



For Immediate Release
November 27, 2024

Contact: Victoria Picinich
(401) 273-5437 x120
picinich@providencechildrensmuseum.org

For up to the minute information, check out PCM's website and social media channels.



For inquiries, photos, press previews and interviews, please contact Victoria Picinich, Director of Development and External Relations at picinich@providencechildrensmuseum.org

Providence Children's Museum Unveils New "Big Block Party" Exhibit

PROVIDENCE, RI - Providence Children's Museum (PCM) announces the opening of its newest exhibit, "Big Block Party," featuring an innovative collection of big blue blocks from Providence-based Imagination Playground. The exhibit officially opens to the public on December 6, 2024, following a special preview event for museum members and supporters.

Made possible through a generous grant from Rhode Island Commerce as well as support from Armbrust Foundation, "Big Block Party" encourages children ages 1-10 to unleash their creativity through open-ended play. The exhibit features an array of oversized blocks, including bricks and cylinders, complemented by chutes, channels, and connecting pieces that inspire motion and connectivity. This installation will be the first based in Rhode Island for the Providence business.

"Big Block Party represents everything we believe in at Providence Children's Museum – the power of imaginative play to spark creativity, problem-solving, and joy," says **Caroline Payson, Executive Director of Providence Children's Museum**. "We're particularly proud to partner with Imagination Playground, a local Rhode Island business, to bring this innovative play experience to our community. Thanks to Rhode Island Commerce's support, we can continue our mission of providing transformative play experiences that inspire lifelong learning for all children."

"Our mission at Imagination Playground is to encourage children to get creative, work together and have fun. We are thrilled to partner with Providence Children's Museum and Rhode Island Commerce to promote this mission in our hometown of Providence, RI. I encourage parents, teachers and caregivers to take advantage of the many enriching and educational opportunities that Providence Children's Museum offers; especially the Big Block Party. When communities work together to provide safe, positive spaces for children to learn and play, we are helping the next generation to grow up healthy and happy" said **Imagination Playground CEO Jim Stallman**.



"We're proud to support Providence Children Museum's Big Block Party. This new exhibit will not only foster creativity, learning, and community growth - but will also help inspire the next generation of creative thinkers in Rhode Island," said **Secretary of Commerce Liz Tanner**.

"Big Block Party" transforms traditional building block play into an immersive experience where children can design their own inventions and environments. The versatile nature of these blocks, created by Providence's own Imagination Playground, allows young visitors to become architects, engineers, and inventors of their own unique creations.

Media Opportunities: Members and supporters preview event: December 5, 2024 Time: 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM

Photo and video opportunities of children exploring the new exhibit

Interview opportunities with:

PCM leadership

Imagination Playground representative

Rhode Island Commerce representative

B-roll opportunities of exhibit installation and first-play experiences

Media representatives are asked to RSVP to

picinich@providencechildrensmuseum.org by December 4th.

The public opening on December 6th welcomes families to experience this new addition during regular museum hours: daily from 9:30 AM to 12:30 PM and 1:30 PM to 4:30 PM.

The **Providence Children's Museum** serves children and adults of all backgrounds and from all communities. Its focus is on children, ages 1 to 11, and the adults who care for them by presenting hands-on, play-based exhibits and programs that explore arts, culture and science, technology, engineering, and math.

Imagination Playground is a breakthrough portable playground designed to encourage child-directed, unstructured free play. Handcrafted Providence, Rhode Island, the award-winning Blue Blocks are a low cost, easy to clean, waterproof foam play system that can be used both indoors or out on a variety of surfaces. With a focus on loose parts, the durable blocks inspire children to design their own course of play; individually or in a group. Developed in 2009, Imagination Playground's Big Blue Blocks provide a much-needed alternative to excessive screen time, and help children develop their social, cognitive and motor skills in a fun and creative environment.

Rhode Island Commerce's economic development mission is to act as a resource to everyone invested in making Rhode Island a premier place to live and do business.