

**For Immediate Release**

February 5, 2014

**Children's Museum of Illinois**

55 South Country Club Road  
Decatur, Illinois 62521

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***Ready. Set. Build! Exhibit to Open at Children's Museum of Illinois***  
***Ribbon Cutting on Monday, February 17th***

(DECATUR, Illinois) - Children's Museum of Illinois, 55 South Country Club Road, will open its new permanent exhibition, *Ready. Set. Build!* on Monday, February 17th at 10:00 AM, with the Museum open to the public starting at 9:30 AM.

*Ready. Set. Build!* is a transformation of the Museum's 700 square foot second floor Travel Room, which now includes building-inspired fun, featuring *Imagination Playground*, workshop, and interactive play tower. *Imagination Playground* was purchased by the Museum in August and has been a hit with visitors young and old. The revitalization of the second floor space is the beginning of the Museum's Looking Up campaign, a multi-phase enhancement project to make significant updates to the Museum's exhibitions.

READY.SET.  
BUILD!

Areas of *Ready. Set. Build!* include:

***Imagination Playground*** – *Imagination Playground* is an innovative, foam block playground equipment system. Children can enjoy an endless variety of play including construction, pretend play, role-playing, and inventing, which encourages learning, social development, and movement.

***Public Works Interactive Play Tower*** – Children are encouraged to climb up, crawl through, and slide down this interactive tower, which features tubes and slides, as well as a look out tower with views to the Museum's backyard.

***Workshop*** – Sponsored by the Metro Decatur Home Builders Association, children can use wooden hammers and nails, nuts and bolts, as well as wrenches and screwdrivers to build their own creations!

***Build Tables*** – Outside of the *Ready. Set. Build!* exhibition entry are build tables, featuring classic construction toys, including blocks, Legos, Pick-Up-Sticks, and Tinker Toys. The area will also feature a kinetic sand table.

"An exhibit of this size and scope will bring a renewed enthusiasm for creative play amongst our visitors," says Nicole Bateman, Executive Director of Children's Museum of Illinois. "We hope that *Ready. Set. Build!* will encourage children to dig deeper into how everyday items are designed and built."

To enhance the educational opportunities of the exhibition, *Ready. Set. Build!* will feature QR codes that present a question or task for varying age groups, focusing on architecture, engineering, math, sustainability, and safety. QR codes will begin to show up throughout the Museum in 2014 as a tool for parents and educators to enhance their children's visit to the Museum.

*Ready. Set. Build!* was developed with numerous community partners and donors including: J.J. Swartz Company, Metro Decatur Home Builders Association, Ryan Cooper, Decatur Blueprint, Inc., Good's Floor Store, Inc., R.P. Lumber, The Micar Company, and Soft Tiles.

The *Ready. Set. Build!* Exhibition Opening is at 10:00 AM, Monday, February 17th at Children's Museum of Illinois, 55 South Country Club Road. The Museum opens at 9:30 AM. The first 15 children to arrive will receive a mini *Imagination Playground* block set. Cookies from Mowry's Baking Company and refreshments will be available. Museum admission is \$5 for everyone ages 2 and older.

For more information about the Museum, please visit: [www.CMofIL.org](http://www.CMofIL.org).

Children's Museum of Illinois is located at 55 South Country Club Road, next to Scovill Zoo on the shores of Lake Decatur. It is ranked one of the top 25 children's museums in the U.S. In 2013, nearly 60,000 guests visited the museum. The museum contributes to the community's quality of life as an educational facility, visitor attraction, family destination, and site for volunteerism. Museum hours are Tuesday – Friday, 9:30 – 4:30 PM, Saturday 10:00 AM – 5:00 PM, and Sunday 1:00 PM – 5:00 PM. Admission is \$5 for ages 2 and over.

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