

PURPOSEFUL PLAY

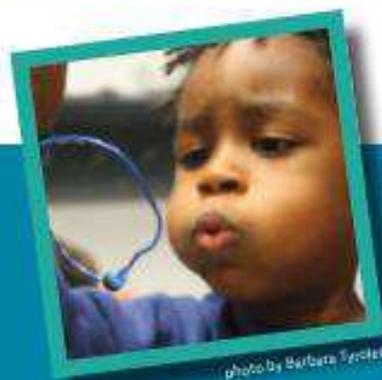


photo by Barbara Tyroler

KIDZU CHILDREN'S MUSEUM
DONOR NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 1
FALL 2016

Of all the natural resources being depleted in the name of progress, one may prove to be the most precious, most important, but ultimately, most renewable: PLAY. —The New York Times

DEAR KIDZU FRIENDS,

We are delighted to share with you the first issue of our donor newsletter, *Purposeful Play!*

Through your generosity, Kidzu Children's Museum is able to provide rich, purposeful play experiences that cultivate curiosity, collaboration and creativity in young children — all skills essential for success in our rapidly changing world. We hope you will join us at the September 15th learning salon at FRANK Gallery as part of Kidzu and FRANK's co-curated exhibit *Turning the Lens on Learning: Capturing Inquiry and Self-Directed Learning Through Play*. We've loved working with noted photographer Barbara Tyroler on this exhibit and we know you'll be inspired by our featured speaker, nationally recognized author and child development expert Dr. Rae Pica. The salon is open to all Kidzu donors and friends. Please bring a guest!

Now more than ever, communities are embracing the role children's museums play in ensuring that every child has a chance to play, thrive in school and succeed in life. It is only through the generous support of our donors that Kidzu is able make an impact by providing exceptional learning opportunities that engage, delight and nurture the potential in every child.

Thank you for embracing Kidzu as our community's resource for learning through play!

With warmest regards,



Lisa Van Deman
Executive Director



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CHILDREN'S MUSEUM



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THE SUSAN ROSS EDUCATION FUND IN ACTION!

KIDZU'S SUSAN ROSS EDUCATION FUND, named in honor of Kidzu Board member and wife of former UNC President Tom Ross, supports a number of initiatives that target low and moderate income children. From providing scholarships for summer camps and after school programs to funding activities that address emerging literacy for ESL children, the Susan Ross Education Fund provides critical operational support to help Kidzu meet its mission of inspiring children and the adults in their lives to learn through purposeful play.

OPEN ACCESS SUNDAYS WITH MI ESCUELITA

On the first Sunday of each month, Kidzu provides the opportunity for all community members to enjoy the museum at no cost. As part of the museum experience, Kidzu regularly features guest experts from the community who provide our visitors with activities and information on a variety of topics – health, safety, school readiness, reading and literacy. Kidzu has partnered with Mi Escuelita to provide bi-lingual story times throughout the day. Kidzu is working with the local Chinese and Karen communities to collaborate on additional bi-lingual activities to meet the needs of Kidzu's diverse audience.



GROWING CREATIVITY A DAY CELEBRATING KAREN CULTURE + LANGUAGE

June 5, 2016 was a very special day for Kidzu, as the museum was honored to host the book launch of *Transplanting Traditions*, authored by a group of local Karen teens with support from FRANK Gallery. The book explores Karen culture and its farming traditions that have unified the large Karen population within Chapel Hill/Carrboro. The day-long celebration of Burmese culture – food, art, dance, song – brought many first-time visitors to Kidzu and strengthened the relationships between Kidzu partners FRANK Gallery, UNC Department of Humanities, the Carolina Asia Center, the Orange County Literacy Center and Chapel Hill Library.

CAMP KIDZU

The Susan Ross Education Fund provided scholarships for young children from low and mid-income households to attend Kidzu's awesome summer camps! Children ages 3-5 years old have had a great time learning as first time campers – exploring a wide variety of topics each week and learning important school readiness skills like taking turns, following directions and collaborative problem-solving!



photo by Barbara Tyrone



WHAT'S THE BUZZ?

Kidzu's Book Buzz program focuses on emerging literacy and school readiness by introducing new, multi-lingual books into our Book Nook each month and bringing stories to life for all children through extension activities, quarterly readings by local authors and other workshops by community artisans.

Book Buzz launched with local author and illustrator Missy Julian-Fox and Elaine O'Neil's iconic *Road Trip Carolina*. Kidzu friend and nationally recognized illustrator Josh Taylor partnered with author Karen Matthews for a reading of their new book, *The Legend of Lizard Lick*. Josh led an illustration workshop for children in Kidzu's Makery.



MOVIN' AND GROOVIN' WITH AMERICAN DANCE FESTIVAL!

Once again, Kidzu partnered with the American Dance Festival to bring world-class dance and arts education to young children throughout our community! Over 4 Wednesdays in June and July, children and families (and even some adults passing by!) participated in FREE dance and movement workshops held on the University Place stage. Internationally recognized dancers like Gaspard Louis and Ron West, along with expert arts educators Jody Cassel and Jamie and Bashir Shakur brought their boundless energy and passion in support of Kidzu's arts education and child health initiatives!



