



**CONTACT:**

Alison Wentley

BRAVE PR, 404.233.3993

awentley@emailbrave.com

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Children’s Museum of Atlanta evokes childhood memories with inaugural play-inspired gala: Imagination Ball, March 21**

*Whimsical benefit supporting education will be held at the Stave Room at American Spirit Works*

**ATLANTA (February XX, 2020) – Children’s Museum of Atlanta** welcomes community members to experience the first and only charity event of its kind, Imagination Ball. On **Saturday**, **March 21**, The Stave Room at American Spirit Works will transform into an inspiring adults-only wonderland that provokes guests to rediscover the power of imagination, fantasy, storytelling and childhood.

This inaugural benefit, an evolution of Children’s Museum of Atlanta’s well-known Amuse’um, will take place from **7-11 p.m**. Atlantans will celebrate the city’s *only* children’s museum with passed hors d'oeuvres and cocktails, performances by renowned cellist OkCello and hands-on experiences that guests will have to see to believe before a seated formal dinner and live auction. The charity event, curated by Richard Garner, supports the Museum’s mission to change the world by sparking every child’s imagination, sense of discovery and learning through the power of play.

Stephanie Blank, Chair of Imagination Ball, promises an enchanting evening as the Museum honors President & CEO of Public Broadcasting Atlanta Wonya Lucas. Former chair of CMA’s Board of Directors, Wonya has been instrumental to the Museum’s success since its opening in 2003. A tireless advocate of the Museum’s mission, she continues to advocate for providing children from all over Atlanta the opportunity to learn through the power of play.

“We are deeply honored that Stephanie, who has played a crucial leadership role in the creation and ongoing support of the Museum, and who is a strong and recognized voice for children’s causes throughout the state of Georgia, stepped forward to chair this inaugural evening,” said Executive Director Jane Turner. “And we are ecstatic to be honoring Wonya who has donated her knowledge, ingenuity and time to CMA, and through her strong and strategic leadership has helped the Museum break down barriers to ensure that children of all backgrounds have the opportunity to experience learning through the power of play.”

Imagination Ball will include an enchanting lineup of activities, including a whiskey pull, interactive entertainers, a photo booth and theatrical experiences. Patrons will also have a chance to win a one-of-a-kind culinary escape to Tuscany for two. This exclusive vacation includes a two-night stay at the Hotel Ponte Sisto in Rome, Italy, a five-night stay and daily breakfast at the Renaissance Tuscany II Ciocco Resort & Spa in Barga, Italy; and an exclusive wine and olive oil mill tour and tasting at the Fattoria Colleverde in Lucca, Italy.

All proceeds raised from the inaugural ball will directly support Children’s Museum of Atlanta’s early childhood educational programming and community outreach that touches the lives of more than 220,000 children and families annually. Serving kids, schools, parents and caretakers, the Museum has welcomed more than 3 million visitors since opening in 2003.

With the premise that meaningful play provides the essential foundation for life-long learning, Children’s Museum of Atlantafeatures hands-on exhibits designed to spark imagination and inspire discovery. These exhibits introduce young learners to core educational concepts, laying the groundwork that helps children succeed in school and ultimately in the global economy, through the power of play.

Tickets are $200 per guest. For more information on Imagination Ball visit [imaginationball.org](https://childrensmuseumatlanta.org/imagination-ball/). For information regarding sponsorship opportunities, call Laura Halad at 404.527.5908. To learn more about the raffle or to purchase a ticket, visit [tinyurl.com/ImaginationBall](https://tinyurl.com/ImaginationBall).

**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 0-9. 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 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. 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](https://childrensmuseumatlanta.org/) or call 404.659.KIDS [5437].

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