



## **Children's Museum of the Arts Young Professionals Committee**

Thank you for your interest in CMA's Young Professionals Committee. This document includes information about the Committee, member responsibilities, the mission and history of the Children's Museum of the Arts, as well as Stripes, the program that YPC directly benefits.

### **About the Young Professionals Committee**

The CMA Young Professionals Committee is the junior committee of the Children's Museum of the Arts. These young professionals, ages 21-40, are committed to volunteering their time, abilities and energy to help support the Museum and to raise crucial funds for CMA's Stripes program.

The Committee hosts an annual summer fundraiser and a variety of other networking and art-related events throughout the year. These include wine tastings, gallery walks, volunteering opportunities, happy hours, artist studio visits, and more.

The Committee is lead by 5 Co-Chairs. They help set the strategic direction of the group and spearhead sub-committees that address the various needs of the Committee—descriptions of these subcommittees follow shortly.

Committee participation has many benefits. Members are able to network with successful, like-minded young professionals, are offered numerous opportunities to give back to the community and are exposed to many facets of the NYC art scene.

## Requirements

CMA accepts new members to the YPC on a rolling basis. YPC Members are asked to serve for a minimum of one year. There are three basic requirements we ask of active CMA YPC Members:

**1. \$200/Year Fundraising Target.** Members are expected to raise \$200 for the group throughout the course of the year. The \$200 can include event ticket sales, donations, and the securing of in-kind donations and sponsorships. At least \$50 must be related to the Summer Benefit, which is the main yearly event and requires the involvement of the entire Committee.

**2. Contribute to the Summer Benefit, and attend at least one other event.** Events take place at least four times a year, approximately every three months. Some events are free; others have a modest fundraising fee. Members are expected to contribute to the Summer Benefit (even if you cannot attend, you can solicit donations, secure auction items and sell tickets) and attend at least one other event during the year.

**3. Participate in a Sub-Committee.**

## Subcommittees

Members are asked to serve on one of the following subcommittees. Each subcommittee is headed by one chair, serving for a minimum of a one-year term. Subcommittees communicate via email, and may meet occasionally throughout the year.

**1. Membership & Member Events** aids in the recruitment/nomination of new members and retention of current members through networking, annual Art Walk, and other events. This subcommittee also nominates any open chair positions.

**2. Marketing** promotes all YPC events to the public through social media and other outlets, in addition to managing graphic design of digital/print materials, and the web presence of the YPC.

**3. Corporate Relations** works with all members to establish corporate ties and solicits corporate sponsorships for the YPC, in coordination with CMA.

**4. Community Ambassadors** remind us all why we give back and support. The group coordinates all volunteer opportunities with CMA, and reports to the entire group about the impact the funds are making on CMA Stripes.

**5. Summer Benefit** is the driving force and central core-planning group for the YPC Summer Benefit. While all members are expected to contribute to the benefit in some way, this subcommittee lays the planning groundwork for the event and works on major points such as venue, auction solicitation, food/beverage, music, and promotion. This group is expected to meet several times in the months leading up to the benefit. *[note: heavy time commitment from March – June]*

## About CMA

*The mission of the Children's Museum of the Arts is to extend the benefits of the arts to all children and their communities and to secure the future of the arts by inspiring and championing the next generation of artists and art lovers.*

*We work to fulfill our mission by providing authentic hands-on art experiences for children with artists, both in our art-filled interactive museum, in the community, and by collecting and exhibiting children's art. We are committed to celebrating the artist in every child and promoting access to the arts for all children regardless of ability or socioeconomic status because we believe the arts are critical to child and youth development and to strong and vibrant communities.*

## History

CMA is a nonprofit institution that was founded in October 1988 by Kathleen Schneider. The Museum has been located in the Manhattan neighborhood of SoHo since its inception, and opened in our new home on 103 Charlton Street in October 2011.

The Museum is unique in its hand-on concept. CMA employs an artist-in-residence format whereby teaching artists work directly with children and their families. The Museum is constantly adding new programs, and caters to children from ages 10 months through 15 years. The Museum also maintains a collection of over 2,000 pieces of art made by young people dating back to the 1930's, and from over 50 different countries. Every few months, an exhibition of children's artwork or artwork by adults that is oriented toward children is featured in the gallery space.

## Programming

During public hours, there are a variety of hands-on art activities set up around the space. Children are encouraged to explore at their own pace and choose projects as they please. Children work on projects individually and collaboratively, and can take their artwork home with them. The Museum also hosts school group visits.

CMA also offers a variety of other programming, including:

- School partnerships
- Wee Arts, early childhood classes
- After School programs
- The @5 series, open art studios for teens
- Art Colony, one to two-week camps on a specific theme held at CMA in SoHo and on Governor's Island
- ARTogether, to reconnect foster children with their biological parents
- Creating Connections, bringing together able-bodied children and children with disabilities through art at NYU Langone Medical Center's Rusk Institute of Rehabilitation Medicine
- Arts to LYFE, the Wee Arts program for teenage mothers and their children
- Free Art Outpost on Governor's Island

## About Stripes

The Young Professionals Committee raises funds specifically to support the CMA Stripes program.

Stripes provides a monthly opportunity for children with autism, their siblings & parents to engage in visual art making, creative performing experiences, and imaginative play that will help to develop social interaction, communication skills, dexterity, and self expression in a non-threatening community environment.

### History

In 2006, several parents approached CMA about starting an art program specifically geared toward families with autistic children. These families had struggled to find recreational programming that would allow their entire families to participate, since existing programs usually excluded non-autistic siblings.

### A Typical Day

The 90 minute structured workshop sessions follow an established routine every week, so that ASD children will feel familiar and comfortable with the activities. Participants still have the freedom, however, to set their own pace and choose from a series of developmentally appropriate, stimulating art stations that explore a variety of textures, materials and processes. A typical session includes:

**Warm-Up:** (15-20 minutes) Children explore the Museum independently, or play with touch-oriented materials such as clay and sand

**Open Art:** (30 minutes) Children and parents work on collaborative art projects. New art materials are introduced periodically to keep ASD children focused and interested

**Conclusion:** (20 minutes) Singing, drumming, yoga, and movement activities, followed by snack time

### Why We Help

Today's tough economic climate is making it extremely difficult for CMA to subsidize the Stripes program and keep the cost affordable to families who are faced with many other medical, therapeutic, and educational expenses for their affected children. Since the Stripes Program gets exclusive use of the Art Labs in the Museum, it takes away from funds that could be generated through private birthday parties. Proceeds from YPC events go directly to Stripes to help offset the costs of private use of the space and staffing the program. Since its inception, the YPC has also contributed to increasing the number of sessions and reaching out to families who would benefit from the program.

## **For More Information, or to Join**

We look forward to hearing from you!

If you are interesting in supporting CMA's efforts as a member of the Young Professionals Committee, please forward a copy of your resume. We will arrange a tour of the museum, and a meeting with either Lori or one of the Committee Co-Chairs.

Please contact:

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