MEDIA ALERT

For More Information:
Bill Schlageter, Director of Marketing
Cell # 412-559-2744
bschlageter@pittsburghkids.org

MuseumLab Wins Prestigious International Recognition for Civic and Cultural Interior Design at Dezeen Awards 2020

PITTSBURGH, PA (December 3, 2020) — MuseumLab®, the newest expansion of Children’s Museum of Pittsburgh, won top project honors in the international Dezeen Awards 2020 presented by the architecture and design website Dezeen (www.dezeen.com) in an online presentation in November.

The Dezeen Awards, in its third year, identify the world’s best architecture, interior and design projects of the year, as well as the studios, architects and designers producing the most outstanding work.

MuseumLab, designed by KoningEizenberg Architecture with local Architect of Record Perfido Weiskopf Wagstaff + Goettel Architects, opened on April 27, 2019, as a new museum for youth 10 and up in the former Carnegie Free Library of Allegheny.

MuseumLab was named Civic and Cultural Interior of the Year, one of 12 Dezeen Awards given in the Interiors category. There were 1,374 entries for Interiors projects and overall, more than 4,300 entries from more than 80 countries for the Dezeen Awards. MuseumLab was one of only five projects from the U.S. honored with a Dezeen Award.

The judges for the Dezeen Interior Awards said of MuseumLab: "A wonderfully articulated and resolved design approach turns a technical and budgetary challenge on its head, and succeeds in surpassing what the project sets out to achieve. The focus on the end-user is evident, as is the collaborative effort it must have taken."

KoningEizenberg embraced a "beautiful ruin" approach to rejuvenating the 1890 building, stripping away updates from the 1970s to reveal the columns, archways and grandeur of the historic architecture in its existing state. Emphasis was placed on reconnecting spaces, reintroducing daylight and creating inspiring settings for education and exploration.

“We approached MuseumLab as an opportunity to think differently not just about what a museum can be, but what a building can be,” said Jane Werner, Executive Director of Children’s Museum of Pittsburgh. “We are so thankful to all of the partners that worked on the project. They have helped us
create a space for art, technology, and making. We are looking forward to welcoming visitors back to the building in 2021.”

This year’s master jury included New York-based designer Rafael de Cárdenas, Victoriya Yakusha of Yakusha Design, Alex Mok of Linehouse, Seyhan Özdemir and Sefer Çağlar of Istanbul-based studio Autoban and Ambrish Arora of Studio Lotus. They judged entries remotely while using the Dezeen Awards’ criteria that call for entries that are beautiful, innovative and beneficial.

MuseumLab is part of Children’s Museum of Pittsburgh campus, and offers experimental art, making and tech programs for youth, as well as space for community events, educator training and event rentals. It shares space in the building with partners Allies for Children; Carnegie Mellon University’s Entertainment Technology Center and Masters of Arts Management Program; Manchester Academic Charter Middle School, whose 120 students attend school on MuseumLab’s second floor; SLB Radio Productions and the University of Pittsburgh School of Education.

MuseumLab has been awarded LEED Gold Certification for sustainability and has won numerous other awards for its design.

Dezeen is the world’s most popular and influential architecture and design website, and the Dezeen Awards are the benchmark for international design excellence and the ultimate accolade for architects and designers everywhere.

Click here to see MuseumLab win the award.


About MuseumLab
MuseumLab is a new museum located adjacent to the Children’s Museum of Pittsburgh, offering growing kids cutting-edge experiences in art, tech and making. With three exhibit spaces, program and rental space, a host of commissioned artwork and unique camps, workshops and afterschool activities, and multiple partners, MuseumLab sits at the crossroads of interactive museum, learning lab and one of the coolest designed spaces in Pittsburgh.