**FAST FACTS – MAY 2015**

Toronto’s one-of-a-kind **Children’s Discovery Centre** is helping to build a city that includes the growing needs of its newest and youngest residents who are transforming the shape and character of Toronto’s urban neighbourhoods. The Discovery Centre opens on Saturday, May 23 at Noon, pop-up style in a temporary location at 45 Strachan Avenue in the Garrison Point neighbourhood where it will remain until September30, 2015. **Children’s Discovery Centre** is the brainchild of native Torontonian, mother and entrepreneur **Jeanhy Shim**.

**INTERIOR SPACE**

Children's Discovery Centre comprises 20,000 square feet of indoor space featuring **10 themed Discovery Zones**, each thoughtfully designed by a team of early childhood development professionals and parents specifically for young children of all physical and developmental abilities aged six and below, to play and learn. The zones focus on: building, moving your body, nature, visual arts, dramatic arts, music, pets, nutrition, reading and 'first discoveries' (for babies only).

**Philosophy & Vision:** To provide educational, dynamic, wonder-filled hands-on environments where young children learn about themselves and the world around them through play, exploration and discovery. We believe that children learn best through playing and exploring using their imagination. **Children’s Discovery Centre** offers children the opportunity to use their natural curiosity and to play their way.

**Audience:** Parents, grandparents and caregivers of children 6 and under. Residents of the Greater Toronto Area and visitors to the city. Schools and daycare centres.

**Admission:** $13 per person includes all-day access including any special programs; children under 1 year FREE

**Hours:** Daily 9:30am to 4:30pm, including holidays.

**Location and Access:** . 45 Strachan Avenue, at Ordnance, just north of the CNE/Fort York. Easy public transit access via TTC bus and streetcar, direct from Union Station, King, Bathurst and Ossington subway stations. On-site parking for wheelchair accessibility.

**FOUNDER & CEO**

**Jeanhy Shim** is a highly respected and passionate city builder who has been involved in over 500 real estate projects throughout the GTA over the past 22 years as a developer, advisor or consultant specializing in strategic market research, product design and development, land acquisitions or sales and marketing. Children's Discovery Centre is the first major initiative of Housing Lab Toronto - a company founded by Jeanhy in 2013 to be a catalyst in rethinking how we grow our city and make it a more liveable place for all, including her six year old daughter.

**ADVISORY COUNCIL**

**Geraldine Mabin** is an internationally recognized leader in the field of early childhood education, and founder of The Mabin School (1980), Children’s Own Museum (1998), Words in Motion (2004) and Friendship in Action (2013), and consultant to several schools world-wide. Gerry is also Head Advisor of the Children's Discovery Centre (2014).

**Nancy Brown** is a highly respected educator and professor in the field of childhood development, as well as an award-winning consultant and designer of Spiral Garden (Holland Bloorview Kids Rehabilitation Hospital, 1984), C.A.R.E. Program at Trinity Bellwoods (1992), and several children's art education experiences at the Art Gallery of Ontario.

**Paola Cohen** is an early childhood educator recognized for her pioneering role in the field of arts education and childhood development, having been instrumental in shaping the arts curriculum for children at the Institute of Child Study at the University of Toronto, Visual Arts Department in the University of Toronto Faculty of Education, and The Mabin School.

**Stacie Carroll** is an early childhood educator and award-winning teacher with the Toronto District School Board specializing in teaching kindergarten children with developmental disabilities, Recipient of the 2012 Prime Minister's Award for Teaching Achievement and co-developer of a communication app for those with an expressive language delay.

**Laila Baksh** is a certified early childhood educator, as well as a certified child & youth worker; currently head of the ECE program at St. Stephen’s Harbourfront Child Care Centre, responsible for curriculum & programming for babies, infants and toddlers from 6 months to five years.

**Lili Lipton** is a certified early childhood educator and teacher with the York Region District School Board, specializing in working with students of various developments abilities, including children with Autism, Asperger’s, and learning and behavioural exceptionalities.

**Sarah Patterson** is a certified child life specialist with the Hospital for Sick Kids, as well co-director of the Pediatrics Dept. Child Life Studies programme at McMaster University and early childhood development instructor at Ryerson University and George Brown College.

**Simone Atungo** is a prominent community advocate and leader specializing in community health research, policy and program outreach and integration, most notably with Mount Sinai Hospital, Parkdale Community Health Centre, and now Toronto Community Housing.

**CURATORS**

**Lianne Phillipson-Webb** is a registered nutritionist, author and founder of Sprout Right: Nutrition from Tummy to Toddler, as well as the resident nutrition expert on Canada AM, CHCH Morning Live, Global Morning Live and CityLine and regular contributor to Today’s Parent, Canadian Family, TheLoop.ca and iVillage.ca.

**Thom Sokoloski** is a highly respected artist, curator, producer and creative consultant who is a recognized and leading authority on contemporary art, performance and community engagement through art with over 40 years of local, national and international experience, including Luminato, Nuit Blanche, World Stage, Musica Festival in Strasbourg, Holland Festival, Art Toronto, Socrates Sculpture Park in New York, Opéra de Montréal, Café de la Danse, LaMama NYC, Canadian Opera Company and Royal Ontario Museum, to name a few.

**Vandana Taxali** is an arts & media lawyer, as well as a recognized art agent, curator and mentor involved in NXNE (2013), The Artist Project (2014), King East Design District (2014), OCAD Imagination Catalyst, the Empowered Youth Startup Hub and Toronto Startup Weekend.

**Laura Aaron** is a highly creative and experienced producer of cultural events, debates, and activations bringing leading thinkers and industry leaders together to examine big ideas, issues, and trends, as well as curator of the Fernie Independent Film Series, and a co-founder of the Reel Canadian Film Festival.

**FOUNDING PARTNERS & SPONSORS**

Founding Partners of this initiative include: Housing Lab Toronto, Build Toronto, Diamondcorp, SKYGRiD Construction, Giannone Petricone Associates, Giovanni A. Tassone Architect, Garrison Point, Rouge Consulting and Friendship in Action.

Key Sponsors include: Sago Mini (Inventor level); and Hullmark, Milborne Real Estate Inc. and Streetcar Developments (Navigator level). Citizen Restaurant & Bar, Concord Adex, Dorel Sports, DREAM, Home Sweet Condo, Little Tikes and Pinnacle International (Explorer level).

For more information visit [www.childrensdiscoverycentre.com](http://www.childrensdiscoverycentre.com) on Facebook and Twitter @ kidsdiscoveryTO

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