FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Marbles Kids Museum Opens New Sensory Exploration Exhibit

RALEIGH, N.C. – Marbles Kids Museum is excited to announce the opening of its new sensory exploration exhibit, *Under the Waves*.

Formally known as Sea Shapes, *Under the Waves* is located on the museum's first floor and includes a larger-than-life octopus, shadow play, a bubble tube, compression canoes and various sensory stimulating and calming activities. Nestled behind doors that limit sound exposure from the museum, guests will find dimmer lighting and calming hues of blue to reflect the tranquility of an immersive deep-sea exhibition.



Photo and Video Gallery

Under the Waves invites children of all abilities seeking a peaceful environment to engage in sensory play. "Sensory play is incredibly valuable for all children. It helps kids develop fine motor skills,

supports emotional regulation, encourages creativity and imagination and provides stress relief. For kids who are sensory-seeking or sensory-sensitive, activities like spinning, calming visual stimulation, or snuggling with weighted objects can help kids self-regulate. While many museums have quiet rooms or calm rooms, they often feel like time-out spaces. *Under the Waves* has been intentionally designed by our team to be a time-in space for play," says Hardin Engelhardt, Marbles' Chief Learning Officer.

Marbles creates inclusive spaces and programs for one-of-a-kind, play-based learning experiences. Each month, families with children who have sensory sensitivities or developmental differences can visit the museum for *Sensory Friendly Playtime*, a free program sponsored by ABS Kids, where guests can experience Marbles in a calmer, quieter setting. Marbles is seeking additional support from community partners and donors to invest in *Under the Waves* and help ensure its success and impact. To learn more about how you can support sensory play at Marbles, **visit here** or contact Avery Goldman, agoldman@marbleskidsmuseum.org.

***Under the Waves* is now open for play.** Marbles is open Tuesday through Sunday from 10am – 5pm and on Thursdays until 7 p.m. Members can enter early at 9 a.m. All visitors are required to purchase tickets in advance online.

About Marbles

Located in downtown Raleigh, Marbles Kids Museum is a community-based nonprofit children's museum with a mission to spark imagination, discovery and learning through play. Creative, play-based experiences at Marbles contribute to children's intellectual growth, social and emotional well-being and healthy development.

Marbles is committed to ensuring its unique, award-winning museum experience is available and accessible to every child. Marbles also offers Raleigh's only certified giant screen IMAX movie experience as well as a robust line-up of enriching programs and events for children, families, students, and adults, united in the power of play to promote positive outcomes and connect our community.

For more information on Marbles Kids Museum, visit MarblesKidsMuseum.org or follow us on Instagram, Twitter or Facebook.

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