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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Children’s Museum of Atlanta is Diving into the New Year** **with Special Programming**

*Families are invited to enjoy an Ocean of Fun activities, with special programs including Martin Luther King Jr. Weekend and new featured exhibit*

**ATLANTA** **(Jan. 3, 2022) – “**Seas” the day at **Children’s Museum of Atlanta** with an Ocean of Fun special programming! Families will learn about all things aquatic, including sea creatures, how ships float and under water habitats. Little learners will experience and soak in information about all things under the sea through art, science, design and seasonal on-stage performances. In honor of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., the memorial weekend activities will give guests a glimpse into the life of the remarkable social change leader. Children and families are welcomed to ring in the Lunar New Year with a special dance performance by the Atlanta Chinese Dance Company. ***Splash and Bubbles: Dive In, Lend a Fin!,*** new exhibit based on the popular PBS KIDS TV show, “Splash and Bubbles,” a hit animated series that encourages children to explore ocean science and marine biology through character-driven comedy builds on kids’ connections to the characters and their habitats, immersing them in a larger-than-life marine environment and introducing them to the incredible world of ocean exploration.

**January Special Programming:**

**An Ocean of Fun**

*Through Tuesday, Jan. 31*

Guests will dive into the deep blue sea at Children’s Museum of Atlanta all month long to explore sea creatures, test buoyancy and create aquatic works of art!

**Building Blocks Early Learning Program**

*Weekdays only during sessions A and B*

Best for ages 1 to 3, these special programs facilitated by trained professionals in play-based activity. The Building Blocks Early Learning Program promotes preschool and kindergarten readiness with programs that align with the Georgia Early Learning and Development Standards for preschoolers.

**CMA On Stage**“Deep in the Ocean” by Lucie Brunellière Storytime + Scavenger Hunt
*Session A: 10 a.m., 11 a.m. and noon / Session B: 2 p.m., 3 p.m. and 4 p.m.*

**Science Bar**

Kiddos will venture into a beautiful coral reef filled with light and color to exercise critical thinking skills, all from the point of view of a damselfish. Adventurers will be challenged to sort through schools of fish putting scientific and inquisitive knowledge to the test! Building Blocks learners will exercise counting, sorting and motor function skills while feeding different colored shrimp and krill to the Children’s Museum of Atlanta whale at the Science Bar.

*Session A: 9:45 a.m. – 12:15 p.m. / Session B: 1:45 p.m. – 4:15 p.m.*

**Innovation Station**Young innovators design and build a boat or floatation device to learn about the science that makes objects sink and float with the added challenge of adding one hundred buttons to test the buoyancy of their creation! Building Blocks Learners will use crafts to create their own ultimate aquatic creation to overcome underwater obstacles and help their fish thrive during weekday sessions only.
*Session A: 9:45 a.m. / Session B 1:45 p.m.*

**Art Studio**
Guests have the opportunity to craft beautiful aquatic art pieces from paper plates to create a porthole into a deep sea of their own inspiration. Artists will choose what lies beneath the sea, from sea monsters that pop off the page to serene coral reefs, the only limit is the drawer's imagination!
*Session A: 9:45 a.m. / Session B 1:45 p.m.*

**Martin Luther King Jr. Weekend**

*Saturday, Jan. 14 – Monday, Jan. 16*

Children’s Museum of Atlanta welcomes families to spend the weekend honoring the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and learn about his dream for a better world!

**CMA On Stage**Martin Luther King Jr. Birthday Celebration Parade, song and fun facts!
*Session A: 10 a.m., 11 a.m. and noon / Session B: 2 p.m., 3 p.m. and 4 p.m.*

**Art Studio**
Guests will continue the celebration by making birthday cards for Dr. King’s birthday and creating a dream mobile in honor of the famous “I Have a Dream” speech.
*Session A: 9:45 a.m. / Session B 1:45 p.m.*

**Martin Luther King Jr. Day***Monday, Jan. 16*Little dreamers are invited to step into the Morph Gallery to wish Dr. King a happy birthday, share with him their ideas to help the world or tell him what they would do together if he was their best friend with on the Dream Collaborative Mural. Children will also be planting a seed at the tree of change with guest artist Martelle Belle.

**Atlanta Chinese Dance Company**

*Sunday, Jan. 22*

Families are invited to ring in the Lunar New Year in style at the CMA stage with a special performance by the Atlanta Chinese Dance Company.

**CMA On Stage**Atlanta Chinese Dance Company Performance
*Session A: 11 a.m. / Session B: 3 p.m.*

**Coming in January:**

*Jan., 21 – April 30, 2023*

***Splash and Bubbles: Dive In, Lend a Fin!*** is an interactive exhibit based on the popular kid’s animated series Splash and Bubbles, which is co-produced by the Jim Henson Company and Hershend Entertainment Studios and airs on PBS KIDS, encourages children to explore ocean science and marine biology. In this exhibit, guests will build connections to the characters and their habitats by immersing them in a larger-than-life marine environment and introducing them to the fun of ocean exploration, all while learning about ocean preservation and building scientific-inquiry and skills. Children will discover a whole new world as they navigate an under-the-sea maze in a kelp forest, explore a sunken ship, interact with the local puppet characters, and become Reef town Rangers to learn how to protect the ocean.

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**About Children’s Museum of Atlanta:**
Children’s Museum of Atlanta is the only educational venue of its kind in Atlanta, presenting educational programs and exhibits designed for young children ages 0-8. The mission of Children's Museum of Atlanta is to change the world by sparking every child's imagination, sense of discovery and learning through the power of play. With learning zones consisting of bright, creative and hands-on exhibits, the Museum supports inventive play-based exploration and experiential learning focused on the whole child. Core competencies for literacy, math and science are promoted throughout all exhibits and programming in alignment with the state and national Core Performance Standards. Funding has been provided by Georgia Humanities and the National Endowment for the Humanities as part of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021. For more information, please visit [GeorgiaHumanities.org](http://georgiahumanities.org/). Major support is provided by the Mayor's Office of Cultural Affairs and major funding is provided by the Fulton County Board of Commissioners. Children’s Museum of Atlanta also offers memberships. For more information or to support Children's Museum of Atlanta, visit [childrensmuseumatlanta.org](https://childrensmuseumatlanta.org/) or call 404.659.KIDS [5437].

**Museum Admission:** Online ticketing only is available at this time. Phone booking is available with ample notice and will be booked via online reservation. Members must pre-book and will be able to redeem their $5 voucher online. Babies 11 months and younger and members are admitted for free and must reserve their free ticket online prior to arriving at the Museum. All daily programs are included in price of admission. For more information regarding ticket and membership options, visit [childrensmuseumatlanta.org](https://childrensmuseumatlanta.org/)

**Museum Hours**: The Museum will operate in 2 three-hour sessions with one-hour cleaning between sessions. The hours for the month of January are 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. and 1:30-4:30 p.m. The Museum is closed on Wednesdays. Please check the Museum website to confirm hours of operation.