## New York Transit Museum

March 15, 2017

Contact:
Chelsea Newburg (718) 694-4915
chelsea.newburg@nyct.com

## SPECIAL DAY FOR SPECIAL KIDS

Free admission and fun activities for children with disabilities and their families Sunday, March 26<sup>th</sup> from 10am – 12pm

The New York Transit Museum will open early on Sunday, March 26<sup>th</sup> to welcome kids with disabilities and their families for *Special Day for Special Kids*! As part of the Transit Museum's ongoing effort to offer exhibitions and programs that make its extensive collection accessible to everyone, during the *Special Day* festivities, kids with disabilities and their family members will enjoy free, exclusive access to the Museum from 10am till public opening at 11am, and special activities will be available for all Museum visitors till noon.

This *Special Day for Special Kids* will celebrate the extraordinary arrival of New York City's newest transit line. Inspired by the Museum's new *Next Stop: Second Avenue Subway* exhibition, families will work together to create a model of their dream subway station, learn about the incredible machines used to dig through Manhattan bedrock to create new tunnels, and have the opportunity to dig for underground treasure on the platform of the Transit Museum's own subway-station home.

Light refreshments will be served in the lunchroom, and kids and parents can also take a break and relax in the Museum's chill-out room, where puzzles and sensory toys will be provided.

At *Special Day for Special Kids*, attendees can play and learn at their own pace and get social with other kids in a safe environment where expert Museum staff are available to assist as needed. Guests will enjoy all the Museum has to offer and benefit from special activities led by trained Museum Educators, a cool-down space for quiet relaxation, and the Transit Museum's subway-station home reserved for these very special visitors.

Special Day for Special Kids is free with reservation. Visit <a href="https://nytransitmuseum.org/specialdayforspecialkids">nytransitmuseum.org/specialdayforspecialkids</a> to RSVP.

In addition to Special Day for Special Kids, the Transit Museum offers many other access programs throughout the year. Customized, guided school and camp programs are offered to accommodate groups with special needs, and through the Ready to Ride program, middle and

high school students with learning disabilities are given the chance to practice using mass transit safely and independently using the Museum's vintage trains. In 2016, Subway Sleuths, the Museum's renowned after-school program for school children on the autism spectrum, was honored by the President's Committee on the Arts and the Humanities' with a 2016 National Arts & Humanities Youth Program Award. The Transit Museum is proud to be a resource for families with special needs. To learn more about access program offerings at the Transit Museum, visit <a href="https://nytransitmuseum.org/access">nytransitmuseum.org/access</a>.

The Transit Museum is wheelchair accessible via a lift that must be operated by staff. Please call 718-694-1823 to make arrangements for using the lift. For information on wheelchair access, American Sign Language interpreters, Assisted Listening Devices, or other accessibility matters, please visit nytransitmuseum.org/accessibility.

Funding for special needs programs is provided by the FAR Fund, the Joseph Leroy and Ann C. Warner Fund, Inc., the Taft Foundation, the Meringoff Family Foundation, the Doug Flutie Jr. Foundation for Autism, the Tiger Baron Foundation, and generous individual donors. Programs are also made possible, in part, by the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Andrew Cuomo and the New York State Legislature, and by public funds from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs in partnership with the City Council. Funding for free youth and family programs is provided by City Council Members Brad Lander, Stephen T. Levin, and David Greenfield.

What: Special Day for Special Kids

When: Sunday, March  $26^{th}$  from 10 am - 12 pm

Open exclusively for children with disabilities and their families from

10am – 11am!

**Where:** New York Transit Museum

Boerum Place and Schermerhorn Street

Downtown Brooklyn

**Admission:** Free for children with disabilities and their families.

Registration required: nytransitmuseum.org/specialdayforspecialkids

**Media:** High-resolution images available upon request.