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**CHICAGO CHILDREN'S MUSEUM ANNOUNCES HEBRU BRANTLEY INSTALLATION
IN THE NEW THADDEUS AND EMILY WONG ART STUDIO**

***THE NEARLY \$1 MILLION DOLLAR GIFT FROM THADDEUS AND EMILY WONG BRINGS A
NARRATIVE-DRIVEN, IMMERSIVE ART-MAKING EXPERIENCE TO CHICAGO'S CHILDREN***

Chicago, IL (November 12, 2021) — Chicago Children's Museum (CCM) announced today at its virtual fundraising gala on Saturday, November 13 its collaboration with Hebru Brantley, a world-renowned, Chicago artist known for his iconic characters, Flyboy and Little Mama, to present the Kirby's Clubhouse installation. The collaboration and the installation were made possible by Thaddeus and Emily Wong who wanted to realize vibrant, child-centered arts programming inspired by Brantley's energetic and playful style.

"We could not be more grateful to Thad and Emily for their generous support of the cornerstone of Chicago Children's Museum mission," said CCM President and CEO Jennifer Farrington. "Their transformational gift will provide children the opportunity to develop their own creativity and self-expression through artistic exploration inspired by Hebru Brantley's work."

The Kirby's Clubhouse environment will offer an opportunity for children to make the space their own by telling their own stories and by making and displaying their own art within it. Designed to feel like a special clubhouse scaled just for children, a large-scale 2-dimensional art featuring Flyboy will be featured on the wall, giving Flyboy a presence in the space alongside the visiting children. Three-dimensional clouds, vintage toys, playful objects, and street signs are embedded in the structure to evoke a sense of nostalgia for parents, caregivers, and older children.

"As a native Chicagoan, I am excited to have created a little corner of the world for the young visitors of the Chicago Children's Museum," said artist Hebru Brantley. "My hope is that in these spaces, you will feel free to immerse and express yourselves in all sorts of creative ways. From an early age, I always loved comic books, anime, and art. However, growing up in Bronzeville, we did not have the access to artistic expression that is such a staple of Chicago culture today."

As a kid, a place like the Art Studio - a space where your imagination can soar, where you are provided the guidance, inspiration, and supplies to 'fly' with your creations, would have been one of my favorite places to be," added Brantley.

In addition to Kirby's Clubhouse, a large-scale Hebru Brantley sculpture on the South Dock of Navy Pier near CCM's entrance will welcome guests, invite interaction through observation, conversation, and photo opportunities, and build excitement for the experiences that awaits inside the museum.

"We have been going to the museum almost every weekend with our children for a decade. During each of our visits, the Art Studio was always an attractive stop," said Thaddeus Wong. "So, in our opinion to make the Art Studio a center for inspiration to attract more kid and help them to use their imagination."

"Hebru's body of work is just the artistic vision to represent Chicago and the imagination of all of its children," said Emily Wong.

The Kirby Clubhouse will open February 2022. The flyboy statue will be in place Spring 2022.

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. For more information, please visit www.ChicagoChildrensMuseum.org.

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