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SHELDON ART GALLERIES FEATURES INSTRUMENTS CREATED THROUGH THE SHELDON'S SOLID PROJECT

ST. LOUIS, MO - The Sheldon Art Galleries presents *Invent a Musical Instrument – Selections from The Sheldon's SOLID Project*, October 2, 2015 – January 30, 2016 in the AT&T Gallery of Children's Art. An opening celebration will be on Friday, October 2 from 5-7 p.m. The galleries will be open until 9 p.m. for First Fridays in Grand Center. The Sheldon Art Galleries are open Tuesdays, Noon – 8 p.m.; Wednesdays - Fridays, Noon – 5 p.m.; Saturdays, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. and one hour prior to Sheldon performances and during intermission. Admission is free. For more information on exhibitions, visit the galleries' website at TheSheldon.org. *The 2015 SOLID Project was made possible by The Boeing Company.*



Invent a Musical Instrument – Selections from The Sheldon's SOLID Project features 30 musical instruments and supporting drawings made by students from area schools during The Sheldon SOLID (Science of Learning Instrument Design) in-school education program, begun in the spring of 2015. An ongoing collaboration between The Sheldon, the St. Louis Science Center, St. Louis Public Schools, St. Louis Archdiocesan Schools and Boeing scientists to further STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math) concepts using musical instrument design, the program was begun with generous support from the Boeing Company.

The Sheldon's SOLID program teaches participating students how to invent their own musical instrument that can change pitch and volume. During the program, students learn about the science of sound, how vibrations are created and transmitted by our ears from percussion, wind and string instruments and construct their own instrument from found objects and common materials. They worked through an engineering cycle in teams, identifying the challenge, designing a solution, building and testing and redesigning to improve the solution. Students also learned how the visual qualities (aesthetics) of an instrument can affect the perception and message of the music when performed.

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To prepare teachers, The Sheldon hosted several professional development workshops in collaboration with St. Louis Public Schools, St. Louis Archdiocesan Schools and the St. Louis Science Center, to provide them with the tools necessary to have their schools participate. During the workshops, teachers saw presentations from the St. Louis Science Center, a retired Boeing Engineer, Sheldon staff, and Dr. Aurelia Hartenberger, who spoke on how to incorporate online resources from The Sheldon’s Hartenberger World Music Collection, donated by the Hartenberger family in 2014.

Schools with student work in the exhibit:

Academy of Environmental Science and Math, St. Louis; Carver Elementary School, St. Louis; Christ the King School, University City; Mason School of Academic and Cultural Literacy, St. Louis; McKinley Classical Leadership Academy, St. Louis; St. Gerard Majella Catholic Elementary School, Kirkwood; The College Prep High School at Madison, St. Louis; and The Wilson School, Clayton,.

For information on how your school can participate in this exciting education program, please contact Sue Wise at swise@TheSheldon.org or call 314-533-9900 ext. 27.

The not-for-profit Sheldon Art Galleries exhibits works by local, national and international artists in all media. Over 6,000 square feet of the galleries’ spaces on the 2nd floor are permanently devoted to rotating exhibits of photography, architecture, jazz art and history and children’s art. A sculpture garden, seen from both the atrium lobby and the connecting glass bridge, features periodic rotations and installations, and the Nancy Spirtas Kranzberg Gallery on the lower level features art of all media. The Sheldon actively supports the work of St. Louis artists in all mediums and features a dedicated gallery with museum-quality exhibits by St. Louis artists, past and present.

Financial Assistance for this project has been provided by the Missouri Arts Council, a state agency. Support is provided by the Regional Arts Commission and the Arts and Education Council.

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Image caption: *Schnooky*, 2015, by Safiya and Coleman, Grade 3, The Wilson School, Teacher: Mara Goldschmidt.