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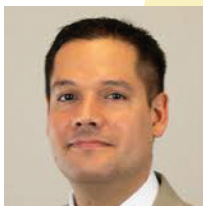
The Explorer



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! This issue will introduce you to our staff and what we do, and will highlight what we're looking forward to in 2020.



Daniel Tarquino, President of the Board of Trustees

One glance at the works of art created by children from all over the world is all it takes to understand the cultural value housed at the World Awareness Children Museum.

I was introduced to this wonderful venue by my co-worker, Alina Kindron, who at the time served as President of the Museum's Board of Trustees. The passion with which she spoke about the art collections, exhibits, and those involved with the museum, sparked my curiosity.

I know the world to be more than just the place where you live and the people you know. I'm fascinated by experiencing other cultures, exploring different environments and learning about other people's customs.

How wonderful that, in our own backyard, we have a place where children's curiosity can be sparked through interactive exhibits about foreign countries and far away cultures, and where art pieces can bridge distance and language barriers to communicate how others, strangers to our way of life, see and experience the world around them.

I am honored to serve in a group of employees, volunteers, and supporters, who share in the vision of bringing pieces of the World to our local community through art. 2020 will be an exciting year of changes, new endeavors, and continued collaboration to further the Museum's reach and presence.

Thank you for your continued support.



Bethanie Lawrence, Executive Director

I came to the Museum in March 2018, fresh from Nashville, TN, and having taught in schools around the country for five years. I was hired at the Museum as a receptionist, with the promise of presenting school programs as they were booked. I spent two weeks greeting patrons and learning the heart of what we do in the **go!** hands-on exhibition space. When the Education Coordinator at the time decided to pursue other employment opportunities, I was promoted to that role. From April to October 2018, I spent my time at the museum cultivating relationships with educators in the region, developing new classroom programs with the Education Committee, and traveling to

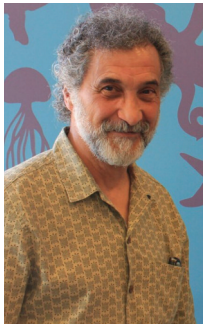
schools to teach about the world through the Museum's onsite and outreach programs. When I was promoted once again at the end of October 2018 to the position of Deputy Director & Education Coordinator, I took on more responsibility, including membership relations, overseeing the front desk staff, and managing the gift shop. During my 12 months as Deputy Director & Education Coordinator, I tripled our income from school programs, grew our membership numbers, and created cohesive and competent front desk and education teams.

As the new Executive Director, I am delighted with where the Museum is heading. In 2020, we are celebrating our 25th anniversary of being a chartered museum, hosting our 30th

International Cuisine Dinner, and anticipating our most exciting year yet. My plans for the museum are to introduce a new exhibit celebrating Thailand, as well as an exhibit specifically for our youngest visitors to enjoy. I am committed to growing this wonderful organization and furthering the reach of our mission: **"bringing our diverse world to children."**

As we are now in the middle of our Annual Appeal, please partner with us on this journey and donate to help us reach our goal of \$70,000. Your support will allow us to continue fostering values of acceptance, understanding, creativity, and knowledge. Your contribution is tax-deductible, and it just feels good to give!

Russell Serrienne, Curator of Collections & Exhibitions



International Youth Art Collection —

Artworks from the museum's International Youth Art Collection continue to be on exhibit in our community. Selected works are currently featured at Glens Falls Pediatrics, Hudson Headwaters Pediatric and Adolescent Health Center, and Aviation Mall. Planning is already in the works for our annual spring exhibition in the Friends Gallery at Crandall Public Library, which this year will also display masks and other hanging objects from our artifacts collection.

We thank Kelly Freitas from São Paulo, Brazil, for visiting our museum to hand deliver thirty-six artworks created at the GC Cultural Center for Intercultural Learning in São Paulo. Kelly and the Cultural Center have been contributing youth art to our collection for over 15 years.

Exciting projects for 2020 include upgrading existing exhibitions and creating new themed art exhibits for loan. Additionally, a grant from the Touba Family Foundation will enable the museum to prepare hundreds of newly acquired and accessioned artworks for archival storage and educational display.



From left: Russell Serrienne, Kelly Freitas, Bethanie Lawrence, Dr. Jacky Touba

Artifacts Collection —

The museum's ongoing receiving of selected donated items has contributed to and broadened our collection in many ways. Newly accessioned to our American Native Indian Collection is a set of highly creative Southwest Kachina Dolls.

From the estate of and handmade by Virginia Cegelski Guyette, we acquired an assortment of authentic Polish Dance Costumes, which has fulfilled a desire for traditional European textiles, clothing, and accessories.

A 2020 Touba Family Foundation grant will fund the major upgrading of collections archiving procedures as we transition to PastPerfect Museum Software. PastPerfect allows for the database storage of artifacts, documents, photographs and all donor and detailed information.

