

For Immediate Release
February 8, 2021

Media Contact:

Shane Frasier
Marketing & Communications Coordinator
marketing@worldchildrensmuseum.org

World Awareness Children's Museum Interns Develop New Traveling Exhibits

Glens Falls, NY – Interns at the World Awareness Children's Museum have developed new traveling exhibits with Curator of Collections & Exhibitions, Russell Serrienne. These new exhibits will showcase selections from the museum's International Youth Art Collection, which contains over 7,000 pieces of child-made art from around the world. Traveling exhibits are available to loan.

This paid internship program was made possible by the Touba Family Foundation. Interns worked with Mr. Serrienne to develop exhibitions titled, *The Clothes We Wear and What They Say*; *Textiles Around the World: Weaving, Dyeing, Stitching*; and *Ensembles of Humanity: Musical Stories from Around the World*. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the museum chose to offer this internship in a remote capacity, and therefore was able to engage with qualified applicants from around the country. Interns Eleanor Willard and Laura Hughes were chosen from a pool of hundreds of applicants.

"The success of the museum's remote internships expands our ability now and, in the future, to create and offer traveling exhibitions for loan of our unique collection to educational, museum, and corporate institutions," says Mr. Serrienne.

Laura Hughes is a Museum Anthropologist and a recent graduate from the University of Denver where she earned her M.A. in Anthropology, focusing on Museum and Heritage studies. She is interested in exploring how we know what we know and aims to generate work that provides a critical context for the world in which we live. Her research interests include critical museology and pedagogy, Indigenous representation, sovereignty, art and anthropology, intersectional methodologies, and anthropological theory.

"My internship at the World Awareness Children's Museum has been an invaluable experience," says Ms. Hughes. "I have learned so much about the creative processes that go into exhibition development, fine-tuned my ability to convey information in an accessible way for a variety of audiences, and generated important connections in my field – even from 1,189 miles away! The most impactful part of this internship was being given the opportunity to view the world from a child's eyes. Life, death, music, food, heritage, folklore, traditions, ceremonies, and politics are just a small sample of the topics children from around the world touch on in deep and informative ways through their visual narratives. What I have learned about our global community and our shared humanity from the children in the collection is something that will stick with me for the rest of my life and will shape how I approach exhibitions in the future."

Eleanor Willard is a recent graduate of Wellesley College currently based in Ithaca, NY. They are pursuing work in museum curation, as well as writing and publishing. They also plan to begin a graduate degree in music history in the future.

According to Ms. Willard, they enjoyed having the opportunity to work with the museum's collection while putting together these exhibits. "It was especially interesting to see how children around the world depicted seemingly commonplace parts of their lives with loving detail and attention. As I selected pieces and thought about how they fit together, I realized that a lot of us, myself included, take for granted the role of textiles in our lives. Learning about the diversity of global weaving, dyeing, and stitching methods, and the different meanings humans have given clothing in different places, was eye-opening for me, and it gave me a greater appreciation for material culture and history."

The World Awareness Children's Museum's International Youth Art Collection has been a main facet of the museum since its inception in 1988. The museum now houses more than 7,000 pieces of children's art from 96 countries around the world.

Through exhibitions and educational programming, the art collection provides a unique view of cultural life as seen through the eyes of children of the world.

About World Awareness Children's Museum

The World Awareness Children's Museum has been a NYS Designated Charter Museum since 1995 with a mission to inspire curiosity and foster understanding and appreciation of worldwide cultural diversity. Its collection is comprised of pieces from 140 countries including 8,000+ artifacts (fashion, musical instruments, dolls, toys, and other objects) as well as 7,000+ pieces of international children's art. World Awareness Children's Museum is a 501(c)(3) organization. For more information, visit www.worldchildrensmuseum.org.

###

World Awareness Children's Museum – 89 Warren Street, Glens Falls, NY 12801 –
www.worldchildrensmuseum.org