



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Lara Litchfield-Kimber Joins Association of Children's Museums Board

POUGHKEEPSIE, NY – Lara Litchfield-Kimber, the Executive Director of the Mid-Hudson Children's Museum (MHCM) has been elected to serve on the board of the Association of Children's Museums (ACM). Lara joins a distinguished group of museum directors from around the world, and will serve a three year term, beginning October 1st. ACM is an international professional member service organization for the children's museum field with more than 400 members in 48 states and 20 countries, based in Arlington, Virginia.

The ACM is the only organization representing museums and professionals dedicated to early childhood play, the starting point in the continuum of lifelong learning. ACM collects data and trends, underwrites scholarships, and advocates by educating elected officials and stakeholders about children's museums' impact on children, families, and communities. ACM and its member organizations work together to identify major issue areas in which children's museums can and are making a difference in the lives of children and families, including health, multicultural awareness, access, and the importance of play.

The ACM's initiatives closely align with the Mid-Hudson Children's Museum's mission and vision, as stated below.

MHCM Mission: *to empower young children and their families.*

MHCM Vision: *a community in which each and every young child develops curiosity, confidence and self-worth.*

The Mid-Hudson Children's Museum has been a leader in the community through its efforts in community engagement, early education, and health and wellness. Focusing on equal access to early learning opportunities, the museum and its sponsors have provided free memberships to low income families. MHCM is the first children's museum in the entire nation to host a public farmer's market, filling a need for fresh, good-quality food and produce in the city of Poughkeepsie, a USDA designated "food desert."

Named "2017 Best Museum" by *Hudson Valley Magazine* and Hudson Valley's "2018 and 2017 Favorite Kid-Friendly Museum," by Kids Out And About, the Mid-Hudson Children's Museum is the ideal destination for families with young children. The Museum is located in the heart of the

historic waterfront in Poughkeepsie, nestled between two city parks, just steps away from the Poughkeepsie Metro-North Train Station, and fabulous restaurants.

The Mid-Hudson Children’s Museum is open Monday through Saturday from 9:30 am to 5:00 pm and Sunday from 11:00 am to 5:00 pm. Admission is \$9.00 per person. Children under 1 year old are free. Memberships are available. Visit mhcm.org or call 845- 471-0589 for more information.

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Photo Caption: Lara Litchfield-Kimber, Executive Director of the Mid-Hudson Children’s Museum.

