



*For immediate release*

## **HUMANITARIAN CHEF JOSÉ ANDRÉS, WORLD-RENOWNED CELLIST YO-YO MA AND ASTRONAUT PAM MELROY RECEIVE KID MUSEUM MAKER AWARD**

*Iconic Global Makers Pay Tribute to KID Museum's Innovative Approach to Empower Youth to Invent the Future as well as Supporting Learning During the Pandemic*

**BETHESDA, MD** (December 8, 2020) – KID Museum honored iconic global makers humanitarian Chef José Andrés, world-renowned musician Yo-Yo Ma and astronaut Pam Melroy for their impact and presented them as inspiration to youth. Andrés, Ma and Melroy all paid tribute to KID Museum's approach to empowering youth to invent the future and supporting learning during the pandemic by engaging thousands of students through high-impact, hands-on, maker-learning experiences to build STEM and creative-problem solving skills.

Recognized nationally as a leader in maker education, KID Museum has stepped up during COVID-19 to bring its signature, interactive, maker approach to students from under-resourced communities and providing much-needed respite for parents and teachers to combat the disruptions in learning this year. Since March, the museum has served 5,300 students — 88% of which are from under-resourced communities.

"This year's Maker Award recipients truly exemplify what it is to be a maker," says Cara Lesser, Founder and Executive Director of KID Museum. "It's about using your creativity and innovating to help others; it's about empathy — making the world a better place."

José Andrés connected being a maker with his motivation to start Central World Kitchen, saying, "Empathy, my friends, is the right way to run the world." Yo-Yo Ma echoed the importance of empathy: "If you can make life good for somebody else or for yourself — or both — that gives deep, deep happiness."

Sponsors of *Fête for the Future* included American Gene Technologies, Amazon Future Engineer, Pepco, Bernard Family Foundation, Cooper Construction, Emergent BioSolutions, Comcast, Tower Companies, Arnold & Porter, Lerch, Early & Brewer, Chtd., Ropes & Gray LLP, and Montgomery County Economic Development Corporation.

The maker awards and the event's focus on 'what it means to be a maker' highlight the values and learning philosophy that guide KID Museum's signature programs and community events. The Invent the Future Challenge, now in its fourth year, provides middle schoolers with the technical and social emotional skills to design inventions that address real-world problems. The

museum's free FutureFest introduces thousands of families to maker learning each year. And throughout the year, children take part in maker-oriented school programs, after-school programs, weekend workshops, and camps.

Eva-Jessy, a ninth-grader who invented a solution to forest fires as part of the Invent the Future Challenge, presented the KID Museum Maker Award to astronaut Pam Melroy. Eva-Jessy describes being a maker this way: *"When you have a maker mindset, you're always having this motivation to keep learning, even if you see a lot of obstacles along the way."*

### **About KID Museum**

*KID Museum is the region's pioneering experiential museum and educational makerspace. We empower the next generation with the skills to invent the future. Through hands-on programming for kids and youth (ages 4-14), we challenge young people to be active makers, not just passive observers. We design and deliver programs across the full continuum of learning for kids in pre-K through middle school, in partnership with educators and schools. Our weekend onsite programs, community events, and live, virtual sessions encourage families to learn and explore together. To learn more, please visit: [www.kid-museum.org](http://www.kid-museum.org).*

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Contact:  
Emma Starr  
[emma@kid-museum.org](mailto:emma@kid-museum.org)