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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**WESTCHESTER CHILDREN'S MUSEUM APPOINTS  
THOMAS SULLIVAN AS NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

**New Generation of Leadership Positions Museum to be a  
Leading Education and Play Center for Westchester Region**

October 11, 2022, Rye, NY...The Westchester Children's Museum announced today that the Board of Trustees has unanimously voted to appoint Thomas Sullivan as its new Executive Director. The appointment follows an extensive national search conducted by the Board of Trustees Search Committee and supported by Museum Search & Reference. Mr. Sullivan is an innovative leader and educator with more than 15 years' experience in education. He previously held the position of Director of Education at the DuPage Children's Museum in Illinois and has extensive classroom teaching experience at the Pre-K, elementary, middle, and graduate/Master's levels. He assumes his new position starting October 11, 2022.

"In considering the ideal qualities for our new leader, the Search Committee, with the support of the board and staff, sought a candidate with an entrepreneurial, innovative and collaborative spirit to build the education and exhibit programs, expand our reach and impact on the learning landscape in Westchester, and cultivate new and existing community partnerships that together will drive the Museum's growth," says Carolyn Carr Spencer, Chair of the Westchester Children's Museum Board of Directors and the WCM Search Committee. "Thomas is a creative and dynamic force. He comes to us as an experienced, visionary educator who will now take this unique opportunity as a next generation executive director and institutional leader to build upon our momentum and drive the Museum towards its fullest potential as a key learning destination for children of all ages and abilities in our region for years to come."

"I have long been familiar and deeply impressed with the Westchester Children's Museum as an unparalleled site with a dedicated, creative staff and team of educators with expertise in STEAM learning," said Mr. Sullivan. "Children's museums provide a safe and healthy environment for fun, play, and creativity apart from school. The Westchester Children's Museum is poised to serve as that hub for this region and be a new kind of town square welcoming families, schools, and communities of all kinds to play and learn together. I am thrilled and honored to serve as the next Executive Director and help lead this extraordinary institution into the next era."

Mr. Sullivan is an enthusiastic rising leader in the museum field who brings experience in exhibit development, STEM teaching, and grant management to WCM. He holds a Masters in Museum Education from Bank Street College of Education in New York City. As Director of Education and Programs at

DuPage Children’s Museum in Naperville, IL, he supervised a team of 58 full- and part-time staff, and oversaw a budget of \$2.75 million. His most recent tenure was as Director of STEM Learning at Waterside School in Stamford, CT, where Mr. Sullivan taught science classes for students in grades 1-5 and spearheaded a capital project to expand the existing science program by creating an interactive STEM lab. He also oversaw curriculum and programming that positioned the school to partner with the Westchester Children’s Museum to receive a \$50,000 federal IMLS grant award. Mr. Sullivan has also served as adjunct professor and course designer at Erikson Institute in Chicago, IL, where he developed and taught the “Engineering in Early Childhood” course as part of the STEM Certification track for graduate students in Education.

Mr. Sullivan joins the Westchester Children’s Museum at a key time in its short history since opening to the public in 2016. Located in the historic landmark Bathhouses adjacent to Playland Amusement Park in Rye, the Museum undertook a major expansion and renovation that brought the Museum’s available programming space from 6,000 square feet to over 20,000 square feet, completed in February 2020 just before the pandemic forced the Museum to close. The Museum pivoted to virtual learning during the closure and reopened in summer of 2021 with a condensed operating schedule and reduced budget and revenue. The appointment of Mr. Sullivan as Executive Director coincides with the Museum’s return to a 7-day operating schedule that includes 5 days open to the public and 2 days exclusively for school and community field trips. Mr. Sullivan will work with the Board, staff and community partners to conceive and install new exhibits, introduce new STEAM experiences, expand and enhance the Makerspace, while working to fill the expanded space with innovative experiences that are unique to the Westchester area. Mr. Sullivan succeeds Tracy R. Kay as Executive Director and is only the second person to hold this role for the Westchester Children’s Museum. Tracy Kay served from 2008 to July 2021 and left the Museum to accept the position of Chief Executive Officer of the Bartlett Arboretum in Stamford, Connecticut. He was named Executive Director Emeritus upon his departure.

### **About the Westchester Children’s Museum**

The Westchester Children’s Museum is a light-filled, colorful, vibrant learning space for children age 0-13, filled with interactive exhibits not found anywhere else in this region. The Museum offers experiences in physics, science, art, technology, design, with places to create, build and explore.

Housed in the National Historic Landmark North Bathhouse along the beach in Rye, NY, and adjacent to Playland Amusement Park, the Museum offers 20,000 square feet of space for a wide range of STEAM based programs. The Museum strives to be a safe gathering space for all members of our diverse community where children can share, collaborate, problem solve, and develop critical thinking skills. We are committed to stimulating a child’s lifelong intellectual and civic engagement in the world through relevant, creative and interactive exhibits and programs.

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For public information, visit [www.discoverWCM.org](http://www.discoverWCM.org)

The Museum is located at 100 Playland Parkway, Rye, NY, 10580, 914-421-5050, [info@discoverWCM.org](mailto:info@discoverWCM.org)