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**The Louisiana Art & Science Museum Announces Date and Theme of its
34th Annual Gala**

Baton Rouge — The Louisiana Art & Science Museum announces its 34th Annual Gala, **CHROMA: Color Your Senses**. This colorful “party for a purpose,” which benefits LASM’s educational programs, will take place on **September 20th** from **7:30 PM to 10 PM**. Guests will enjoy an evening of live music, delicious food and drink, dancing, fine art, an exclusive silent auction, and a Grand Raffle. Tickets for the event and Grand Raffle are now on sale at lasm.org/events/gala.

The Gala’s theme is derived from *Harmonies in Color*, an art exhibition organized by the LASM and curated by Chief Curator Elizabeth Weinstein. This exhibition will focus on the sensory experience of color as seen in the work of six nationally-renowned artists. Of particular interest to guests will be the colorful and interactive creations of artist Christopher Janney, who was commissioned by Our Lady of the Lake Children’s Hospital to create “Harmonic Grove,” the interactive entrance to the new hospital off of Essen Lane. The exhibition opens on August 24 and will be on view until January 5.

“We wanted a theme that opens a dialogue about the multifaceted world of color,” said Serena Pandos, the Museum’s President & Executive Director. “‘Chroma’ is the Greek word for color, but it has come to refer to not only the intensity of a given hue but also the tone of a musical pitch. As such, it’s a perfect fit with *Harmonies in Color*. Moreover, ‘color’ connects to STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math) concepts that energize our ongoing educational programs.”

Sponsorship donations and proceeds from the Gala provide support for the Museum's education initiatives, which serve as many as 98,000 school program participants throughout Louisiana each year.

“Peer-reviewed studies show that children who visit museums score higher on tests of critical thinking, empathy, and tolerance,” said Pandos. “At a time when communities are trying to advance scientific literacy and compete globally in all sectors, museums are sparking the next generation of scientists, artists, political leaders, historians, and entrepreneurs.”

This year’s Grand Raffle Prize is an 18k white gold, sapphire, and diamond necklace and earrings set, generously donated by **Lee Michaels Fine Jewelry**. This stunning set, which has a retail value of \$7,000, features a total of 5.4 carats of sapphires and .77 carats of diamonds.

“We are forever grateful to Lee Michaels Fine Jewelry for over three decades of support toward our Grand Raffle, as well as to all our partners, donors, sponsors, members, and patrons,” said Pandos. “Everyone’s contributions have a positive impact, not only on the lives of our children but also on our community’s economic and cultural development.”

Visit www.lasm.org/events/gala for information on tickets and to enter this year’s Grand Raffle. Those interested in becoming a sponsor should contact LASM’s Director of Development, Don Hill, at dhill@lasm.org or 225.344.5272, ext. 130.

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Image: Pictured are (from left to right) Serena Pandos, LASM President & Executive Director; Tiffany Dickerson, Gala Media Chair; Leslie Charleville, LASM Director of Special Events; Shelby Bullion, LASM Special Events Coordinator; Jenny Stewart, Gala Auction Co-Chair; Hannah Heltz, Grand Raffle Co-Chair; Lauren Whatley, Member of the LASM Board of Trustees Fundraising Committee; and Don Hill, LASM Director of Development. Members of the Gala Committee not pictured are: Garrett Hiebert, Gala Sponsorship Chair; Anna Howard, Gala Auction Co-Chair; Terrence Ginn and Leslie Berg, Gala Host Committee Co-Chairs; Dan Bergeron, Gala Décor Chair; Audrey Wascome, Grand Raffle Co-Chair; and Kathy Victorian, Board of Trustees Chair-Elect and Gala Committee Chair.

About Louisiana Art & Science Museum

A nonprofit organization housed on the banks of the Mississippi River in downtown Baton Rouge, the Louisiana Art & Science Museum enhances the understanding and appreciation of art and science for general audiences and students by presenting unique, educational, and entertaining experiences that encourage discovery, inspire creativity, and foster the pursuit of knowledge. More information about the Art & Science Museum is available at lasm.org.

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