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SHELDON ART GALLERIES EXHIBITS MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS BY LOCAL STUDENTS CREATED THROUGH SHELDON'S STEAM-BASED SOLID PROGRAM

ST. LOUIS, MO - The Sheldon Art Galleries presents *Invent a Musical Instrument* - *Selections from The Sheldon's SOLID Program*, open April 30 – May 15, 2021 in the AT&T Gallery of Children's Art. Registration for an exclusive, 45-minute time slot for a party of up to 10 people, is required during normal gallery hours. Sales end at opening time each day (noon on weekdays and 10 a.m. on Saturdays). Gallery hours are Tuesdays – Fridays, noon – 5 p.m. and Saturdays, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. Admission is free. All staff and visitors age 9 and older will be required to wear masks. For more information on exhibitions, reservations and safety procedures, visit <u>TheSheldon.org</u>.



A selection of inventive musical instruments by students are featured in this annual exhibition. Created during the fall of 2020 and spring of 2021, the instruments represent the results of The Sheldon's SOLID (Science of Learning Instrument Design) program, through which students use the engineering cycle to build instruments out of recycled materials. SOLID is a STEAMbased program, supported by the St. Louis Science Center. The SOLID program was begun with generous support from Boeing and many other generous donors.

The STEAM-based (science, technology, engineering, art and math) based program teaches students about the science of sound, musical instrument design, history, theory and artistic approaches to design.

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Sheldon Art Galleries/ Invent a Musical Instrument - Selections from The Sheldon's SOLID Program April 12, 2021

Through the SOLID Program, teachers virtually participated in planning sessions led by staff from The Sheldon and the St. Louis Science Center to learn the STEAM curriculum, then took their knowledge back to the classroom to inspire their students to create musical instruments using the engineering cycle (identifying the challenge, designing a solution, building and testing, and then repeating the process). Students developed their ideas to the prototype, then final product stage, using the creativity of the arts combined with the traditional STEM disciplines.

Participating schools featured in this exhibition include Confluence Academy, Old Bonhomme Elementary School, Pocahontas Elementary School, Sorento Elementary School, Trinity Lutheran School, Saint James Catholic School, Northview Elementary School, South Jacksonville Elementary School, Concord Elementary School, Blessed Teresa of Calcutta Catholic School, Julia Goldstein Early Childhood Education Center and Jefferson Intermediate School.

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, music 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: Christian Noel, 6th grade, *Guitar, 2021,* Cigar box, wood, paint, Northview Elementary, Teacher: Jeffery Sass.