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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Time Has Arrived to Reconnect With Our Families Again!

The Portsmouth Museums Reopen June 9

Enjoy New and Renovated Interactive Exhibits for all ages

The Portsmouth Museums are excited to announce that after over a year of closures, the museums will reopen two of its five museums to the general public on Wednesday, June 9th! Prior to the official reopening on June 9th, The Children's Museum of Virginia will reopen with a Member-Only Preview (with limited capacity), with two timed-sessions on Saturday, June 5th, and Sunday, June 6th, at 9:00 a.m. to 11:45 a.m., and from 1:15 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. both days. The Museum will operate these new temporary hours of operation on Wednesdays through Sundays, and will be closed on Mondays and Tuesdays until further notice. Admission will be free for members, with a special reopening rate of \$8.00 per person for non-members. **All visitors, including members, will be required to purchase tickets in advance online at ChildrensMuseumVa.com.**

Prior to its official reopening on Wednesday, June 9th, The Portsmouth Naval Shipyard Museum will also reopen its doors to members only on the weekend of June 5th and 6th. Its new hours of operation will be on Wednesdays through Sundays from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., and on Sundays from Noon - 4:00 p.m. The Museum will also be closed on Mondays and Tuesdays. Admission will be by donation.

Some of the highlights of the reopening of the Children's Museum of Virginia will include upgraded and new exhibits:

Happy Paws - One of our favorites is our newly refurbished Happy Paws Animal Rescue. Come and learn about proper pet nutrition, how to keep your pet clean and well groomed, and the importance of giving your pet a regular health check-up. This exhibit was sponsored by the Batten Endowment Fund.

LUMOPlay - This display provides a new way of interacting through projection. Images are either projected on the floor or the wall, and children use their imagination to guide their interaction with the images.

Everbright - This is an interactive art installation that lets people of all ages and abilities create and play with color and patterns. Inspired by the Light-Brite, it's a huge grid of adjustable LED dials that turn endlessly in either direction through the color spectrum.

Some Assembly Required- Our new summer exhibit, featuring three components and three activity stations that apply STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts design and math) concepts, inspiring children to be curious to invent, tinker, and solve problems while helping parents/caregivers recognize that children too, require some assembly and that adults must set the example; and guide a child's understanding of the principles that ultimately define who we are, and what we believe. The exhibit was sponsored by the Batten Endowment Fund. It will run through September 6, 2021.

A new refresh of the Lightship Portsmouth exhibit area at the Naval Shipyard Museum will examine the history of LV-101's forty-eight years of service on the East Coast. It will include images of the ship's construction and service as well as historic artifacts that have not been exhibited before. A rare World War II Working Grey Coast Guard jacket, along with original vintage shore radio equipment that helped spell the end of the era of lightships, will be among the exhibit's special features.

In the gallery's temporary exhibit case, see a small private collection of rare antique postcards and stereo cards showing Norfolk Navy Yard's Trophy Park, along with the earliest-known (1874) images of historic Quarters A, the Shipyard Commander's residence.

Nancy S. Perry, museum director, says "We are thrilled to be able to welcome back our visitors. Thanks to everyone who made this reopening possible".

About the Children's Museum of Virginia

Children step inside a world where bubbles grow bigger than they are, where the forces of energy electrify and spark their imagination, where they can be a farmer, a banker, a scientist, and more! The Children's Museum of Virginia includes the Lancaster Antique Toy and Train collection - an attraction for kids of all ages as well as a modernized planetarium. It also features

a Museum Gift Shop (online is available) where children can take some imagination home with them.

About the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard Museum

The Portsmouth Naval Shipyard Museum researches, preserves, and promotes the history of the City of Portsmouth, Norfolk Naval Shipyard, and the armed forces in Hampton Roads. The museum accomplishes its mission by offering exhibitions, publications, lectures, and educational programs.

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