



# PLAYGROUND



## Playground makes an investment of its own!

(Kenténha/October 13, 2022) Playground is excited to announce that it is investing \$1 million towards the Kahnawà:ke Cultural Arts Center Capital Campaign.

“The importance and significance of this project cannot be emphasized enough. As part of its mandate, Playground has always placed a commitment to sharing its own successes with the community. This investment is one that we know will have endless returns for our people. We are excited to be participants in this historic project and are honored to be able help bring it another step forward towards becoming a reality.” said Mackenzie Kirby, one of Playground’s co-licensee’s.

Limited by an outgrown and deteriorating building, Kanien’kehá:ka Onkwawén:na Raotitíohkwa Language and Cultural Center (KORLCC) identified the need for a new home base but did not have the resources to build. So, supported by the community, they entered into a partnership with the Mohawk Council of Kahnawà:ke (MCK), Turtle Island Theatre and Kahnawà:ke Tourism to actively begin planning for the construction of a large-scale, multi-purpose building and auditorium that would serve as a community hub where all would be welcome.



*Pictured, from left to right: Trina Diabo (MCK Representative), Lisa Phillips (Executive Director KORLCC), Mackenzie Kirby (Co-Licensee - Playground), Jessica Hernandez (Turtle Island Theatre), Kimberly Cross (Kahnawà:ke Tourism), Kahsennenhawe Sky-Deer (Ohén:ton Í:iente ne Ratítsénhaienhs - MCK)*

“On behalf of the proponents, I’d like to thank Playground for its generous donation of \$1 million for the project,” said Ohén:ton Í:iente ne Ratítsénhaienhs (Grand Chief) Kahsennenhawe Sky-Deer. “As we continue to move forward in this important Capital Campaign phase of the project, every donation is important. We are confident that Playground’s generosity will be an inspiration for other businesses and organizations to participate in the fundraising for our Cultural Center/Museum/Theatre complex – probably our single most significant project in the last fifty years or more.”





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“KORLCC is extremely pleased and thankful for the continued support and belief that the owners/partners and Playground team have displayed over the years in our organization and the work that we do within the community and beyond. To take the role as a lead donor in our capital campaign is indicative of their priority and commitment towards language, culture and community. We wish to say niawenhkò:wa on behalf of the KORLCC Board, staff and students.” said Kawennanóron Lisa Phillips, Executive Director of the KORLCC.

Jessica Hernandez, Treasurer for the Turtle Island Theatre added by saying “Turtle Island Theatre is beyond thankful for Playground’s donation, and support of the project. With this donation we are one step closer to having a forever home to provide the community with our services. Niawenhkò:wa!”

The center will undoubtedly draw visitors from within and around the community. Kimberly Cross, who heads Kahnawà:ke’s Tourism office stated that “the contribution from Playground demonstrates the community spirit and support toward this project. We are grateful for the economic successes of our local businesses that are able to continuously give toward community growth. Niawenhkò:wa to the Playground Team.”

