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**Macmillan Children's Publishing Group to launch new imprint;
Publisher Daniel Nayeri, Editorial Director Nathalie Le Du, and Creative
Director Colleen AF Venable to lead**

Jon Yaged, President and Publisher of Macmillan Children's Publishing Group announced today the launch of a new imprint centered around imaginative and innovative books that inspire kids to explore, learn, and have fun while helping them develop the skills to do so. Publisher Daniel Nayeri, Editorial Director Nathalie Le Du, and Creative Director Colleen AF Venable will lead the to-be-named imprint. All three join MCPG from Workman Publishing.

"MCPG is always interested in growing our business in new and interesting ways," said Yaged. He added, "We jumped at the opportunity to build a new business around Daniel, Nathalie, and Colleen. Individually, they are among the most creative and innovative people in children's publishing. Collectively, they are the perfect team to build upon MCPG's strengths while helping us grow in new directions. I cannot wait to see what they create."

While at Workman, Nayeri, Le Du, and Venable led the team responsible for the blockbuster franchises PAINT BY STICKER, SUMMER BRAIN QUEST, and BIG FAT NOTEBOOKS among many other interactive and bestselling nonfiction books for young readers.

Daniel Nayeri was most recently the Publisher of the children's group at Workman Publishing, where he oversaw a team of designers, editors, and inventors. Before his time at Workman, he was digital editorial director at Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, editor at Clarion Books, and before that, a professional pastry chef. Daniel was born in Iran and spent a couple of years as a refugee before immigrating to Oklahoma at age eight with his family. He graduated magna cum laude from New York University with majors in English Literature, Creative Writing, and Religious studies.

"Our new imprint will be a collaboration of makers in the communal pursuit of creating art objects for great and terrible children. We come from the worlds of storytelling, pedagogy, game design, crafters, and builders. It's no wonder that Macmillan, with its commitment to creative nonconformity, was the perfect place for us to build a new kind of imprint," said Nayeri.

Nathalie Le Du was most recently Executive Editor at Workman Publishing, where she was the acting advisor on all things educational and interactive. Prior to her time at Workman Publishing, Nathalie spearheaded the editorial strategy for Kumon Publishing Company's North American workbook and educational activity book program, developing and authoring the WRITING WORKBOOK series and the SUMMER REVIEW AND PREP series. She is a native New Yorker, received her bachelor's degree in English literature from Boston University and her

master's in literary cultures from New York University, with stints at the University of Sydney, Australia, and the University of Cape Town, South Africa.

“Our vision as an imprint is interactive books, playful books, substantive, useful, and informative books in formats kids have never seen before. The principles that guide us are choosing innovation over trends, substance over expedience, and hope over cynicism,” said Le Du.

Colleen AF Venable was most recently Art Director at Workman Publishing where she was named a 2017 Publisher's Weekly StarWatch Top 5 Finalist for her work. Before Workman she worked as the sole designer for First Second Books, where she designed many memorable books including Gene Yang's National Book Award finalist *Boxers & Saints* and the Caldecott and Printz Honor *This One Summer*. She went to Wagner College in New York City where she graduated first in her class with a double major of English and Studio Art.

“We believe design and editorial work hand in hand, creating the ideas, the look, and the physical feel of the books as a group. We want to make books kids see and immediately need to hold, with every element carefully thought out, from the cover to the spine to the details on those often-neglected copyright pages. Macmillan gave me my start in design, and I can't think of a better place for our new imprint to thrive,” said Venable.

Nayeri will report directly to Jon Yaged, and Le Du and Venable will report to Nayeri.

Macmillan Publishers is a global trade book publishing company with prominent imprints around the world. Macmillan publishes a broad range of award-winning books for children and adults in all categories and formats. U.S. publishers include Farrar, Straus and Giroux, Flatiron Books, Henry Holt & Company, Macmillan Audio, Macmillan Children's Publishing Group, Picador, St. Martin's Press, and Tor Books. In the UK, Australia, India, and South Africa, Macmillan publishes under the Pan Macmillan name. The German company, Holtzbrinck Deutsche Buchverlage, includes among its imprints S. Fischer, Kiepenheuer & Witsch, Rowohlt, and Droemer Knaur. Macmillan Publishers is a division of the Holtzbrinck Publishing Group, a large, family-owned media company headquartered in Stuttgart, Germany.

CONTACT:

Allison Verost
Vice President, Marketing & Publicity
Macmillan Children's Publishing Group
646-307-5738
Allison.Verost@macmillan.com