Tuesday, May 5

All programming will be held at St. Louis Union Station Hotel, unless otherwise noted.

**Emerging Museums Pre-Conference**
Sponsored by Imagination Playground, LLC
8:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.
Pre-registration is required; Member registration, $235, Nonmembers, $335. This event is limited to emerging museums and individuals starting a children’s museum. Registration fee includes breakfast, lunch, and handout materials.

ACM offers the annual Emerging Museums Pre-Conference to share foundational and effective practices of our field with those in the process of starting a children’s museum. The agenda changes each year to keep pace with new trends and insights, but always includes perspectives from recently opened children’s museums.

**Preliminary Agenda**

8:00 a.m.–8:30 a.m.
**Breakfast**

8:30 a.m.–8:45 a.m.
**Welcome**
Laura Huerta Migus, Association of Children’s Museums

8:45 a.m.–9:45 a.m.
**Attendee Introductions and Networking**
Victoria Garvin, Association of Children’s Museums

9:45 a.m.–11:00 a.m.
**Perspectives from Recently Opened Children’s Museums**
No two children’s museums are ever planned alike. However, much can be learned from those who have gone before. Hear from leaders at recently opened children’s museums.
Sharon Williams, PhD, North Country Children’s Museum
Mpho Tsele, Play Africa
Crystal Bowyer, National Children’s Museum

11:00 a.m.–11:15 a.m.
**Break**

11:15 a.m.–12:30 p.m.
**Guiding Your New Organization: Bylaws vs. Policies**
A nonprofit’s board of directors is responsible for developing, defining, and reviewing the organization’s mission, providing overall leadership and strategic direction, and assuring compliance with bylaws and policies. Understanding the hierarchy and legal accountability for bylaws and policies is essential for a governing board. The session will explore why they are important and how they can work for you.
Carol Scott, Children’s Discovery Museum of the Desert

12:30 p.m.–1:30 p.m.
**Lunch and Networking**

1:30 p.m.–2:15 p.m.
**ACM Resources**
ACM staff will provide a virtual tour of online member resources and show how you can get the most out of your membership by connecting with fellow professionals.
Keila Rone, Association of Children’s Museums
2:15 p.m.–3:30 p.m.
Choice of Sessions

1 Staffing a Start Up
It’s never too early to start designing your “Dream Team.” Find out what you need to research, how to decide what positions you want on your team, and how and when to hire and train each level of staffing.

Genny Nadler Thomas, Knock Knock Children’s Museum

2 Frontline Staff Training
Acquire tips and ideas for creating a low-cost, ongoing training plan for your guest-facing staff. What role will your staff play? What will your approach to facilitation be? How will you identify training needs? How do you prioritize the various training topics, time, and budget? Are there training resources in your community? Where to begin? A variety of resources will be shared, including sample agendas, to provide you with the tools needed to answer these questions and help you create your own training plan.

Angelica Velez, Chicago Children’s Museum

3:30 p.m.–3:45 p.m.
Break

3:45 p.m.–4:45 p.m.
Weathering a Recession
Current economic conditions indicate that a recession could be coming soon. The best way to weather a recession is to be prepared. While a recession may mean increased costs, declining giving, and decreased cashflow, there may also be hidden opportunities such as better real estate deals and new partnerships. Hear from museums leaders who weathered the last recession and come away with strategies for a recession-proof startup.

Susan Garrard, Mississippi Children’s Museum
Peter Olson, Region 5 Children’s Museum

4:45 p.m.–5:00 p.m.
Wrap Up and Adjourn