enriching artistic experiences that contribute to cognitive, social, and emotional development.

Parents seeking quality, affordable early childhood enrichment can register their children for the popular Little Learners Art Lab, held every Thursday from 11:30 a.m. to Noon at the Long Island Children's Museum.

Museum admission: **\$18** for adults and children over 1 year old, **\$16** for seniors, FREE to Museum members and children under 1 year old. Additional fees for theater and special programs may apply. For additional information, contact 516-224-5800.

Hours: (September-June) Tuesday through Sunday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and most school holidays.

About the Long Island Children's Museum (www.licm.org)

The mission of Long Island Children's Museum (LICM) 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 serves over 300,000 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.

Recognized with several honors, including the National Medal from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS), LICM is accredited by the American Alliance of Museums (AAM), the gold standard of museum excellence. It is currently the only accredited children's museum in New York State and is one of only 16 accredited children's museums nationwide. LICM has earned 4-stars on Charity Navigator and has Platinum Transparency on Candid.