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Discovery Gateway Children's Museum Named a 2026 Companies Championing Women Honoree

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Discovery Gateway Children's Museum has been named a 2026 Companies Championing Women honoree, recognizing the museum's continued commitment to developing, retaining, and advancing women in the workplace. The museum will be celebrated at the Companies Championing Women Luncheon on August 27, 2026, at The Grand America Hotel in downtown Salt Lake City, UT.

The recognition builds on the museum's 2024 designation as a 100 Companies Championing Women honoree, awarded through the Governor's Office of Economic Opportunity. This year's honor comes through Companies Championing Women, a new annual recognition program created by the Utah Women & Leadership Project at Utah State University Extension, in partnership with the Women's Leadership Institute, designed to give Utah organizations the opportunity to showcase their ongoing efforts in advancing and supporting women in the workplace year after year.

Women hold three of the Children's Museum's four senior leadership positions and five of nine board seats, and make up approximately 70% of the museum's full staff. The museum's recognition reflects a range of workplace initiatives supporting women and parents, including a partnership with the Women's Leadership Institute offering professional development courses for high potential female leaders, flexible work options for parents, maternity and paternity leave with structured transition support before, during, and after leave, on-site breastfeeding areas with private refrigerated storage, flexibility for staff to bring children into the workplace when needed, and family memberships that let staff and their children connect through the museum's own informal education experiences.

"We understand the barriers women often face in professional settings, and we've worked intentionally to build a culture where growth and mentorship can outweigh those barriers," said Kathleen Bodenlos, CEO of Discovery Gateway Children's Museum. "This recognition reflects the policies we've built around what our team actually needs to succeed in their careers and their families, and it means a great deal to see that work recognized alongside incredible organizations across Utah doing the same."

Discovery Gateway Children's Museum is proud to be honored alongside the other Utah organizations recognized this year for their commitment to advancing women in the workplace, and look forward to celebrating alongside them at the August 27 luncheon.

About Discovery Gateway Children's Museum

Discovery Gateway Children's Museum is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that inspires children of all ages and abilities to imagine, discover, and connect with their world to make a difference. Now in its fifth decade, the museum reaches over 175,000 children, educators, caregivers, and families annually in Salt Lake City, and provides free daily access to 16 nonprofit partner organizations through its Museum Inclusion Fund. The Children's Museum is currently building the Children's Rooftop Greenhouse Exhibit, set to become the largest rooftop garden in a children's museum in the United States.