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RELEASE
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FOR IMMEDIATE

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San Diego Children's Discovery Museum Receives Grant Awards Supporting Virtual Programs During Pandemic

Escondido, CA - San Diego Children's Discovery Museum is pleased to announce that it recently received two esteemed grant awards in support of the Museum's ongoing efforts to provide engaging virtual educational content to its community—both in San Diego County and beyond—during the global COVID-19 pandemic.

“Since our Museum closed in March 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, our team has been diligently working to adapt the Museum experience into a virtual format, while also staying true to our mission and values,” said Wendy Taylor, Executive Director of San Diego Children's Discovery Museum. “We want to support children and families now, when they need it the most, by providing a sense of normalcy and fun through these new virtual programs and educational resources.”

In support of these efforts, the Museum received \$15,000 from the California Humanities' CA CARES grant program which seeks to aid in the relief and recovery of public humanities organizations that have been negatively impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. This award enables the Museum to continue serving the needs of its broader community despite its current closure by providing virtual programs and supplementary educational resources—like daily STREAM-focused activities, live story times on social media, and virtual summer camps—for children and families who are navigating the unprecedented challenges of remote learning during the pandemic. It will also allow the Museum to build capacity to more effectively engage children and families online and improve access to these supplemental learning opportunities.

“Since March, our ‘Activities at Home’ video playlist featuring hands-on educational activities has garnered over 20,000 followers on Facebook, and our live story times have attracted viewers from throughout San Diego County, the United States, and even from other countries around the globe,” said Taylor. “We’re committed to creating these educational offerings that anyone can access and enjoy, and we’re excited to expand upon them moving forward with brand-new and reimagined existing programs.”

Additional support for these efforts comes from the Nissan Foundation, which awarded the Museum \$10,000 to continue its popular Roots event series in a new virtual format. Entering its eighth year, the Roots series celebrates the diverse cultures and histories of San Diego County's population by highlighting several countries or world cultures throughout the year through traditional music, dance, storytelling, imaginary play, art activities, and more. The series invites families to experience the unique richness of San Diego's diversity while building community, increasing cultural awareness and acceptance, deepening civic pride, and participating in intercultural dialogue.

"We are very grateful to the Nissan Foundation and California Humanities for their instrumental support of our efforts to both steward our mission and meet our community's needs in new, innovative ways during these challenging times," concluded Taylor.

To learn more about the Museum's virtual offerings, visit online.sdcdm.org.

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San Diego Children's Discovery Museum's mission is to inspire children to learn about our world through exploration, imagination, and experimentation. Its vision is to be a model community children's museum providing access to authentic hands-on learning experiences to develop the whole child, lifelong learners, and global citizens. The Museum's hands-on educational exhibits and programs focus on science, art, and world cultures for children up to age 10. The Museum is affiliated with the Association of Children's Museums, as well as the San Diego Museum Council.