



Contact: Twania Brewster
(312) 735-6595

TwaniaB@chicagochildrensmuseum.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHICAGO CHILDREN MUSEUM REDUCES STAFF IN RESPONSE TO CORONAVIRUS SUSPENSION OF GUEST FACING OPERATIONS

CHICAGO, IL (June 2, 2020) — Chicago Children’s Museum (CCM) laid off 77 staff members and furloughed 6 positions in the face of the dimming prospect of a fast recovery from the pandemic. Since the closure of the museum on March 13, Chicago Children’s Museum shifted its focus to a robust digital presence to support and reach its audience of museum members and caregivers of children. Yesterday, the Board of Directors approved the layoffs and reduced operations in order to drastically cut costs. Staff were notified of these actions the same day.

“While this is a painful time for all of us, these difficult decisions will best position Chicago Children’s Museum for the future health and well-being of the institution, our donors, members, and community stakeholders,” said Chicago Children’s Museum CEO and President Jennifer Farrington.

The remaining staff of 20 employees will work on building out reopening plans and activating the CCM mission closer to homes, schools and communities.

“Cultural organizations across the city and the nation are managing the intensity of the global pandemic amidst the uncertainty around when and how we re-open to the public,” said Farrington. “We have taken significant steps to reduce expenses, secure additional financing, and other actions to continue our work outside of the museum until it is safe to reopen in our Navy Pier physical space.”

The museum has no projected opening date.

About Chicago Children’s Museum

The mission of Chicago Children's Museum (CCM) is to improve children’s lives by creating a community where play and learning connect. CCM is dedicated to young children and the important adults in their lives. Play-filled experiences, including more than 15 interactive exhibits and daily programming, tap into how kids learn, and engage from ages 0-10 to develop the foundation for a lifelong love of learning. In its last fiscal year, CCM hosted more than 400,000 visitors. While the museum is closed temporarily, CCM has moved online. Visit the [Parenting Playbook](#) filled with tips, tricks and play-filled exploration for parents and caregivers. For more information, please visit www.ChicagoChildrensMuseum.org.

###