



Children's Museum
of Atlanta

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Children's Museum of Atlanta announces programming for May
Families can enjoy fun and educational programming all month long!

April showers bring a full month of May PLAY at **Children's Museum of Atlanta!** Whether they are investigating an abandoned dig site in the *Mystery of the Mayan Medallion* exhibit, building a keepsake box for Mother's Day or enjoying a kiddie-beach party during the Memorial Day Weekend Summer Bash, children can learn through the power of play! Below is a schedule of exhibit information and special programming for May 2016.

Feature Exhibit: "Mystery of the Mayan Medallion"
Available through May 31, 2016

Adventure awaits with the newest feature exhibit at Children's Museum of Atlanta! *Mystery of the Mayan Medallion*, an educational traveling exhibit created by The Museum of Discovery, invites little archeologists to embark on a quest to uncover coveted secrets of an ancient Mayan kingdom. Visitors will venture deep into the Mexican rainforest to investigate an abandoned dig site and discover priceless treasure through lessons in science, language and history. Whether they scamper across the creaky wooden bridge through the dangerous jungle, decode ancient hieroglyphics or identify Mayan constellations, children will interact with a variety of hands-on components, engaging activities and more.

***Note to media: hi-res images featuring Mystery of the Mayan Medallion exhibit are available upon request*

Themed daily programming during Mystery of the Mayan Medallion

Mini-Musical: Civilization Investigation

Weekdays at 11 a.m. and 12 p.m.

Weekends at 11 a.m. and 1 p.m.

Ever heard of the mystery of Bigfoot or the Lochness Monster? Nigel and Jessie, international explorers and masters of mystery, have not only heard of these mystery myths, but they've also solved them! Now, they've traveled all the way to Chichen Itza, Mexico to uncover the secrets of the Ancient Mayan Civilization. With the help of the Ancient Mayan High King, Kaloomatee, they'll decipher the constellations of stars, decode ancient hieroglyphs and even play a game of Pok-A-Tok. Children are invited to come on over to their dig site and help them solve another mystery!

Story Time: A Reading of "The Chocolate Tree: A Mayan Folktale," "The Rain Player" and "Mario's Mayan Journey"

Weekdays at 1 p.m.; Saturdays at 12 p.m.

- **"The Chocolate Tree: A Mayan Folktale" by Authors Linda Lowery and Richard Keep, illustrated by Janice Lee Porter**

Ever wonder where chocolate came from? We have the Mayan King Kukulkán to thank for that! Kukulkán is more than a king—he is also a god. One day, he brings his people an amazing gift: a chocolate tree! But there is just one problem... Kukulkán's brother, Night Jaguar, doesn't want

regular people to have the chocolate. He thinks only gods should be able to eat the tempting treat. Will Night Jaguar prevail? Or will the Mayans get to keep their chocolate tree?

- **“The Rain Player” by David Wisniewski**
The ancient Mayan belief that the future was divinely decreed and cannot be changed is the basis for this original tale of a boy who must defeat the Rain God in a ball game to save his people from disaster. Mayan art and architecture were the inspiration for the spectacular cut-paper artwork.
- **“Mario’s Mayan Journey” by Michelle McCunney**
Mario awoke with a start, and when he went outside, two Mayan children were waiting for him! Join Mario and his friends, as they explore the land of the ancient Maya.

Music and Movement

Weekdays at 2 p.m. and weekends at 3 p.m.

- **Dance of the Deer**
Children can listen to the drums of the Mayan people and learn *The baile de venados* — the dance of the deer — which is a traditional dance of the Maya in Guatemala that shows how humans need to respect nature!
- **Relay for Chocolate**
Did you know chocolate was discovered by the Mayans? Visitors can discover the legend of the King who made chocolate and help Imaginator Archeologist Joe retell the legend in a fun relay race.
- **Hunt for the Mayan Medallion**
Families can join the Imaginators over rickety bridges, through shark-infested waters, into the spider hole and across quicksand to locate the prized Mayan medallion. Once it’s found, everyone will celebrate with Mayan dances!

Art Studio: Mayan-inspired Crafts

Weekdays 10:30-3:30 p.m. and weekends 11-4 p.m.

- **Mural**
Children can learn about the Mayan murals, as they make their own mural using colorful rice!
- **Mayan Necklace and Bracelets**
Guests can create their own necklace and bracelet, while learning about Mayan Royalty and why it was important at that time.
- **Snakes**
Snakes were an important part of the Mayan culture. Children can make a snake using clay!
- **Pasta Skeleton**
Families will make skeletons using pasta. How do they compare with the skeleton remains of a Mayan Prince/Princess in the Mayan Medallion exhibit?

Build It Lab

Weekdays 10:30-3:30 p.m. and weekends 11-4 p.m.

