

For Immediate Release
January 14, 2021

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World Awareness Children's Museum Receives \$6,000 Grant for Art Project

Glens Falls, NY – World Awareness Children's Museum received a \$6,000 grant on December 18, 2020. The grant was given by the Touba Family Foundation to make possible a new COVID-19 art project.

The goal of this project, titled "COVID-19 & Me: Changes in My World," is to connect with 10 schools across the United States and help students at those schools create art that allows them to reflect on and process their experiences with the changes the COVID-19 pandemic has made in their lives.

The project will culminate in virtual and physical art exhibits, featuring at least 50 new artworks created by students in Kindergarten through 12th Grade. These works will be accessioned into the museum's extensive International Youth Art Collection. This project is headed by Bethanie Lawrence and Russell Serrienne.

"We are incredibly grateful for the Touba Family Foundation's continued support," said Ms. Lawrence. "We are looking forward to partnering with schools across the United States to bring new art into the museum's International Youth Art Collection. We believe that art helps us understand the world better and helps us process difficult times. We hope that this art project will help children explore and process the pandemic's effect on their lives and see that they are not alone in their experiences."

Ms. Lawrence is the Executive Director of the World Awareness Children's Museum and has been at the museum for three years. She has a background in education and is an active member of the Adirondack Regional Chamber of Commerce, a Trustee of the Hudson Falls Free Library, the Associate Director of the Adirondack Autism Conference, and a member of the Arts District of Glens Falls. She attended the Museum Association of New York's Annual Conference: Access and Identity, as well as the Museum Institute's Leading for the Future conference in Raquette Lake, NY.

Mr. Serrienne is the Curator of Collections & Exhibitions for the World Awareness Children's Museum and has been in his role at the museum since 2007. He has served on the Board of the Lake George Arts Project and the Wood Theater and is currently Vice President of the Salem Art Works Board of Directors. As an exhibiting artist, his work is included in the permanent collection of the Albany Institute of History and Art.

Independent Curator Jenny Hutchinson will be contracted for her experiences with exhibitions and student art. Ms. Hutchinson is a leader and advocate for the arts, devoted to creating art experiences and opportunities for all ages. She specializes in exhibition curation, arts program design, and education. In addition to her roles as an arts administrator, she is an experienced artist and design professional with her Master of Fine Arts from Clemson University. Her recent accolades include a feature on WMHT's AHA!

House for the Arts, NCPR's "Work in North Country," and was hosted as a guest speaker at her undergraduate alma mater SUNY Plattsburgh.

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.

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World Awareness Children's Museum – 89 Warren Street, Glens Falls, NY 12801 –
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