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## CAPTAIN YOUR OWN ADVENTURE THIS SUMMER AT CHICAGO CHILDREN'S MUSEUM

*BOATS PROVIDES AN AUTHENTIC NAUTICAL EXPERIENCE WITH NAVY PIER VIEWS OF LAKE MICHIGAN!*

Chicago, IL, May 11, 2022— Children become captains of their own adventures when *Boats* opens at Chicago Children's Museum (CCM) on Thursday May 26, 2022. *Boats* aims to promote active, pretend play, with a rich assortment of actual boats and boating equipment, clothing, and props.

Designed by Chicago Children's Museum and supported by a generous gift from Chicago Yacht Club Foundation, *Boats* provides a nautical environment for the unstructured, pretend play that's essential for a child's development, particularly for Pre-K through early-elementary ages. Littles can fully engage in make-believe play, build language and problem-solving skills, work through emotions, and learn how to collaborate with their peers. This exhibit taps into children's natural fascination with boats, allowing them to captain their own nautical adventure and play with an abandon, not possible in a real boating situation.

From bow to stern, *Boats* offers a holistic nautical experience, with a lake-inspired color palette, authentic signage and materials, and accoutrements, such as captain's jacket and life vests, steering wheels, sails, buoys, fishing poles and bait and realistic Lake Michigan fish, all representative of the lake right outside.

Whether seasoned sailor or nautical novice, kids of all ages will be inspired to create their own lake-faring scenarios, like steering the ship, kayaking, hoisting the sail or dropping a fishing line to catch "the big one." A two-level work boat, complete with a bunk and kitchen prep area, features a wheelchair-accessible lower cabin and boundless opportunities for kids to become cooks, biologists, captains, deck hands or whatever roles they choose.

Zoom Room, currently in the Lake View gallery will end its run for *Boats: Captain Your Own Adventure* installation from May 16 until May 26. For more information about *Boats: Captain Your Own Adventure*, visit [www.chicagochildrensmuseum.org/boats](http://www.chicagochildrensmuseum.org/boats)

**About Chicago Yacht Club Foundation**

Founded in 1875, Chicago Yacht Club is one of the oldest and most respected yacht clubs in the world. It is home to more than 1,400 members, including a winning America's Cup skipper, Olympic medalists and hopefuls, and outstanding boaters of all types, from ages 4 to 100! For more than 90 years, the Chicago Yacht Club Sailing School has been a national leader in teaching children and adults how to Please visit <https://www.chicagoyachtclub.org/foundation> for more information on the Chicago Yacht Club Foundation.

### **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. CCM aims to deliver at least one-third of its total annual attendance to low-income or underserved community members. In its last fiscal year, CCM hosted more than 400,000 visitors. For more information, please visit [www.ChicagoChildrensMuseum.org](http://www.ChicagoChildrensMuseum.org).

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