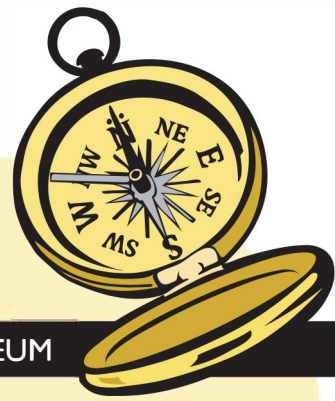


Summer 2021

Volume 28

Number 3

The Explorer



NEWS FROM THE WORLD AWARENESS CHILDREN'S MUSEUM

Thank YOU!

We have traveled a long way together to achieve our mission of bringing our diverse world to children. There is still an exciting journey ahead!

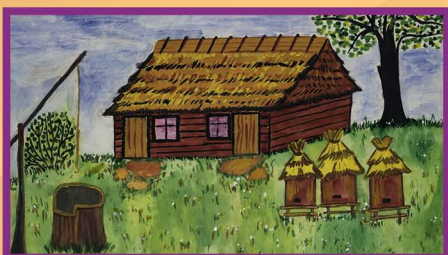
We're having a great summer!



Dan Wade
President, Board of Trustees

As we look forward to school season just around the corner, a reflection upon this past summer gives reason to be excited! We safely re-opened the museum doors to the public and it has been a joy to see the wonder on the faces of children as they return or enter the museum for the first time. We successfully held our first ever outdoor International Cuisine fundraiser and launched a brand new exhibit on Thailand at the museum. It's really quite stunning and I suggest everyone come to check it out.

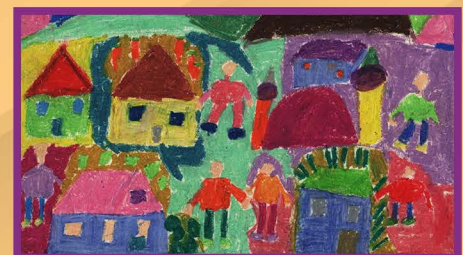
Looking ahead, we have several wonderful events coming up, including a speakeasy themed night at the Park Theater and the launching of the "COVID-19 & Me" art exhibit at the Crandall Public Library. You may have even seen us and said "Hi" at our booth at the Take-A-Bite in downtown Glens Falls. The museum is more active and vibrant than ever before. We could not continue to provide these amazing services without your generous support. Thank you and we love you all!



"Bee-keepers house"
by Alicja Jadziewicz, age 13
Poland, 1994



"Planting the future"
by Adriele Assis Valomi, age 10
Brazil, 2010



"Our neighborhood"
by Ahmet Emre Oruk, age 9
Turkey, 1991



Bethanie Lawrence
Executive Director



Cloth doll
Donated in 2009 (Germany)

I am so very pleased to report that the museum is fully open again! We reopened on July 10 to a crowd of 99 visitors, and our patrons were incredibly glad to be back. The Post Star did a wonderful article about our reopening and our new Thailand exhibition; you can read it here: <https://bit.ly/3yt7rVB>. We hope you'll stop by and visit!

Our Museum Summer Camp was a huge success. Children loved learning about modern messy artists in our first week of camp, fascinating sea creatures in our second week, racing around the world during our third week, and solving the case of the missing masterpiece in our fourth week. We are very grateful to Schutze Family Dentistry P.C. for their generous sponsorship of our 2021 summer camp!

I have to say a big thank you to our community. Our International Cuisine Festival at the Lake George Festival Commons in June was a great success -- we raised over \$29,000! Our community also nominated us for the Adirondack Regional Chamber of Commerce Nonprofit of the Year award. Thank you for your support.

We are in the middle of some exciting projects and initiatives. We received funding from the Cloudsplitter Foundation, Lower Adirondack Regional Arts Council, Wood Foundation, Stewart's Holiday Match, and individual sponsors to help fund our Worldwide Explorers television programs. Our episode all about Japan is out now and can be seen on your local LOOK TV channel or at <https://lookmediaresource.org/living-room-explorers-ep6/>. Each episode costs about \$3,000 to produce; if you'd like to contribute to this initiative, please visit <https://paybee.io/@wacm@11>.

We had great success with our "COVID-19 & Me: Changes in my World" project this past year. You can see all of the artwork submitted to this project here: <https://worldchildrensmuseum.org/covid-19-and-me/>. Due to the wonderfully positive response, we have decided to expand this project to include international students and showcase their experiences with the COVID-19 pandemic. In order to fund this international project, we need your help. To lend your support, please visit <https://paybee.io/@wacm@24>.

Thank you for your generosity, and we look forward to seeing you soon!





Rebeka Antonelli

Membership and Program Coordinator

We are open again! Little feet are moving throughout the museum, parents are chatting by exhibits while their children play, and our doors are officially unlocked. For most of my time here at the museum, the front door has been locked, only opening to let in one family at a time.

I like that one-on-one time, to say 'hello' and introduce ourselves or welcome a friend back. But what a different feeling, what a thrill, to just unlock the door and place out the 'go!' open sign and see our friends walking in! We not only opened our doors in July, we also opened our new Beauty and Beasts exhibit featuring Thailand! I've been able to see first hand how much fun the children have measuring themselves against the wild animals of Thailand on our wall ruler, or how they stretch their legs and jump the stride of one elephant footprint to another. There are many new pieces they have had fun exploring, and we hope you all get to come see them, too!

