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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ANNUAL MLK DAY PRODUCTION INTRODUCES CHILDREN TO THE LESSONS LEARNED FROM THE CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT

CHICAGO, IL, January 7, 2020 — Chicago Children's Museum (CCM) will present its annual '*What Does It Mean, Dr. King?*' performances on Sunday, January 19, 2020 and on Martin Luther King Day, Monday, January 20, 2020. This original production presents the history of the Civil Rights Movement and the complex issues of prejudice and equality in a way that children from preschool through elementary school will be able to comprehend.

"Talking about the Civil Rights Movement is an important family conversation," said CCM President and CEO Jennifer Farrington. "Our production opens the door to manageable conversations for children to digest very grown-up topics like diversity, inclusion, and community."

Written by museum staff, '*What Does It Mean, Dr. King?*' introduces the Civil Rights Movement to young visitors in an age-appropriate context. The play touches upon several key historical moments, including the Montgomery bus boycott, the integration of a New Orleans elementary school, and the March on Washington.

Children and adults are invited to identify with key figures of the Civil Rights Movement, like six-year-old Ruby Bridges and young Dr. King to understand the personal consequences of prejudice and exclusion.

Following the performance, children are encouraged to write letters to Dr. King. Last year, our young audience members wrote:

- "Thank you for leaving behind a better world for me."
- "Thank you for inspiring people of all colors to hold hands."
- "Thank you fighting for our rights peacefully."
- "Thank you for being brave. I'll keep this image of you in my mind always."

The performances are at 2:30pm on Sunday, January 19 and at 10:45am, 11:45am, 1:30pm, and 2:30pm on Monday, January 20 with a run time of approximately 20 minutes. The seating is on a first come, first served basis. Tickets are included in museum admission (\$19 for children and adults) and membership. For more details, visit: <https://www.chicagochildrensmuseum.org/what-does-it-mean-dr-king>

All other exhibits and programs throughout the museum will be open on MLK Day.

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.

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