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THE SHELDON ART GALLERIES OPENS SAINT LOUIS STORY STITCHERS EXHIBIT FOCUSING ON STOPPING GUN VIOLENCE

ST. LOUIS, MO — The Sheldon Art Galleries presents *Saint Louis Story Stitchers Artists Collective: Pick the City UP*, March 3 - April 21, 2018 in the Nancy Spirtas Kranzberg Gallery. **An opening reception is scheduled for Friday, March 2 from 5 - 7 p.m.** Galleries are 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. *Funding for this exhibition was provided in part by the Missouri Foundation for Health through a grant to Saint Louis Story Stitchers.*



Saint Louis Story Stitchers Artists Collective: Pick the City UP presents an overview of recent Saint Louis Story Stitchers' projects that focus on stopping gun violence, furthering the message through dynamic music videos, colorful documentary photographs, youth poetry from the Curating Teen Voices portfolio, and music and spoken word events. This audience-interactive exhibit includes a message wall and photos from the *Wish Box Project*, as well as a game called "TRAP LIFE Where Teen Choices Matter," which visitors are encouraged to play. Developed by the young members

of the collective, it helps to demonstrate the struggles that urban youth face and the tools they can utilize as they navigate teenage years. The exhibit is designed to help foster a deeper understanding of the triumphs and challenges of St. Louis' African-American teenagers coming of age in the city today.

MORE...

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Saint Louis Story Stitchers is a non-profit organization in St. Louis, founded by artist Susan Colangelo, whose mission is to document St. Louis through art and written and spoken word, thereby promoting understanding, civic pride, intergenerational relationships and literacy. In recent projects that stand against gun violence, artists worked alongside 15-24 year-old urban youths to collect stories, reframe and retell them using music and the visual arts, as well as through direct community engagement, storytelling, live performances, publishing and the internet. Saint Louis Story Stitchers are artists-in-residence at the Kranzberg Arts Foundation where members rehearse, present and perform in the foundation's first-class spaces. The Collective also maintains the Stitchers Storefront Studio in the historic Loop District for recording, editing and publishing. Current projects focus on bias and public health issues including gun violence. The group's good works have been featured on KSDK's *Building Bridges* and KMOV's *Great Day St. Louis*.

Special Event in conjunction with the exhibit: Pick the City UP Glo Sho! Tuesday, March 20, 2018, 7:30 - 8:30 p.m., Sheldon Concert Hall. Pick the City UP Glo Sho! presents Saint Louis Story Stitchers' unique brand of urban storytelling, featuring original, family-friendly spoken word, hip hop music and B-Boy dance moves on public health issues, including gun violence prevention. St. Louis' top young performers and their mentors will encourage attendees to become a part of the movement to help make our city a healthier and happier place for all. Featured are Bobby Norfolk, Britt Baker and KP Dennis, along with members of the Story Stitchers Youth Council. Admission Free (suggested donation \$10), all ages welcome.

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Image caption: The Wish Box Project in Dutchtown, © 2017, Saint Louis Story Stitchers.