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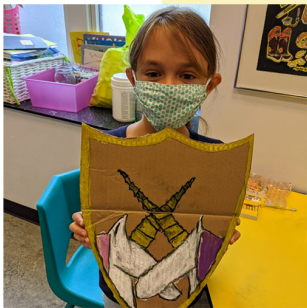
# The Explorer



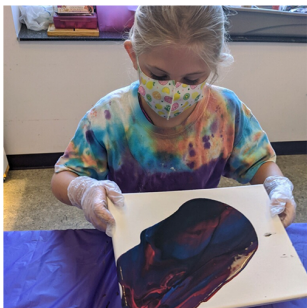
NEWS FROM THE WORLD AWARENESS CHILDREN'S MUSEUM



**Dan Wade**  
*President, Board of Trustees*



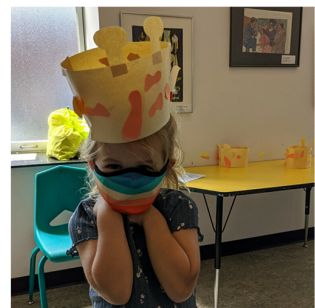
Happy New Year from the World Awareness Children's Museum! My name is Dan Wade, and I am excited and humbled to have been elected President of the Board of WACM. I'm an attorney with Ianniello Anderson, P.C. and live in Queensbury with my wife, Rachel, nine-year old son, Owen, and rescued pup, Dolly. We've been supporters of WACM for a number of years and are looking forward to what the future holds.



While this past year has presented many challenges, it has also provided opportunities to develop and grow new programs for the museum. We are not only working on new physical exhibits, but also several virtual and online exhibits and programs are being developed. Stay tuned for more information. This is exciting stuff you won't want to miss!



The safety of the families of our community continues to be our utmost priority. While we cannot publicly open our doors just yet, please know that we are working hard behind the scenes to make the museum a first class destination for children and their families from all over the region, spreading ideals of diversity and unity. I want to personally thank each and every one who has and continues to support WACM. We cannot do this without you. We love you and cannot wait to see you again soon!



## ***Did you know?:***

India celebrates Makara Sankranti, also known as Maghi! It is a festival day in the Hindu calendar, dedicated to the deity Surya. Sankranti marks the day when Sun transits from its zodiac and moves northwards from Tropic of Cancer to the Tropic of Capricorn, marking the end of the month with the winter solstice.

**Art from our collection: "Symbols of India" by Suvendra Mishra, 2001.**

## Bethanie Lawrence

### Executive Director



Miniature Wooden Shoes  
Donated in 1998 (Germany)



Miniature Painted Horses  
Donated in 2007 (Scandinavia)

There is so much potential in the beginning of a new year. Every January, as the days grow longer, things seem just a little bit brighter and more hopeful. We at the World Awareness Children's Museum are looking forward to 2021 as a time of transition. We recently decided to close the museum to the public again due to rising COVID-19 cases within our community, but we are cautiously optimistic that 2021 will be the year we can begin to see each other in person again. We have done a lot of behind-the-scenes work during the pandemic, and we have some exciting new programs and initiatives lined up for this year. However, we miss our community. The children and families that explore our hands-on museum space are the lifeblood of our institution, and things seem hollow without children's voices floating through the hallways. We survived 2020, but it was nowhere near normal.

I want to say a deep and heartfelt **thank you** to everyone who donated, purchased memberships, shared our programs on social media, or otherwise supported us through 2020. We could not have survived this difficult year without you. Your dedication means the world to us.

### Here are some of our new programs and initiatives for 2021:



We are partnering with LOOK Media Resources, also known as LOOK TV, to create, produce, and air cultural education television programs. These will be aired every week to LOOK TV's 780,000+ viewers from Albany to Crown Point. We're so grateful to Jesse and Antoinette Jackson for their belief in our mission and for their help with this initiative! We still have space for episode sponsors; you can see our available sponsorship levels at <https://paybee.io/@wacm@11> or contact us for more information about sponsorship. Some of our previously-debuted content is now airing on LOOK TV! You can also find it on our website and Youtube page.



A new exhibition featuring the animals, landscapes, people, and culture of Thailand will be complete in 2021! We look forward to welcoming visitors to this new hands-on space when we're able to have guests back in the museum. This new exhibit, called "Thailand: Beauty and Beasts," is made possible thanks to funds from the Decentralization Program, a regrant program of the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Andrew M. Cuomo and the New York State Legislature and administered by the Lower Adirondack Regional Arts Council.



