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SHELDON RECEIVES GRANT FROM BOEING FOR SOLID MUSIC PROJECT

ST. LOUIS, MO – The Sheldon is pleased to announce that The Boeing Company has made a significant donation for the launch of the Sheldon SOLID Music Project, a new initiative that brings together The Sheldon and engineers from Boeing, with input from the St. Louis Science Center, St. Louis Public Schools, St. Louis Archdiocesan Schools and Grand Center Arts Academy, in which students invent their own musical instrument, using science and math to make music, and using music to encourage use of science and math. It is a STEAM project, combining the creativity of the arts with the STEM disciplines of science, technology, engineering and math.

“Boeing is committed to preparing and inspiring the next generation of leaders to acquire the skills necessary to compete in the 21st century,” said Debbie Rub, vice president and General Manager of Boeing’s Global Strike division. “The Sheldon has brought together a great team of educators and Boeing engineers to offer this innovative program that will ignite the love of science and the arts in children throughout the St. Louis community.”

Through the SOLID Music Project, students will learn about the science of sound and how vibrations are created by percussion, wind and string instruments, and are transmitted to our ears. Students will also learn about musical instruments from around the world and how to construct their own instrument from found objects and common materials, making an instrument that can change pitch and volume, while also creating a work of visual art. They will utilize the engineering cycle of identifying the challenge, designing a solution, building and testing, and then redesigning and rebuilding to improve the solution. Participants will keep personal logs and work in teams, practicing both writing and communication skills.

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“Our goal is to reach as many students as possible,” says Sheldon Executive Director Paul Reuter. “Education leaders in music, the visual arts, science and math have helped to create the project with us, and teachers from both public and parochial schools have responded with great enthusiasm at our first professional development sessions.”

For additional information on how schools and teachers can sign up for the SOLID Music Project, contact Sue Wise at 314-533-9900 or visit TheSheldon.org.

The Sheldon Concert Hall has been known for its perfect acoustics for over 100 years and is the site of a wide range of concerts featuring jazz, folk, classical, bluegrass, world music and more. The adjoining Sheldon Art Galleries present exhibitions of photography, architecture, St. Louis artists and collections, music, children’s art, sculpture and emerging artists. Recently, The Sheldon accepted the donation of the Hartenberger World Music Collection, over 2,500 musical instruments from around the world, and has begun using the collection in its educational programs, including this SOLID Music Project.

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