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THE SHELDON PRESENTS STEAM-BASED INSTRUMENT INVENTIONS BY AREA STUDENTS

ST. LOUIS, MO –The Sheldon Art Galleries presents *Invent a Musical Instrument: Selections from The Sheldon's SOLID Program*, October 4, 2019 – January 25, 2020 in the AT&T Gallery of Children's Art. **An opening reception is scheduled for Friday, October 4 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.

The exhibition features 50 musical instrument, chosen from over 400 entries, made during the 2017-2018 and 2018-2019 school years at Sheldon SOLID Music Program partner schools. Now in its third year, The SOLID (Science of Learning Instrument Design) Music Program is a STEAM (science, technology, engineering, art and math) based program, supported by Boeing scientists and the St. Louis Science Center, that teaches students about the science of sound; musical instrument design, history, theory; and artistic approaches to design.

Through the SOLID Program, teachers participated in planning sessions led by staff of The Sheldon and the St. Louis Science Center to learn the 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). Students then developed their ideas to the prototype, then final product stage, using the creativity of the arts combined with the traditional STEM disciplines. The SOLID program is funded by The Boeing Company and many other generous donors.

Participating schools featured in this exhibition include: Ascension Catholic School (Chesterfield, MO), Blessed Sacrament School (Belleville, IL), Blessed Teresa of Calcutta Catholic School (Ferguson, MO), Concord Elementary School (Sappington, MO), Cross Keys Middle School (Florissant, MO), McGrath Elementary School (Brentwood, MO), Sacred Heart School – Valley Park (Valley Park, MO), St. Gerard Majella Catholic Elementary School (Kirkwood, MO), St. Margaret Mary Alacoque School (Oakville, MO) and Visitation Academy (Creve Coeur, MO).

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.

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