YOUTH VOLUNTEER PROGRAM SUMMER 2016

In addition to its regular menu of programs to inspire multigenerational learning, Kidzu advocates life-long and life-wide learning through a number of focused initiatives for tweens to young adults.

Over 40 middle and high school students have enriched the lives of Kidzu visitors this summer as participants in the museum's youth volunteer program. After receiving training in guest service, activity facilitation and learning styles of young children, this energetic group of teens could be found assisting with summer camps, as activity facilitators in The Makery, and engaging younger visitors on the exhibit floor. Collectively, this group will have contributed 4,000 hours of service during their summer vacations!

COLLEGE/CAREER PREPARATION

People often ask us if we work with UNC students. You bet we do! Whether through the UNC work-study program, a wide variety of museum education internships or through undergraduate or graduate class projects, Kidzu regularly provides 20-30 different kinds of opportunities each year. For some of these students, Kidzu becomes the launching point to their future careers.

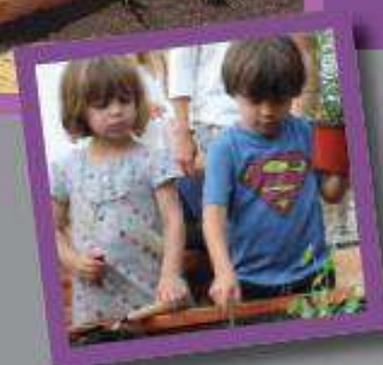
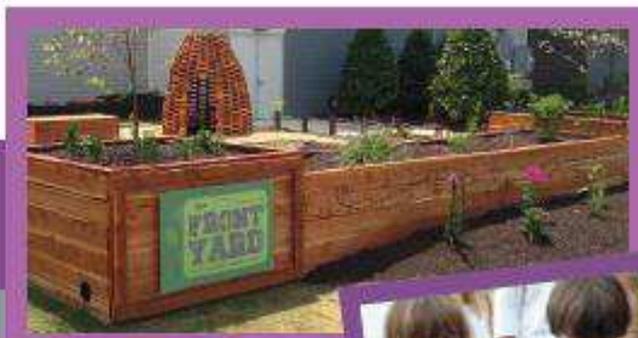


OTHER NEWS

THE FRONT YARD

KIDZU'S OUTDOOR LEARNING GARDEN

With support from the Burt's Bees Greater Good Foundation, the Country Oaks Garden Club, the NC Botanical Garden, the Rock Shop Durham and the sweat equity of passionate staff and volunteers, Kidzu opened its first outdoor exhibit during Pollinator Week, 2016! *The Front Yard* focuses on the fundamental role pollinators play in the environment, in our economy and the beautification of the natural world. Featuring a child-sized beehive creative play area, large-scale planters filled with pollinator-friendly plants, story time tree-stump reading area, a fairy garden and fueled with weekly gardening and naturalist programs, *The Front Yard* is open and accessible to the entire community to enjoy.



Featuring photographs by Barbara Tyroler and showcasing the work of Kidzu Children's Museum.

Turning the Lens asks viewers to contemplate the ingredients and environments necessary to nurture creativity and innovative thinking for success in the 21st century.

SEPTEMBER 7TH - OCTOBER 9TH
FRANK GALLERY, 109 E. FRANKLIN STREET | DOWNTOWN CHAPEL HILL

In the Michael & Lucan Boyer-Grays Community Outreach Gallery

TURNING THE LENS ON LEARNING

CAPTURING INQUIRY AND SELF-DIRECTED LEARNING THROUGH PLAY

SAVE THE DATE!

TURNING THE LENS ON LEARNING
Reception and Salon at FRANK Gallery, Chapel Hill
September 15, 2016 6:00 – 8:00 pm

Funded in part by Kidzu's Susan Ross Education Fund

What is the role of play in learning? How do we provide young children with the environments necessary to build curiosity, confidence and collaborative skills? Where do children's museums fit within the continuum of the healthy development of the whole child?

Kidzu will present an expert forum to discuss these questions as part of the new *Turning the Lens on Learning* exhibit. *Turning the Lens on Learning* visually captures the direct connections between play, creativity and learning. Featuring photographs by local artist Barbara Tyroler, the exhibit showcases Kidzu's role in early learning and encourages contemplation of the environments necessary to nurture creativity and innovative thinking for success in the 21st century.



FEATURED SPEAKER:

Dr. Rae Pica, noted education consultant and author of 19 books on early learning and play research. Dr. Pica's most recent book, published in 2015 is *What if Everybody Understood Child Development?: Straight Talk About Improving Education and Children's Lives*. Dr. Pica will be the keynote speaker at this year's NCAEYC conference.



VISITOR REVIEWS:

"My 4-year-old announced it's her very favorite museum!"

"Fantastic facility. Great staff. Amazing exhibits. Your kids will love this place!"

"Went with my 3-year-old granddaughter and had a blast! Even after 2 hours, she didn't want to leave! Kidzu really has their act together!"

"Awesome place for kids to learn and play!"

201 S. ESTES DRIVE
INSIDE UNIVERSITY PLACE
CHAPEL HILL, NC 27513

HOURS
TUESDAY - SATURDAY: 10AM - 5PM
SUNDAY: 1PM - 5PM
CLOSED MONDAYS.

ADMISSION
CHILDREN + ADULTS 12 MONTHS +
\$7.50
UNDER 1 YEAR: FREE

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