

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**THE SUGAR HILL CHILDREN'S MUSEUM OF ART + STORYTELLING  
CELEBRATES ITS 'FIRST BIRTHDAY' ON SATURDAY, OCTOBER 1<sup>ST</sup>**

*With free admission, a full-day of programming for families,  
Two new exhibitions, and new hours!*

**NEW YORK, NY, September 19, 2016**—Uptown Manhattan's only children's museum, The Sugar Hill Children's Museum of Art & Storytelling, will celebrate its one-year anniversary on Saturday, October 1, 2016 from 12:00 – 5:00pm. The FREE fun-filled family day will include art-making and face painting; storytelling through dance, music, theater and the oral tradition; food trucks, and more. To complement our programming, we will be inaugurating two new art exhibitions *CHESTER HIGGINS JR.: Passing Through* and *Z IS FOR ZIGZAG: Directions around Northern Manhattan* featuring artists working and living in the community, Lucia Hierro, Robert A. Pruitt, Freddy Rodriguez, and Fernando Tamburini, as well as presenting our newest Artist-In-Residence Derek Fordjour.

The anniversary celebration will also usher in new hours at the Sugar Hill Children's Museum. As of Thursday, October 6th, the Museum will be open from Thursday to Sunday from 10:00am to 5:00pm. This reflects a two-hour earlier open time on Thursdays and Fridays.

"We are delighted to be celebrating the Museum's birthday with an amazing roster of artists and storytellers, as well as fun and creative activities for the whole family. We have had an extraordinary opening year! More than 10,000 children, families, educators and community members have come to learn, share, and grow in our space, exceeding our goals for the year. I invite you to join us and explore our Sugar Hill community, be inspired by our new art exhibitions, and engage in the excitement of art and story making," said Sandra Garcia-Betancourt, Interim Director of the Sugar Hill Children's Museum.

Developed by Broadway Housing Communities and designed by internationally acclaimed architect David Adjaye, the Sugar Hill Children's Museum opened its doors to the public in October of 2015. The Museum provides children and families in the neighborhood and beyond a space to grow and learn through encounters with contemporary art, accomplished and emerging artists and storytellers, as well as opportunities to explore and create in our fully-equipped Studios Labs.

"The Sugar Hill Project was conceived as an oasis for children and families and the Museum was integral to that vision from the very start. We are thrilled to see so many families in the Museum each week, including so many regular visitors. Our hope is that these children will grow up with a lifelong appreciation for the arts and confidence in their own capacity," said Ellen Baxter, Founder and Executive Director of Broadway Housing Communities. "The success of the Museum in this first year is a testament to our amazing staff, and the support we have received from the Sugar Hill community."

**OCTOBER 1<sup>ST</sup> FESTIVITIES**

**\*NEW ART EXHIBITIONS**

***CHESTER HIGGINS JR.: Passing Through***

On-view October 1, 2016 – August 27, 2017

Join us as we travel through time, face cultural icons, survey infinite landscapes, and intimate rituals through the black and white photographic lens of Chester Higgins Jr. *Passing Through* will present a selection of his images captured from 1969 to 2002 in cross sections of Africa, The Americas, and Harlem. This exhibition will be complemented with programming, storytelling, and art-making workshops, aimed at stimulating wonder and intercultural exchange.

Chester Higgins has been the focus of solo exhibitions nationally and abroad including: the International Center of Photography, the Smithsonian Institution, the Museum of African Art, and the Dapper Museum in Paris. He served on staff with the New York Times from 1975-2015, with work also appearing in such publications as Newsweek, Essence, and Life.

### ***Z IS FOR ZIGZAG: Directions around Northern Manhattan***

On-view October 1, 2016 – August 27, 2017

Explore the ideas of community, history, and home, in our new group show, featuring site-specific installations by local artists Lucia Hierro, Robert Pruitt, Freddy Rodriguez, and Fernando Tamburini. A platform for presenting intersecting perspectives across the Museum's immediate community of Northern Manhattan, *Z is for Zigzag*, will present visual narratives that will employ bold patterns, shapes, colors and unrestricted lines to immerse visitors in a series of unpredictable landscapes and to encourage our children to imagine a familiar setting in endless ways.

### **DEREK FORDJOUR, 2016-2017 Artist-in-Residence**

An interdisciplinary artist who works in video/film, sculpture and painting, and currently resides in Sugar Hill, Fordjour's work has been featured in group shows at Roberts & Tilton Gallery in Los Angeles, Sotheby's S2 Gallery in New York and Jack Bell Gallery in London. His work has been reviewed in the New York Times, L.A. Times, Huffington Post and Brooklyn Rail. Derek will be developing new works in our space and have open studio sessions throughout the year as of October 1, 2016.

### **\*PROGRAMMING**

#### **OPENING PATHWAYS: A Ritual Procession & Live Installation**

12:00–12:30pm, Throughout Museum

Join Maija Garcia/Organic Magnetics, as she opens our festivities with a museum-wide procession of dance.

#### **FLOR BROMLEY 'CHIQUI MUSIC BOOM'**

1:30–2:00pm, The Living Room

Artist Flor Bromley will present wonderful tales—and will debut her new children's music CD 'Chiqui Music Boom.'

#### **STORIES WITH SCOTT**

2:15–2:45pm, The Living Room

Explore new worlds and experience new adventures with storyteller and performer Scott Raven.

#### **EL SISTEMA NY/NJ**

3:00–3:30pm, The Living Room

Enjoy a performance by El Sistema NY/NJ, the amazing group of young musicians inspired by the world-renowned Venezuelan music program.

### **HERMES, THE TAP DANCING WIZARD**

3:45–4:15pm, The Living Room

Tap dancer and storyteller Joseph Webb will present his new book through tap dancing, spoken word, and music.

### **BIRTHDAY PARTY! AND CLOSING**

4:00–5:00pm, The Living Room

Bop your head and move your hips to DJ Chela, as we celebrate the finale of our first birthday!

### **ABOUT THE SUGAR HILL CHILDREN'S MUSEUM OF ART & STORYTELLING**

The Sugar Hill Children's Museum of Art & Storytelling, the cultural capstone of the Sugar Hill project in Harlem by Broadway Housing Communities, offers year-round art exhibitions, storytelling series, art-making workshops and an early childhood arts education curriculum. Museum programs are designed to nurture the curiosity and creative spirit of three- to eight-year-old children, building the language, literacy and critical thinking skills that lead to lifelong learning.

The Sugar Hill Children's Museum of Art & Storytelling is located at 898 St. Nicholas Avenue at 155<sup>th</sup> Street in New York City. Hours are Thursday through Friday, 10am to 5pm, and Saturday and Sunday, 12pm to 5pm. Admission prices vary. For more information on the Museum, please visit [www.sugarhillmuseum.org](http://www.sugarhillmuseum.org).

To connect with the Sugar Hill Children's Museum via Social Media, follow us on Facebook at Facebook.com/sugarhillmuseum and using @sugarhillmuseum on Instagram and Twitter.

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