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**CHICAGO CHILDREN'S MUSEUM'S SKYLINE EXHIBIT EARNS
SPECIAL ACHIEVEMENT IN COOPERATIVE LEARNING FROM
AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF MUSEUMS**

Chicago, IL—May 26, 2010—Chicago Children's Museum (CCM) was awarded a *Special Achievement in Cooperative Learning* by the American Association of Museums (AAM) in recognition of their *Skyline* exhibit in the 22 Annual Excellence in Exhibition Competition. The award was announced at the 2010 AAM Annual Meeting in Los Angeles on May 25.

The competition recognizes outstanding achievement in the exhibition format from all types of museums, zoos, aquariums, botanical garden and other non-commercial institutions offering public exhibitions. Exhibitions were judged based on effectiveness in categories of audience awareness, content, communication, design and accessibility.

"I am so proud of this award," said Chicago Children's Museum President and CEO Jennifer Farrington. " *Skyline* is the physical manifestation of a tremendous effort that included research and programming, and this was done by an amazing and dedicated exhibit team."

The museum shares the award with the exhibit designer, Gyroscope Inc.

"Gyroscope takes great pride in the AAM award and our collaboration with CCM," said Maeryta Medrano, AIA, LEED® AP, and founder and President of Gyroscope. "We believe that DESIGN MATTERS, and that our design for *Skyline* created thoughtful, sustainable and inventive solutions to support learning behaviors."

Sponsored by Case Construction Equipment, *Skyline* is designed to engage children and families in the science of construction and architecture, and inspire them to see connections between buildings and basic science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) principles. The exhibition was developed as part of the Partnership of Playful Learners (PPL), a multi-year grant awarded to CCM by the National Science Foundation to investigate the effectiveness of family-learning and collaborative-learning of STEM content in informal learning settings.

The focus of *Skyline* is collaborative learning. Families work together to build large-scale buildings and engage in reflective storytelling to reveal their own problem solving processes. Families and visitor groups use real-world materials, including wooden struts, bolts, nuts, and tools to create structures such as skyscrapers, houses, furniture, bridges, even animals. Views of the city's skyline within the exhibit connect visitors to Chicago's architecture while providing

inspiration. The exhibition is also unique in that it is both a functioning platform for research into family learning, as well as a reflection of current research about how families learn in museums.

About Chicago Children's Museum

The mission of Chicago Children's Museum is to create a community where play and learning connect. CCM is the only cultural institution in the city dedicated to young children and the important adults in their lives. Playful experiences, including over fifteen interactive exhibits and programming spaces, tap into how kids learn, and engage them at an early age so they develop a lifelong love of learning.

Located at Navy Pier, Chicago's number one attraction at 700 East Grand Avenue, CCM is the final stop for CTA buses #29, #65, #66 and #124. For more information, please visit www.chicagochildrensmuseum.org.

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