



## BACKGROUND

Located on Museum Row in the Miracle Mile district of Los Angeles, Zimmer Children's Museum was created in 1991 to provide a gathering space where families could play together and share in human values that build a stronger community.

The Zimmer Children's Museum began as a modest 600 square foot playspace located in the Westside Jewish Community Center. Once an affiliate program of Jewish Community Centers of Los Angeles, the Zimmer Children's Museum became an independent nonprofit organization in 2006. At this time, the organization redefined its mission to serve all children in Los Angeles through on-site programs and its outreach program, youTHink.

With programs that serve ages 0-18, the Zimmer Children's Museum's focus is to help all children, youth, and families who participate in its programs develop social consciousness and community responsibility. The Zimmer's distinctive mission separates it from other children's museums in the country, yet makes the Zimmer particularly relevant to the diverse Los Angeles community.

The Zimmer Children's Museum has two major programming initiatives: the museum itself, which features 10,000 square feet of interactive exhibits for ages 0-8, and youTHink, an innovative education program that uses the power of art to foster critical thinking, engage diverse learners, promote literacy and serve as a tool for social change.

**The Zimmer Children's Museum** is now the only children's museum in Los Angeles. Over 50,000 guests visit the museum each year. The Zimmer also provides educational resources that help caregivers and educators guide children in compassionate play and meaningful interpersonal interactions.

**youTHink** provides art/education lessons in LA area public schools and youth events to over 3,000 students annually. youTHink's School Services provide art/education lessons in California's public schools along with professional development opportunities for teachers. Youth Services provide meaningful art, leadership and community involvement opportunities for middle and high school youth beyond the classroom.

The Zimmer Children's Museum believes that creativity, critical thinking, cultural literacy and social change are 21<sup>st</sup> Century skills necessary for success in an ever-changing global society. As schools eliminate programs that allow young people to develop those skills, organizations such as the Zimmer Children's Museum are now more important than ever. By empowering young people to think critically and creatively, the Zimmer Children's Museum gives our future generations the skills and confidence to be able to solve problems not even yet imagined.

*The Zimmer Children's Museum is dedicated to teaching people about the BIG IDEAS of global citizenship, community responsibility, and cultural sensitivity. Our mission is to make a better society through interactive learning, creative self-expression and art experiences for children and families.*