- **Mayan Medallion Stamp**
Families can make their own Mayan ink Stamp in the Build It Lab! Children will choose from different letters of the Mayan Alphabet and from various Mayan Symbols.

Spectacular Science Show

Weekdays at 3 p.m. and weekends at 4 p.m.

- Every afternoon, Professor Labcoat shares a fascinating science demonstration with the whole museum! Guests can join Professor Labcoat to see what kind of fun he and his assistants have cooked up! Questions are encouraged at the end of the show. This program features a variety of hands-on, science demonstrations – from magnetism to chemical

reactions to astronomy. All demonstrations are informative, fascinating and incredibly fun (perfect for kids ages 4 and up).

Step Up to Science Bar

Weekdays 10:30-2:30 p.m. and weekends 11-3:30 p.m.

- Kids can marvel at the inner workings of the human body, the wonder of light and the technology of robots in this new permanent mezzanine-level exhibit! The Step Up to the Science Bar allows guests to come up and ‘order’ a hands-on demonstration or experiment.

Eat A Georgia Rainbow

Sundays at 12 p.m.

Join the Imaginators for this seasonal program featuring fruits and vegetables that can be harvested in Georgia throughout the year. Visitors will also be able to participate in a cool cooking activity!

Special Programming During May:

Meet the Holidays: Cinco de Mayo

Saturday April 30 and Sunday, May 1

Celebrate Cinco de Mayo with various themed activities!

Special programming schedule for Saturday, May 28 and Sunday, May 1:

- **11 a.m. and 1 p.m. (Saturday and Sunday) – Alma Mexicana Dance**
Alma Mexicana, meaning Mexican Soul, is a local performance group that presents traditional Mexican dances. They have been showcasing their talents to different audiences throughout the Atlanta area for the last six years! Alma Mexicana performs dances from Veracruz, Chihuahua, Michoacan, Sinaloa and Yucatan.
- **11 a.m. – 4 p.m. (Saturday and Sunday) Cinco de Mayo in the Art Studio**
 - Children will have the chance to decorate their own maracas and then use them during the Music and Movement program, when they learn the Mexican Hat Dance and Limbo!
 - Kids can make piñatas while listening to soothing Mariachi music
- **12 p.m. and 2 p.m. (Saturday) and 2 p.m. (Sunday) – Special Storytime**
Join Mother Goose or Father Gander for a special Cinco de Mayo storytime. Kids can listen to a reading of “Celebrate Cinco de Mayo with the Mexican Hat Dance” by F. Isabel Campoy and Alma Flor Ada. In the story, students are preparing to celebrate Cinco de Mayo and practice a Mexican dance! However, they must try their best not to step on the hat!
- **3 p.m. (Saturday and Sunday) – Special Music and Movement**
Guests can learn the Mexican Hat Dance and the Limbo with the Imaginators!

TiNY CLUB MONDAYS

Every Monday of the month through May 23

(Upcoming dates are May 2, May 9, May 16 and May 23)

Young guests are invited to become tiny foodies, tiny artists, tiny makers and tiny scientists during TiNY CLUB MONDAYS! Families can choose a club and enjoy a 30-minute class, designed especially for kids ages 2 – 5 and their caregivers. Each club offers hands on activities, professional instruction and the chance to create and learn something new! Guests will receive a stamp in their “TiNY CLUB Passport” for attendance each week. Those who collect two stamps will receive a special grab bag prize, and those who receive four stamps will receive a Museum coloring book and pencil. If guests collect all seven stamps, they will receive a two month membership extension! Space is limited and TiNY CLUBS fill up quickly, so interested families are encouraged to act quickly! Sign-up sheets are available when the Museum opens at 10 a.m. TiNY CLUB admittance is on a first-come first-served basis, and all TiNY

CLUBS are included with the cost of Museum admission. For more information, visit childrensmuseumatlanta.org/programs/tiny-club-mondays.

Weekday Halfternoons

Only available weekdays May 2 – 27

Beginning at 2 p.m. on weekdays only, families can receive a half price ticket to the Museum and experience Professor Labcoat's Spectacular Science Show at 3 p.m.!*

**This offer may not be combined with other discounts*

Special Spring Concerts

Thursday, May 5 at 11 a.m.

Guests will enjoy a special spring concert performance by Sequoyah Middle School Chorus, which features 6th, 7th, and 8th graders who love music! Their repertoire features a wide variety of sounds – ranging from popular artists, such as Alicia Keys to classical pieces such as those written by composer Andre Thomas. Sequoyah Middle School Chorus is from the DeKalb County School system in Doraville, Georgia.

Sensory Friendly Saturdays

Saturday, May 7 from 9 a.m. – 10 a.m.

