

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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DICKENS ON THE STRAND OFFERS EXPANDED CHILDREN'S AREA WITH GALVESTON CHILDREN'S MUSEUM PARTNERSHIP

Galveston Island, Texas, October 3, 2016 – Each year, children by the thousands attend Galveston Historical Foundation's Dickens on The Strand Festival. With its parades, petting zoos, history encampments and more, there's a full weekend of quality children's programming on hand for attendees. This year the educators at the Galveston Children's Museum will be lending their expertise to a larger "Oliver's Alley" children's area in the festival grounds featuring hands on educational opportunities for youth. Activities in Oliver's Alley will allow children to step back in time and experience play in the manner of children in Victorian times. The same techniques used to develop the exciting and novel STEM and Arts exhibits at the Galveston Children's museum will be used to create a magical place where children can explore, investigate, and discover the Victorian world, creating their own toys and reviving games from the Victorian times.

In addition, Lucinda Dickens Hawksley, the great-great-great-granddaughter of Charles Dickens, will lead a special writing workshop in Oliver's Alley. The children's area will be open during the day both Saturday, December 3 and Sunday, December 4. A listing of workshops and activities will be posted on www.dickensonthestrand.org.

"Spending the first weekend of December in Texas has become the highlight of my Dickensian calendar! I'm really looking forward to returning to Dickens on the Strand this year and to seeing all the familiar faces and meeting friends again," says Lucinda Dickens Hawksley. "I have really enjoyed seeing how much the festival has expanded in recent years and to taking part in so many events. I am looking forward to working on children's events again this year, as well as to the parades and book signings. If you're coming to Galveston this December, come and say hello to me and my cousin Jane Dickens Monk."

About the Galveston Children's Museum

The Galveston Children's Museum provides a unique, hands-on environment where children explore, investigate, create, and discover. The museum endeavors to provide a venue where learning and play are accessible, appealing, and engaging to everyone in the Island community. The museum aspires to complement and strengthen the learning initiatives of the Island's educational institutions and provides critical opportunities for children to reinforce concepts learned in a formal environment, and will offer them novel experiences in both STEM subjects and the Arts. It strengthens families by providing a place for children and caregivers to learn together, and by presenting parents and caregivers with ideas about continuing the learning-through-play model at home. The Galveston Children's Museum is uniquely positioned to build bridges across social and economic divides in the community, as children and families from all backgrounds in the community come together to simply play.

About Dickens on The Strand

The annual holiday street festival, based on 19th-century Victorian London, features parades, non-stop entertainment on six stages, strolling carolers, roving musicians, bagpipers, jugglers and a host of other entertainers. Costumed vendors peddle their wares from street stalls and rolling carts laden with holiday food and drink, Victorian-inspired crafts, clothing, jewelry, holiday decorations and gift items.

This year's festival begins Friday, December 2 with free admission to Fezziwig's Beer Hall from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. and continues with ticketed admission Saturday, December 3, from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. and Sunday, December 4, from 12 to 6 p.m. Tickets purchased before December 2 are \$13 for adults and \$7 for children ages 7-12. Tickets purchased at the gate are \$15 for adults and \$9 for youth. Discounted tickets for GHF members are available for \$10 in advance or \$12 at the gate. Tickets are available online at www.dickensonthestrand.org, by calling, 409-765-7834 or at all area Randall's stores beginning November 6. Attendees in Victorian costume are admitted for \$8.

For more information on Dickens on The Strand, Galveston Historical Foundation, or to purchase advance tickets, please visit galvestonhistory.org or call 409-765-7834. For more festival information, please contact Will Wright, Director of Communications and Special Events at 409-765-3404 or will.wright@galvestonhistory.org.