RESOLUTION ON THE ROLE OF CHILDREN'S MUSEUMS TO ADDRESS THE ACHIEVEMENT GAP

Whereas the achievement gap is the persistent disparity in academic opportunity and performance between groups of students often based on demographic differences including but not limited to race, gender, and socioeconomic status;

Whereas summer learning loss is a critical contributing factor to the achievement gap;

Whereas the achievement gap negatively impacts every child, family, community, and country in terms of social, emotional, physical, cognitive, and economic well-being;

Whereas research indicates that a collective approach, in which children’s museums and other education, interfaith, business, healthcare, and government providers contribute, is necessary for closing the achievement gap; and

Whereas this convening and dialogue is inspired by the achievements of the collective impact approach in Norwalk through the efforts and sponsorship of Norwalk ACTS; now therefore be it

Resolved, that the Association of Children's Museums (ACM), on behalf of its members:

1. Recognizes the commitment of children’s museums to serving all children and families and supporting educational equity;
2. Recognizes the important role children’s museums play as community resources, stakeholders, experts, and conveners in the world’s learning ecosystems;
3. Acknowledges the critical value of partnership and taking collaborative action for closing the achievement gap; and
4. Collects and disseminates data on the impact of children’s museum efforts to inform programmatic direction through continuous improvement and close the achievement gap for children age eight (8) and younger, especially during the summer months.

Respectfully submitted by the ACM members at the Special Town Meeting at InterActivity 2016.