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### **Staten Island Children's Museum Exhibit Manager Named a "Rising Star" by the Museum Association of New York**

April 20, 2016 -- The Staten Island Children's Museum is so proud to announce that RENEE WASSER, the Museum's Exhibits Manager has been recognized as a 2015 Certificate of Merit recipient by the Museum Association of New York. The Award of Merit program acknowledges outstanding programs and individuals who have made the state's museum community richer and more relevant.

Ms. Wasser, 27 was nominated in the category of "Rising Star," awarded to a *museum professional age 25-35 for his/her creativity and ability to tackle institutional/programmatic challenges in an innovative and inspiring way.*

In her nearly three years as the Exhibit Manager, Renee has left her indelible mark on the Staten Island Children's Museum. Exhibits are cleaner and better maintained, and the entire staff has been trained in opening and closing procedures. Renee's most important and lasting project has been the design and construction of the Garden Terrace, the Museum's newest addition. Designing the Garden Terrace proved to be a challenging endeavor, but under Renee's guidance and with dogged determination, she more than met and solved each and every engineering challenge the design presented and today the Garden Terrace is a beautiful, peaceful space filled with natural materials, sounds and textures where children and families can explore and connect with nature.

Needless to say, Renee remained cheerful, positive and professional during the entire process—from planning, to designing to constructing to planting. She also is the Museum's go-to person for most computer, technical and design questions.

Renee, a native Staten Islander, holds a BA in Architecture from Lehigh University and a MFA in Museum Exhibition Planning and Design from the University of the Arts.

The award was presented during the Museum Association of New York's annual conference in Lake Placid on Monday, April 18.