



**Minnesota
Children's
Museum**

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News Release



Become Part of Carmen Lomas Garza's Stories **New Exhibit opens October 7** **at Minnesota Children's Museum**

ST. PAUL, MN— Mexican American author and artist, Carmen Lomas Garza, brings her paintings and stories to life in the new exhibit, *En Mi Familia*, at Minnesota Children's Museum. Visit young Carmen's bedroom and learn about her family and dreams as a child. Head over to the *El Jardín* restaurant to dance and sing along with music. Celebrate a traditional Mexican American birthday party, visit Carmen's family kitchen for tamale making, and relax while sharing and listening to family stories. The bilingual exhibit will be open Saturday, October 7, 2006 through January 1, 2007.

Climb into Carmen's World

Mi casa es su casa. Children can step into Carmen's bedroom and experience it just as Carmen did as a child. They can sit on her bed, flip through family albums and look at Carmen's childhood memories. Take a seat in the dream chair and create your dreams for the future.

Dance Under the Texas Stars!

Put on your dancing shoes and warm up your vocal chords! Children and adults can make music and dance along with the band. Visitors can also learn some new dance moves by following the lead of the dancers in the video.



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Explore influences on music, and activities focusing on the cultural heritage of music and dance in Mexican American culture.

Happy Birthday to You, Happy Birthday to You...

There's a birthday party and you're invited! Kids participate in the birthday fun during traditional Mexican American birthday activities. Children and adults can swing at the birthday piñata and watch the treats spill out, sit down with Grandma and read more stories from Carmen's childhood, or work on a puzzle that illustrates the birthday scene from Carmen's book, *En Mi Familia*.



Hot Tamales!

Don't miss out on the tamale making fun! Step into Carmen's family kitchen, to learn about the tradition of tamales and participate in the step-by-step process of tamale making. Kids can watch videos on tamale making, listen to Carmen's family stories and explore the history of Mexican American foods.

We're All Ears

What's your story? Inside the Storytelling Kiosk, children and adults can record and share their family stories or traditions. They can also watch videos of other families telling their stories. If visitors prefer to read stories instead of tell them, they can sit on the front porch of Carmen's house and read about her experiences growing up.



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It's Your Turn to be the Artist

Don't forget to bring your creative hat! After seeing and experiencing Carmen's art, kids can create their own art in the Artist's Studio. Kids are encouraged to draw pictures of their families, make *papel picado* (Mexican paper cut outs) or create a mini piñata. Visitors can "meet" Carmen in her studio where she paints, makes *papel picado*, and talks about why she creates art.



Exhibit Information

En Mi Familia was created by the Austin Children's Museum. Funds for the project's design, development, construction and maintenance have been provided by the federal Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) grant.

MINNESOTA CHILDREN'S MUSEUM

Minnesota Children's Museum is a non-profit community organization committed to sparking children's learning through play. Infants through children age 10 discover their world through hands-on exhibits in five permanent galleries: ***Our World*** connects children to people and places in their community as they role play "grown-ups" in a child-size environment; ***World Works*** encourages creativity and problem-solving through investigation and experimentation; ***Earth World*** immerses children in life-like Minnesota habitats to nurture an understanding of the natural world; ***Habitot***[®] enables infants and toddlers to safely explore four developmentally designed learning landscapes; and ***Rooftop ArtPark*** brings nature and art together in an outdoor gallery on the Museum's fourth-floor. Two special galleries offer exciting traveling exhibits from around the world. Fun, interactive activities, such as Story Time and Big Fun! take place daily. Minnesota Children's Museum has been providing children and adults with a fun, educational environment for more than 24 years.

The Museum is located at Seventh and Wabasha streets in downtown St. Paul. For 24-hour information, visit www.MCM.org or call 651-225-6000.

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MUSEUM HOURS

Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Saturday, Sunday	9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Friday	9 a.m. - 8 p.m.
Monday (Memorial Day through Labor Day and holidays)	9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Closed Thanksgiving, Christmas Eve and Christmas Day	

ADMISSION

Ages 1 – 101	\$7.95
Members	Free

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