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Children’s Museum of the Lowcountry Awarded $35,000 PNC Foundation Grant for Pop Up Tinker Shop

Charleston, SC (May 25, 2017) — The Children’s Museum of the Lowcountry (CML) has received a $35,000 grant from the PNC Foundation to launch its mobile museum, the Pop Up Tinker Shop, in the tri-county community.

The Pop Up Tinker Shop, a “museum on wheels,” will provide children ages 4-12 with the opportunities to see a working 3D printer, explore engineering and design with building and construction materials, discover the principles of aerospace, create circuits via writing with special pens and using color-coded magnetic blocks and write lines of code to move a small robot.

Most importantly, the Pop Up Tinker Shop will eliminate the barriers of cost, time and transportation that often limit exposure to these types of high-quality encounters for area children. This innovative museum-on-wheels will travel to area schools, childcare centers, community festivals, farmer’s markets and more. CML estimates the program will serve more than 15,000 children and families in its first year.

“It is programs like this one at the Children’s Museum that inspire a child’s curiosity and love of learning,” said Jim Hansen, PNC regional president for Eastern Carolinas. “The museum is an innovator in helping children receive high-quality activities that will help them discover and learn even more complex and challenging information. We think the mobile museum will be a great success.”

As leaders in early childhood education, CML understands that a key factor in closing the gap in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) learning is to provide experiences in STEM/STEAM at an early age. The most successful method for presenting this crucial information is through play-based activities, which research has shown to be the most effective mode for meaningful skill building and retention for this age group.

“The Children’s Museum of the Lowcountry’s mission is to engage young children’s potential by inviting families of all backgrounds to spark imagination and stimulate curiosity through the power of PLAY and we are thrilled to announce that, with the help of PNC, the Pop Up Tinker Shop will help eliminate the barriers that currently exist for Lowcountry families who cannot visit our downtown location,” said Nichole Myles, Executive Director of the Children’s Museum of the Lowcountry. “We are immensely grateful to the PNC Foundation for its generous gift to benefit our area’s youngest citizens.”

The grant is given by the PNC Foundation in support of its Grow Up Great initiative, PNC’s commitment in early childhood education.

About The PNC Foundation:
The PNC Foundation, which receives its principal funding from The PNC Financial Services Group (www.pnc.com), actively supports organizations that provide services for the benefit of communities in which it has a significant presence. The foundation focuses its philanthropic mission on early childhood education and community and economic development, which includes the arts and culture. Through Grow Up Great, its signature cause that began in 2004, PNC has created a bilingual $350 million, multi-year initiative to help prepare children from birth to age 5 for success in school and life. For more information, visit http://www.pncgrowupgreat.com and follow PNC News on YouTube here.

About The Children’s Museum of the Lowcountry
The Children’s Museum of the Lowcountry is a 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization with a mission to engage young children’s potential by inviting families of all backgrounds to explore environments and experiences that spark imagination and stimulate curiosity through the power of play. Open Tuesday – Saturday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sundays from 12 p.m. to 5 p.m. Admission is $12 per person, $10 for SC Residents and free for Members and children less than 12 months of age. Qualifying Museums for All families receive $1 admission for a up to 6 family members. For more information, please visit our website, exploreCML.org.

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