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**Press
Release**

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For Immediate Release

Children's Museum of Manhattan Hosts 11th Annual Pride Night: A Celebration of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Parents, Extended Family and Friends

New York, NY, June 13, 2017 – The Children's Museum of Manhattan (CMOM), announced today that it will host its Annual LGBTQ Pride Night on Thursday, June 22 from 5:30 – 7:30 pm. Admission to the event is FREE, but RSVPs are required. The evening serves as a celebration of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender parents and children, as well as extended family and friends.

The special after-hours event includes healthy snacks, volunteer- and educator- facilitated art activities, as well as exclusive access to the Museum's five floors of fun, interactive exhibits, including such favorites as *Adventures with Dora and Diego*, *EatSleepPlay™: Building Health Every Day*, *Dynamic H₂O*, and *America to Zanzibar: Muslim Cultures Near and Far*.

Children will be invited to mix paint on the Museum's famous Mural Wall. They can train to be superheroes and come up with special moves inspired by superhero theme music. Throughout the evening families will be able to take photos with Maddie the New York Liberty's Mascot, meet special guest transgender youth activist Rebekah Bruesehoff, and join in a hip-hop dance party with dance teaching artist and choreographer Neil Fernando. Goldman Sachs Community TeamWorks volunteers will be on hand to assist visitors throughout the event.

"The importance of family in a young child's life cannot be overstated. The Children's Museum thrives today because of families – families as diverse as New York itself. We are so happy to be able to provide a place that is safe, fun and nurturing to all families. We hope the LGBT community looks forward to this event as much as we do," said Andrew Ackerman, the Children's Museum's executive director.

Hosting Pride Night offers another opportunity for CMOM to continue its celebration of families and diversity while encouraging dialogue in an environment that fosters social networking for parents and their children. Pride Night special programs for all ages include:

- **Special Guest Host, Transgender Youth Activist Rebekah Bruesehoff**

- **Meet Maddie:** Say hello to the beloved Maddie, the New York Liberty's Mascot!
- **Hip-hop Dance Party with Neil Fernando:** This dance teaching artist and choreographer uses pop music, hip-hop and funk to get everyone movin' and groovin'.
- **Drag Queen Story Hour:** Join Reverend Yolanda for a very special Story Time from the Drag Queen Story Hour program
- **Family Photo Booth:** Hop into the photo booth with Victory Photos and have fun with your family and new friends.
- **Mural Wall Painting:** Mix paint with new friends on the PlayWorks™ mural wall!
- **Cue the Theme Music!—Superheroes in Training:** Prepare for the challenge of being a superhero! Train through a series of obstacle course games and come up with special movements inspired by superhero themed music from your favorite movies and shows.
- **Rainbow Bracelets:** Spin, sway and dance with colors as you combine colorful rainbow ribbons to make your very own rainbow bracelets!
- **Parachute Play:** Blue and green, yellow and red. What colors can you find over head?

Admission to the event is FREE, but RSVPs are required and can be secured at [Eventbrite: The Annual LGBTQ Pride Night at the Children's Museum of Manhattan](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/the-annual-lgbtq-pride-night-at-the-childrens-museum-of-manhattan-tickets-34368543238?aff=ehomecard). (<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/the-annual-lgbtq-pride-night-at-the-childrens-museum-of-manhattan-tickets-34368543238?aff=ehomecard>)

Funding for Pride Night is made possible with the generous support of Goldman Sachs Community TeamWorks. Promotional support is provided by the New York Liberty.

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About Children's Museum of Manhattan

The Children's Museum of Manhattan – a nonprofit, citywide resource for children, families and educators – works to ensure children thrive at home, at school and in the community. Based on West 83rd Street, with over 350,000 visitors annually, the Museum creates hands-on learning environments, programs, and curricula through an alchemy of fun, research and museum science. In addition to its commitment to delight and educate visitors, the Museum offers resources and strategies for parents, caregivers, and educators to help children become lifelong learners. Thousands more New Yorkers also benefit from the Museum's offering through its outreach programs at schools, Head Start centers, shelters, libraries and hospitals. For more information, please visit www.cmom.org.