



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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CITY OF ERIE & PARTNERS HOST DESIGN DAY FOR NEW PLAYGROUND ON WEDNESDAY, APRIL 27

Children's drawings to create blueprint for new community playground

ERIE, Pa. – At 1:30 p.m. today, the City of Erie, the Pennsylvania League of Cities and Municipalities (PLCM), the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources along with organizers from national non-profit KaBOOM! hosted a playground Design Day for local area children. The Design Day, which accompanied the announcement of a new community playground for Erie, took place at Emerson-Gridley Elementary School.

"The park will be a great addition to our community, as it is located across from an elementary school where children currently play without the benefit of a structured playground. The Erie community has come together to support this project. We are thankful to the Pennsylvania League of Cities and Municipalities, KaBOOM!, and all of our partners," said Mayor Joseph E. Sinnott.

At the Design Day, children from Erie put crayon to paper and drew their dream playgrounds, which will ultimately become a reality. Elements from the children's drawings will be incorporated into the final design for the new community playground to be built on June 21 at Gridley Park by mayors and city officials from across the state in conjunction with the PLCM's 112th Annual Convention.

"The Pennsylvania League of Cities and Municipalities is pleased to coordinate with KaBOOM!, the City of Erie, and the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, as well as an incredible group of public and private sector partners, to build a new park in Erie," said PLCM Executive Director John A. Garner, Jr. "This is the second park that the League has organized with KaBOOM!, and we look forward to many such projects in the future. We are excited to announce that the building of the playground at Gridley Park will kick off our 112th Annual Convention this June."

The playground will be made possible by contributions from the City of Erie, the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Highmark Blue Cross Blue Shield, the School District of the City of Erie, the PA Department of Health, the Erie County Department of Health, the Pennsylvania League of Cities and Municipalities, and the Friends of Gridley Park.

Design Day served as the kickoff for the playground project. Following the children's drawing portion of the event, playground committee members met and will continue doing so for the next two months as they plan and prepare for the construction of the new playground, which will be built in a single day by volunteers.

Online sign-up for playground build volunteers is available at https://wfc2.wiredforchange.com/o/8608/p/salsa/event/common/public/?event_KEY=1208. For additional questions on volunteering, please contact John Brenner, PLCM Director of Development at 717-236-9469 or jbrenner@plcm.org.

About Pennsylvania League of Cities and Municipalities

The Pennsylvania League of Cities and Municipalities is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization established in 1900 as an advocate for Pennsylvania's 3rd class cities. Today, PLCM represents Pennsylvania's cities, townships, town, boroughs, and home rule municipalities that all share the League's municipal policy interests. The Board of Directors oversees the administration of a wide array of municipal services including legislative advocacy, publications, education/training, consulting-based programs, and group insurance trusts. For more information, please visit www.plcm.org.

About City of Erie

As one of Pennsylvania's largest cities and the Commonwealth's only Great Lake Port, Erie is strategically located within 500 miles of half the nation's population. Incorporated April 14, 1851, Erie is home port to Commodore Oliver Hazard Perry's US Brig Niagara, the Flagship of Pennsylvania. Erie's rich maritime history is an important aspect of our American history. Please visit the City of Erie Website www.erie.pa.us.

About Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources

Established on July 1, 1995, the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources is charged with maintaining and preserving the 117 state parks; managing the 2.2 million acres of state forest land; providing information on the state's ecological and geologic resources; and establishing community conservation partnerships with grants and technical assistance to benefit rivers, trails, greenways, local parks and recreation, regional heritage parks, open space and natural areas. Please visit www.dcnr.state.pa.us.

About KaBOOM!

KaBOOM! is the national non-profit dedicated to saving play. Because all children deserve to be active and healthy, KaBOOM! works to ensure that every child in America has a great place to play within walking distance. Since 1996, KaBOOM! has used its innovative community-build model to bring together businesses and communities to construct more than 1,900 new places to play across North America. KaBOOM! also fights the Play Deficit with online tools that empower communities to join the movement to save play. The KaBOOM! Website, kaboom.org, allows communities to self-organize and take action to support play on both a local and national level.



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