



The Colorado Health Foundation™

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Children's Museum of Denver Receives \$1.9 Million Grant from The Colorado Health Foundation

Award will support the Museum's \$16.1 million expansion and health and wellness-focused programming and exhibits

Denver, CO – The Colorado Health Foundation awarded a \$1.9 million grant to support the Children's Museum of Denver; \$1.2 million for the Museum's expansion project that will double its size, and over \$700,000 to support specific health and wellness-focused programming.

The three-year grant will support multiple areas of the Museum's new health and wellness initiatives, which include educational programming and three new interactive exhibits.

- **Altitude**, a 3 ½ story indoor climbing structure that will stimulate multiple modes of physical activity, test children's skills and encourage safe risk-taking while children "climb through Colorado."
- **Joy Park: An Outdoor Adventure**, a 30,000 square foot year-round outdoor space full of open-ended, vigorous play experiences to activate children's minds, bodies and imaginations through engagement with the natural world.
- **The Teaching Kitchen**, a heavily programmed kitchen with kid-sized facilities where children and caregivers will explore new foods and flavors, and learn to make healthy, delicious meals and snacks together.

"Learning health habits early in a child's life is fundamental for them to develop and maintain a healthy lifestyle. With one in four children being overweight or obese in Colorado, it's imperative to concentrate on learning healthy habits," said Khanh Nguyen, portfolio director – Healthy Living, Colorado Health Foundation. "The Children's Museum recognizes the importance of health and wellness and through their ingenious design, have woven health into experiences that will delight and help our kids grow into healthy adults. We are fortunate to have such an extraordinary partner as we work to make Colorado the healthiest state in the nation."

Health and wellness has been a focus of the Children's Museum of Denver for many years, working to create positive, inspiring experiences that promote good health for children and their caregivers. Through events, family programming and interactive exhibits, including a recently opened dental health exhibit, the Museum's goal to support the whole child is at the forefront of their future growth.

“The Colorado Health Foundation is an incredible partner to the Children’s Museum,” said Mike Yankovich, Museum president and CEO. “Their support is allowing so many things to come to light – our focus on nutrition and the importance of parent/child relationships in the kitchen, and the exuberant, active play that so many kids aren’t experiencing today.”

Construction for the expanded Museum is near completion and prototyping for exhibit features is underway. Joy Park will open in June 2015, while Altitude and the Teaching Kitchen will open in late 2015 as a part of the grand opening of the new Children’s Museum of Denver at Marsico Campus. The Colorado Health Foundation is joined in their support of the Museum’s health and wellness initiative and expansion project by numerous generous corporate, foundation and individual donors.

About the Children’s Museum of Denver

The Children's Museum of Denver believes in kid-powered learning. Every day, expertly designed exhibits and programs open doors for Colorado's curious young minds to express what they know and to discover, create and explore more - on their own terms.

Since 1973, the Children’s Museum of Denver has served the metro-Denver community as a learning institute dedicated to the education and growth of young children, newborn through age 8, and their caregivers. The Museum provides rich play experiences and a dynamic learning environment for children to joyously learn through innovative and interactive Playscapes (hands-on exhibits), engaging daily programming and year-round special events. Last year, they served more than 359,000 children and their grown-ups.

The Museum is currently under construction on a \$16.1 million expansion to create a 9-acre campus and new experiences; doubling the size of the current facility. The expansion is slated for completion late 2015.

The Children’s Museum of Denver is a 501(c)(3), private non-profit organization, and a Tier II SCFD member.

About the Colorado Health Foundation

The Colorado Health Foundation works to make Colorado the healthiest state in the nation by ensuring that all Colorado kids are fit and healthy and that all Coloradans achieve stable, affordable and adequate health coverage to improve their health with support from a network of primary health care and community services. To advance our mission, the Foundation engages the community through grantmaking, public policy, investing in evaluation, private sector partnerships and strategic communications. For more information, please visit www.ColoradoHealth.org.

Children’s Museum of Denver Contacts:

Zoe Ocampo, Associate Director of Marketing and Membership
303-561-0111, office | 303-895-0066, cell
zoeo@cmdenver.org

Rachael Fischer, Marketing Coordinator
303-561-0101, office | 719-214-4089, cell
rachaelf@cmdenver.org

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