Sensory Friendly Saturdays are back at Children's Museum of Atlanta! On the first Saturday of every month, the Museum will open at 9 a.m. (one hour before the general public admission) for families with children on the autism spectrum. This special program is dedicated to providing these families with a subdued environment during their visit, allowing private access for children to learn and play at their own pace. Many steps are taken to reduce sensory triggers, including turning off all background music and piano stairs noise, adjusting lighting and limiting the amount of guests, to create a more comforting environment. Quiet spots will be set up throughout the Museum. Admission for Sensory Friendly Saturdays is \$5 for non-members and free for members. Interested families can to reserve their spot at (404) 527-3693. Tickets can also be purchased tickets online at childrensmuseumatlanta.org.

Mother's Day Celebration

Saturday May 7 and Sunday May 8

- **12 p.m. and 2 p.m. (Saturday) and 2:00 pm (Sunday) – Special Storytime**
Families can join Mother Goose or Father Gander for a special Mother's Day Storytime. Kids will listen to a reading of *The Night Before Mother's Day* by Natasha Wing. It's the night before Mother's Day, and Dad and the kids are determined to show Mom just how much they love her. They whip up a cake from scratch, and offer a special coupon for a day at the spa, right in their own kitchen! Kids and moms will love reading this sweet story aloud together for a fun way to celebrate Mother's Day.
- **3 pm (Saturday and Sunday) – Special Music & Movement Mother's Day Dance Party!**
As we celebrate the strength and the giving nature of mothers on this weekend of Mother's Day, we invite you to join our Imaginators for our sensational Mother's Day Dance Party...Everybody dance !
- **11 a.m. – 4 p.m. – Special Build It Lab featuring a Mother's Day project**
Make your mother her own keepsake box.
- **11 a.m. – 4 p.m. – Special Art Studio featuring a Mother's Day craft**
Make a very special mother's day sign for mothers, grandmothers, guardians and mother figures.

Target Free Second Tuesday

Tuesday, May 10 (Upcoming 2016 Target Free Second Tuesday Dates are May 10; June 14; July 12; August 9; September 13; October 11; November 8; December 13)

Target Free Second Tuesday is a special opportunity for the community to bring their children to experience the Museum for FREE, between the hours of 1 p.m. and 6 p.m. Free admission is made possible through the generous support of Target on the second Tuesday of each month for visitors who may not have the opportunity to experience the museum or want to try the museum free of charge.

Memorial Day Weekend Summer Bash

Saturday, May 28

All Memorial Day Weekend Summer Bash activities are included with the price of Museum admission (\$14.95 + tax for anyone 12 months and older). Members get in free. Families are encouraged to purchase or reserve their space in advance online at childrensmuseumatlanta.org or by phone at 404-527-3693.

Special programming schedule for Saturday, May 28:

- **11 a.m. – Beach Party Kick-Off!**
Children can join the Imaginators for a celebratory summer dance party – complete with beach music and beach balls!
- **12 p.m. – Hula Hoop all Around on CMA Ocean Boulevard!**
Kids can test their hula hooping skills on “CMA Ocean Boulevard.”
- **1 – 3 p.m. – Dance party with DJ Raetone**
DJ RaeTone will spin family-friendly tunes for an ultimate kiddie-beach party! Children are invited to lace up their dancing shoes and get ready to jump and bop along with summer classics and kid-favorite hits from today. DJ RaeTone has been a DJ for six years and works closely with the popular YachtRockRevue cover band. He spins approximately 15 weddings annually, in addition to many corporate events!
- **11 a.m. – 4 p.m. – Art Studio featuring special summer kick-off crafts**
 - “Fairies in a Jar” Craft
Visitors can paint the inside of a jar with glow-in-the-dark paint and catch lightening bugs or use as a nightlight!
 - “I Spy Jars” Craft
Visitors can fill jars with rice and various trinkets to play the game “I Spy” with family and friends!
- **11 a.m. – 4 p.m. – Build It Lab featuring a special summer kick-off project**
 - Special Summer Squirter
Kids can make their very own water blaster and stay cool all summer long!

For more information or to support Children's Museum of Atlanta, visit childrensmuseumatlanta.org or call 404.659.KIDS [5437]

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 Museum’s mission is to spark imagination and inspire discovery and learning for all children through the power of play. With six permanent 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. The Children’s Museum of Atlanta also offers parties, memberships, field trips, summer camp and private events. For more information or to support Children's Museum of Atlanta, visit childrensmuseumatlanta.org or call 404.659.KIDS [5437].

Museum Admission: General Admission is \$14.95 (plus tax) for anyone 1 – 100 years old. Babies and members are admitted for free. All daily programs are included in price of admission. Group rates and military discounts are available. For more information regarding ticket and membership options, visit childrensmuseumatlanta.org/plan-your-visit/faqs/.

Museum Hours: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.; Saturday and Sunday 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.; Closed on Wednesdays. Please check the Museum website to confirm hours of operation.

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/childrensmuseumatlanta>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/ChildMuseumATL>

Pinterest: <http://pinterest.com/cmatlanta>

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