



**For Immediate Release**

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**Cayton Children's Hosted Playmakers Gala on November 14**

*Guests celebrated 'The Magic of Play' with host Patrick Warburton*

**Santa Monica, CA** (November 21, 2024) – This past Thursday, the Cayton Children's Museum hosted its annual Playmakers Gala, which took place at the Skirball Cultural Center. This year's event was hosted by American actor and producer, Patrick Warburton, as the gala celebrated 'The Magic of Play' in support of the museum's general operations and its PLAY4ALL access initiatives. This year's gala raised a **total of \$580,000 in** funds which will provide free museum access to low-income families, Title 1 Schools, and non-profit partners.

The evening featured a dinner, an auction, and a live program that honored visionaries, partners, and community leaders who make the Los Angeles community a better place, including:

- Co-founders of Los Angeles-based architecture and design firm **OFFICEUNTITLED (OU)**, **Shawn Gehle and Christian Robert**, who designed Cayton Children's Museum and were guided by their shared belief in the power of play. Driven by curiosity, creativity, and the desire to push the boundaries of how spaces inspire, Shawn and Christian approached the project with a fresh perspective and drew from the most authentic sources of inspiration: their own children's innate sense of wonder and exploration.
- Long-time supporters of the Cayton and community leaders, **Stacey and Larry Kohl**, who are both Directors of the George Lopez Foundation. Lawrence 'Larry' J. Kohl, is a former Board member of Cayton Children's Museum, and is a philanthropic supporter of many other charities and educational institutions in Los Angeles, around the United States, and internationally. Born and raised in Los Angeles, Stacey Kohl has conducted her own philanthropic pursuits and made a point of focusing on supporting children with special needs. Stacey is dedicated to making a positive impact in helping others to create a better world and make a difference.

- President of Television of North Road Company, **Amy Israel**, who has been a committed supporter for Cayton Children’s Museum’s equity and inclusion initiatives like the PLAY4ALL program. Through her support, she has helped to provide more opportunities for play that opens the doors to the wonder and discovery that will foster the next generation of brilliant storytellers.

“We are proud and honored to celebrate the magic of play and those who make it possible for children in our community,” said Cayton Children’s Museum Interim CEO, Barry VanDeman. “It was a memorable night that will ensure hundreds more children throughout the Los Angeles area will have the opportunity to learn, grow and PLAY at the Cayton.”

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**About Cayton Children’s Museum:**

Cayton Children’s Museum, located in Downtown Santa Monica just steps from the Pacific Ocean, is a nonprofit organization that activates the power of PLAY to enrich the lives of children and their families, build stronger, more connected communities, and create a better world. Originally founded as the Zimmer Children's Museum in 1991, Cayton Children's Museum officially opened to the public in 2019 with 30 years of experience in values-based learning. The 21,000-square-foot space offers hands-on exhibits and immersive play, with a robust calendar of arts and cultural activities designed for children 0 to 8 and their families including public programs, classes, workshops, and more. To learn more about the Cayton Children's Museum, visit [www.caytonmuseum.org](http://www.caytonmuseum.org) and follow on [Instagram](#), [Facebook](#), [YouTube](#), and [Pinterest](#).