



San Diego Children's Discovery Museum Contact:  
Kathleen Sandoval, Director of Marketing & Events  
[KathleenS@sdcdm.org](mailto:KathleenS@sdcdm.org)  
(760) 233-7755 x1010

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Media Contact:  
Sara Wacker, APR  
[Sara@bloomprsandiego.com](mailto:Sara@bloomprsandiego.com)  
(858) 945-1104

## **San Diego Children's Discovery Museum Appoints Christina Piranio as New CEO**

**ESCONDIDO, CA – December 6, 2023:** San Diego Children's Discovery Museum (SDCDM), a hands-on children's museum with a focus on STREAM (science, technology, reading, engineering, art, and math) education, announced today that Christina Piranio will join the Museum as Chief Executive Officer on January 8, 2024. With over 20 years of nonprofit management experience, Piranio is a creative problem solver who works to strategically maximize the power of collaboration to achieve equity in communities.

"Christina is joining the Museum at an exciting time in its 25-year history," said Amanda Flisher, board chair. "Christina is a dedicated supporter of SDCCDM and is poised to lead the Museum with vision and experience, ensuring a bright and innovative future for our organization and the children we serve."

Piranio has a wealth of professional experience she brings to the role. She most recently served as the Director of Philanthropy at Voices for Children, leading the research, writing, and administration of private and public institutional funding. Prior to Voices for Children, she played a pivotal role at Thrive Scholars, where she scaled operations and programs for a growing national organization. Her journey with Thrive Scholars began as the Alumni and Mentorship Program Manager, to Director of Programs, to Executive Director of the Los Angeles branch, matching over 250 professional mentors with first-generation college students.

"I first visited San Diego Children's Discovery Museum with my daughter six years ago. I immediately felt a connection to the organization as I watched my daughter learn through play and explore new subjects through programming that was expertly curated for children her age," said Piranio. "I am excited to champion the Museum and further our efforts to inspire children to learn about our world through exploration, imagination, and experimentation. We play a unique and critical role in the lives of so many children and families, and I look forward to working with our amazing team to make the Museum flourish!"

Piranio holds an MA in Nonprofit Leadership and Management from the University of San Diego and a BA in English from UCSB. Her extensive nonprofit work experience includes Cancer Support Community, Casa Cornelia Law Center, First Place for Youth, International Rescue Committee, and the Washington Village Neighborhood Planning Council. In January 2019, she volunteered as an SDCDM event committee member, demonstrating her strong commitment to the Museum's mission.

Piranio steps into the role as former SDCDM CEO, Krishna Kabra, retires from the organization after successfully developing the Museum's first strategic plan, launching a successful annual STEMposium learning event, and implementing vital processes and strategies to cement SDCDM's reputation for innovative and impactful learning. Throughout Kabra's tenure, over 180,000 children and families received access to quality hands-on education.

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### **About San Diego Children's Discovery Museum**

San Diego Children's Discovery Museum's mission is to spark a love of learning so all children can discover their wildest dreams. Its vision is to be the leader in inventive early childhood education. The Museum's hands-on educational exhibits and programs focus on science, technology, reading, engineering, art, and math (STREAM) for children up to age 10. The Museum is affiliated with the Association of Children's Museums and the San Diego Museum Council. To learn more about the Museum, visit [sdcdm.org](http://sdcdm.org).