What has been happening upstairs in the offices? This year we have made the transition to virtual programs. Our team of educators and the volunteer Education Committee were determined to bring our interactive classes into classrooms from right here in the museum. Artifacts and art were virtually transported to schools and children. Hands-on activities that enhanced the lessons were shipped to the classrooms, anything from their very own chopsticks to practice with and take home, supplies for creating a repurposed necklace from recycled materials, or items to 'build' their own greenhouse to watch beans begin to sprout. We are excited to continue to grow our virtual collection and reach even more children around the world!

On the note of virtual learning and enrichment, we also began to develop 30- to 60-minute virtual workshops for children and families around the world through Outschool! Currently we have a live, interactive storytime for preschoolers, Fashion From Around the World: A Doll Show-and-Tell for 7-10 year olds, and design and building challenges for 8-11 year olds with Mission Earth. There is also a collection of recorded videos from the past year to encourage children to keep discovering new cultures and countries as a free resource. If you would like to come and explore with us in the classroom or at home, you will find more details on our website, or please feel free to reach out to us. We are so excited to continue to bring our diverse world to children, and even more excited to see them back here at the museum! Happy Summer!



Name: Ryan Muska

School: Fairleigh Dickinson University

Major: History

Career Goals: To be a high school or college history teacher.

Why WACM?: I was interested in interning at WACM because I saw the great strides the museum has been making in engaging children and families in cultural education, and I felt that I wanted to be part of it.

Favorite part: Being able to handle and observe all of the art and artifacts.



Name: Lynnaya Preuss

School: Boston College

Major: Psychology

Career Goals: To work for a nonprofit that gives me the opportunity to make a tangible difference in people's lives.

Why WACM?: I had visited WACM in the past and resonated with the museum's mission of cultural education, and I was looking for a chance to help further that goal.

Favorite part: Helping to facilitate camp activities and knowing that I contributed to new experiences for the children who attended.



Name: Laney Maguire

School: Glens Falls High School

Career Goals: To work in psychology or sociology — I think how we interact with each other is really interesting.

What have you learned at WACM?: I've definitely found myself being more attentive to polite manners, even noticing polite interactions between friends or family members who visit the museum!

Favorite part: I really love working with the kids, each one of them is different from the others and all uniquely funny. It's great seeing them learn new things at the museum and interact with each other.



Name: Sophia Keshmiri

School: Middlebury College

Major: Biochemistry and Computer Science

Career Goals: I really want to make a positive impact on the world and spread kindness in whatever I am doing.

Why WACM?: Almost every day that I've been here I've worked on something just a little different, and having exposure to so many different new projects and tasks will help me in any work environment.

Favorite part: Creating intricate lesson plans with the education staff, and being surrounded by so many positive, kind people!

Get to know our interns!



Russell Serrienne

Curator of Exhibitions and Collections

This summer, we opened “Thailand: Beauty and Beasts,” our new interactive exhibition inviting our visitors to explore Thailand’s traditions, wildlife, and water market. The nature sanctuary features informative and playful magnetic puzzles highlighting unique animals of the country.

Children can decorate a baby elephant for a festive parade, explore the “Rice Life Cycle” field, and fill their boat for the traditional Thai Water Market. Thailand artworks from our International Youth Art Collection are displayed throughout the museum, in addition to the nostalgic antique wooden school desks with mounted iPads for viewing videos of many Thai customs, food, animals, and dance. You can check out how tall an Asian elephant is, too!

Many thanks to Tina Curruthers, Sheileen Landrey, Linda & Frank Cappabianca, Gretchen Steen, and the Education Committee for their creative and educational contributions in developing this activity center.

COVID-19 & Me: Changes in My World was a partnership with ten schools across the country to ask the question: How has the pandemic affected children? The project’s goal was to document the pandemic through the eyes of children. From hundreds of submissions, 52 pieces were selected for inclusion in our International Youth Art Collection. These expressive and powerful works have now been developed into a traveling exhibition curated by myself and Independent Curator Jenny Huthchinson. Our first public showing of this exhibition will be hosted by Crandall Public Library Friends Gallery from September 1-30, 2021. We invite you to visit the exhibition!

World Awareness
**CHILDREN'S
MUSEUM**

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Executive Director

Diane Dumouchel
Bookkeeper

Shane Frasier
*Marketing & Communications
Coordinator*

Russell Serrienne
*Curator of Collections
& Exhibitions*

Rebeka Antonelli
*Membership & Program
Coordinator*

Sage Sanderspre
Shelby Walton
Emily F. Wood
Front of House Staff

Ilona Reilly
Museum Educator

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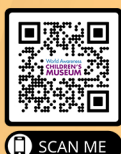
Museum Founder

Jacquiline Toubas, PhD



Wooden toy
donated in 1993 (Poland)

Save the Date!



Exhibition - September 1 - 30, 2021
Crandall Public Library Friends Gallery



October 24, 2021
The Park Theater



May 2022
International Cuisine Dinner & Auction

Current Funding Opportunities:

Honorary Committee for Night at the Speakeasy



Worldwide Explorers TV Programs



COVID-19 & Me International



General support



Contact us at
info@worldchildrensmuseum.org
if you're interested in helping us!