We are transitioning our regular in-person classroom Museum Programs to a virtual setting, and we are excited to begin offering our Chinese New Year virtual program for classes of students in Pre-K through 8th Grade. Emily, our Membership & Program Coordinator, has worked vigorously to learn the online education platform that we'll be using to host these programs. This allows us to continue partnering with regional educators to enhance their students' cultural education. Email [emily@worldchildrensmuseum.org](mailto:emily@worldchildrensmuseum.org) to book a program today.



We are eager to be able to continue connecting with our community, even though the pandemic has changed what our efforts look like. We hope you'll watch our online museum videos, which you can find on our social media pages and our website. We won't be having workshops at the museum for now, but you can participate in crafts, lessons, yoga, and other cultural programs with us online.

We are looking forward to having you all back in our building when we can safely reopen. Until then, we wish you a peaceful 2021.





## Emily F. Wood

*Membership & Program Coordinator*

Usually as I sit in my office, I hear the bustling of people downstairs. Kids bang on the drum in the Taiwanese Dragon Boat and I hear the happy yell of a child. "Emily, I'm running downstairs for the program," Bethanie, our Executive Director, calls as she heads downstairs. "Okay, have fun!" I call back. This is usually our day-to-day when we are not closed to the public.

2020 brought many challenges to us here in the museum. Normally, our educators are sent all over the Capital Region, and sometimes even to Vermont! They pack up suitcases full of our collections' art and artifacts, used to teach children about customs around the world. Before the pandemic, we would have workshops, often themed to holidays or cultural traditions, for all ages in the museum. This year, however, the museum did not operate in its normal capacity due to the pandemic.

We had great success this year while we were able to be open to visitors in a limited capacity during Summer and Fall 2020. Even though we are now closed to the public again due to rising COVID-19 cases, and although I do not hear happy children while in my office, there is still much to be grateful for this past year. We will continue to connect with our community safely via virtual programs and Grab & Go Crafts, and once we are able to have people back in the museum, we will welcome them with excitement and a sense of relief.

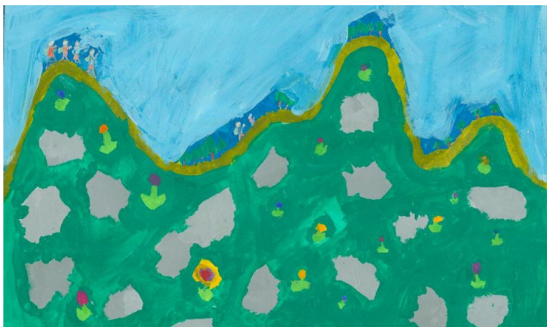
### Selections from our International Youth Art Exchange Collection



"Lots of Winter Fun"  
by Justin Wodika, age 6  
Queensbury, NY  
1992



"Log Hauling - Old Way"  
by Nina Makinen, age 14  
Palkane, Finland  
1995



"Mountain Hiking"  
by Sabrina Albers, age 10  
Rheda-Wiedenbrueck, Germany  
1994



"Drinking Moose"  
by Sadee Schlund, age 7  
Nolmsted, Ohio  
2010

World Awareness  
**CHILDREN'S  
MUSEUM**

#### Staff

Bethanie Lawrence  
*Executive Director*

Diane Dumouchel  
*Bookkeeper*

Shane Frasier  
*Marketing & Communications  
Coordinator*

Russell Serrianne  
*Curator of Collections  
& Exhibitions*

Emily F. Wood  
*Membership & Program  
Coordinator*

Haley Bidwell  
Raquel Leonard  
*Front of House Staff*

Rebeka Antonelli  
Ilona Reilly  
*Museum Educators*

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**Stone Turtles**  
donated in 1996 (Mexico)



**Miniature Couch**  
donated in 2003 (Japan)

World Awareness  
**CHILDREN'S  
MUSEUM**

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World Awareness **CHILDREN'S MUSEUM**



**\$75,000 Goal**

**\$52,000**



# Annual Giving

**We're on our way to reaching our annual fundraising goal of \$75,000!**

Donations of \$52,000 so far have helped us through the pandemic and have given us a great financial boost as we enter 2021. Please consider walking beside us in our journey to continue teaching children and families around the country about our diverse and exciting world. Your donation to the World Awareness Children's Museum is an **investment in the future of our community** and helps us pivot our efforts during the pandemic. Thank you for believing in our mission and joining us as we move forward 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:** <http://paybee.io/@wacm>

Scan. Donate. Done.



<https://paybee.io/@wacm>