



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **CMOM to Moderate SWSW EDU 2025 Panel on Transforming Everyday Spaces into Early Learning Hubs**



**Austin, TX** – The Children’s Museum of Manhattan (CMOM) will take the stage at **SXSW EDU 2025** on March 6 at 10 a.m. to moderate an innovative panel titled **“Reimagining Everyday Places as Early Learning Hubs.”** This dynamic discussion will explore how sidewalks, parks, shelters, and even jails can be transformed into nurturing, accessible learning environments that foster educational equity for all children.

SXSW EDU 2025 selected CMOM’s panel from more than 1,400 session proposals and 43,000 public votes through its PanelPicker process, making it one of 187 top-voted sessions. CMOM’s panel, developed in partnership with MathTalk, Playful Learning Landscapes Action Network, and Out Teach, will focus on community-driven solutions that bridge early learning gaps between affluent and under-resourced communities.

### **Session Overview**

Young children spend nearly 80% of their time outside of school, yet many lack access to joyful, hands-on learning experiences. This panel will explore innovative programs that repurpose everyday spaces into vibrant early learning hubs and showcase how strategic philanthropic investments and community collaboration can create more equitable learning opportunities.

### **Key Takeaways**

- The importance of reimagining ordinary or overlooked spaces as early learning environments to promote equity.
- Innovative programs that convert outdoor school grounds, parks, shelters, and jails into nurturing, play-based learning spaces.
- The role of strategic investments in scaling experiential learning models.

### **Featured Speakers Include:**

- **Leslie Bushara**, Chief Program Officer, Children’s Museum of Manhattan
- **Claudia Ferrara**, Regional Growth Officer, MathTalk
- **Sarah Lytle**, Executive Director, Playful Learning Landscapes Action Network
- **Jeanne McCarty**, Chief Executive Officer, Out Teach

This session was organized in collaboration with Katelyn Fletcher, Portfolio Associate at Overdeck Family Foundation, in partnership with the Robin Hood Foundation.

Further interview opportunities with Leslie Bushara are available upon request.

Learn more about our session: <https://lnkd.in/eXVj5EMg>

Watch a video about the session: <https://youtu.be/HLbDFulMpGo>

### **About the Children’s Museum of Manhattan**

For more than 50 years, the Children’s Museum of Manhattan (CMOM) has been a resource for families and caregivers, filling a gap in educational services for children in New York City and beyond. Through research-based programming at the museum and throughout the five boroughs of New York, CMOM supports the social, emotional, and cognitive growth of children during critical years of development.

Located on West 83rd Street in Manhattan, CMOM develops and presents hands-on exhibits and activities designed to help children become lifelong learners. Dedicated to being accessible to all families, including those in need, CMOM partners with New York City agencies, Head Start facilities, shelters, and more to provide transformative learning experiences through exploration and play.

In 2024, CMOM launched the final phase of its \$300 million campaign to move to a new location on West 96th Street and Central Park West. Expected to open in 2028, the new museum will give CMOM more than twice the visitor capacity of the current museum and enable it to develop new exhibits and experiences that expand the age range of the children CMOM serves, extending from birth to 10 years old.

For more information, visit **cmom.org**.

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