

*For Immediate Release*

## **Thinkery to reopen for limited-capacity General Admission beginning Friday, February 19**

**[2.10.2021] – Austin, TX** – Thinkery is pleased to announce it will reopen for limited-capacity General Admission beginning next weekend. Friday, February 19 will be reserved for Thinkery Members; general public sessions will begin on Saturday, February 20.

The museum closed in late December 2020 when Austin-Travis County officials moved the region into Stage 5 guidelines for preventing COVID community spread. Now that the area has moved back into Stage 4, Thinkery determined it would be safe to reopen for General Admission sessions at 25% capacity.

“We are very excited to welcome Austin’s kids, families, and caregivers back to Thinkery,” said Thinkery Chief Executive Officer Andy Bell. “We have prioritized health and safety since the COVID crisis began last year. Closing the museum during the Stage 5 guidance was an important and necessary decision. However, we were determined to reopen with our extensive health and safety measures at the appropriate time. Happily, that time has arrived!”

Upon reopening, the museum will be open Friday-Sunday for multiple General Admission sessions each day. Sessions will last two hours, and tickets will be capped at 25% capacity to promote safe social distancing within the building. All guests over the age of 24 months will be required to wear masks that cover their nose and mouth while in the building.

Thinkery will also be adding one weekly session of its popular Baby Bloomers program to the schedule upon reopening. Baby Bloomers is reserved for children age 36 months and younger, and features special programming designed specifically for toddlers.

“Now more than ever, children and families need of opportunities for fun, play-based, interactive learning experiences,” said Bell. “This is especially true for early learners, and we hope that the return of Baby Bloomers gives parents and caregivers with toddlers a chance to play and learn together in a fun, safe environment.”

The new operating schedule will be as follows:

- **FRIDAY:** General Admission 9 am–11 am and 11:30 am–1:30 pm
- **SATURDAY:** Baby Bloomers 9 am–11 am; General Admission 11:30 am–1:30 pm and 2 pm–4 pm
- **SUNDAY:** General Admission 9 am–11 am, 11:30 am–1:30 pm, and 2 pm–4 pm



Tickets for all sessions may be purchased in advance on Thinkery's website. A limited number of walk-up tickets will be available for all sessions, as well. Visitors are encouraged to review the website for details on health and safety requirements, reserving tickets, and other helpful information prior to visiting the museum.

*We invite your coverage of Thinkery's reopening weekend. Thinkery CEO Andy Bell will be available for interviews and walk-throughs. To preserve operational efficiency, we request any coverage requests be booked in advance. To schedule an interview or on-site visit, please contact Jeff Dellinger at [jdellinger@thinkeryaustin.org](mailto:jdellinger@thinkeryaustin.org).*

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### **About Thinkery**

Thinkery is Austin's home for "why" and "how." Our mission is to create innovative learning experiences that equip and inspire the next generation of creative problem solvers. Thinkery offers 40,000 square feet of indoor and outdoor exhibits for children and families to learn through play. It's a place where science and families play side by side and people connect with ideas by doing, making and experiencing.

Thinkery is a 501(c)(3), private nonprofit organization; last year we served more than 460,000 children and their grown-ups.