Emily Forbes-Wood, Museum Administrator



For most of my life, I have worked in libraries. As a kid, one of my earliest memories was cutting up stickers to put on the spines of my books just like the local library had. As I

grew older, I began volunteering and then working at Crandall Public Library. Following graduation with my Bachelor's degree, I expected to move on to my Master's in Information Studies, but my story had a plot twist.

Soon after graduation, I found myself working at the Hudson Falls Free Library as their Youth Services Coordinator. This is where my relationship with the World Awareness Children's Museum begins. Bethanie Lawrence, our current Executive Director, and I wanted to create a program for kids in the town of Hudson Falls. Through creating these lessons together, library and museum, we developed a partnership that eventually led to my employment as a receptionist at the Museum. When our former Director, June Waters, relocated to Arizona in November 2019, Bethanie asked me to be the Museum Administrator.

As I intend to work in the non-profit field for most of my career in some form or another, my experience here at the museum has been invaluable. Most of my experience before had been in program development, but as the Museum Administrator, I have learned more about the complexity of running a non-profit. Some parts are similar, like statistics and member interaction. However, tasks like writing thank you letters and scheduling school programs are different. I am so humbled by the opportunities that have been presented to me in the past year. In the words of Mary Pope Osbourne, "Reading is a passport to countless adventures" and I intend to take full advantage before my book closes.

World Awareness
CHILDREN'S MUSEUM

Museum Education Programs

One major part of the Museum is our education programs. Museum Educators visit schools and teach about topics such as Chinese New Year, Day of the Dead, international architecture, international flags and their symbolism, world clothing, world food, or life in Nigeria, Japan, or the Bedouins cultures. Thousands of students throughout the Capital Region and beyond have seen the Museum's art and artifacts from the comfort of their own classrooms. Our education programs encourage students and teachers alike to think beyond the norm and to stretch their minds to try to understand life from different perspectives. In doing this, they have the opportunity to become more well-rounded citizens and more caring and empathetic people.

During the 2019-2020 school year, we have been able to offer scholarships to schools that can't afford to participate in our education programs without financial assistance. This has been a huge help in being able to bring our programs to more students and to make the Museum a more equitable institution. We hope to continue this scholarship fund so we can offer more low-income schools the opportunity to participate in our programs. Thank you to the Glens Falls Foundation and other donors for contributing to this initiative!

In 2020, the Education Committee is designing a new environmental education program with the help of funding from the Cohoes Savings Foundation. This new program will explore ways that people are handling environmental issues globally, as well as what students can do to conserve their environment.



— Staff —

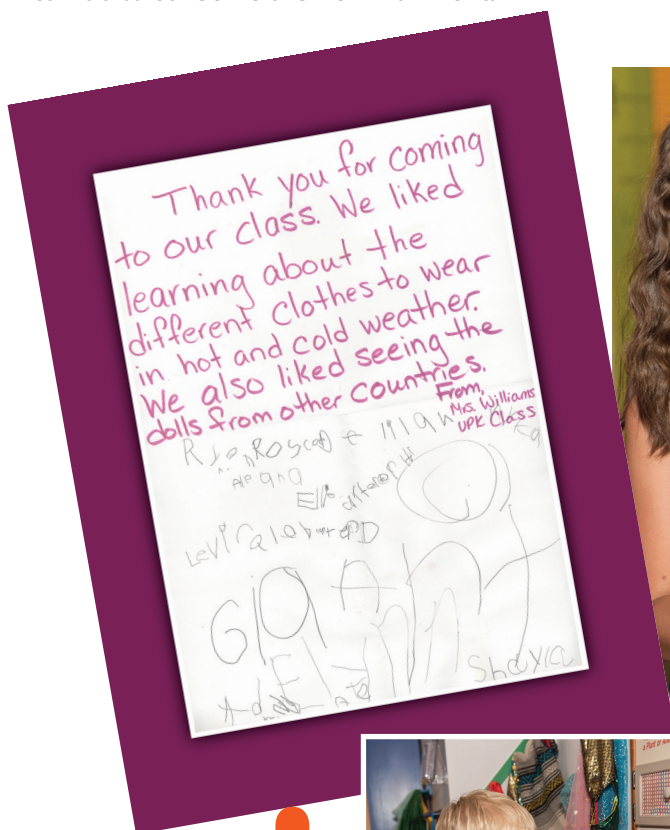
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World Awareness CHILDREN'S MUSEUM 2019 Annual Appeal

**We're on our way to reaching
our annual appeal goal of \$70,000!**

Donations of **\$55,190** so far have helped us in our growth for 2020.
Please consider walking beside us in our journey to continue
bringing our mission to new heights!

Your donation to the World Awareness Children's Museum is an
investment in the future of our community. Thank you for believing
in our mission and joining us as we grow together!

Your support helps **bring our diverse world to children.**

Mail your donation to:

WACM, 89 Warren Street, Glens Falls, NY 12801

Or donate online at: www.WorldChildrensMuseum.org

\$70,000

