



STATE STREET



NATIONAL
ENDOWMENT
FOR THE
HUMANITIES

FACT SHEET

***Children of Hangzhou: Connecting with China* Exhibition At Boston Children's Museum May 14, 2008 – January 4, 2009**

Children of Hangzhou: Connecting with China

The *Children of Hangzhou: Connecting with China* exhibition immerses visitors in the settings and daily lives of 4 Chinese children. Inspired by the City of Hangzhou, the exhibit has the distinctive aesthetics of China and presents interplay of traditions with contemporary life. Through media, children introduce a school, city apartment, farm in the countryside, children's library, and a traditional opera theater.

Created by Boston Children's Museum and sponsored by State Street and the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH), the exhibit will be at the Museum through January 4, 2009, before traveling to Youth Museum Exhibition Collaborative museums in the United States and Canada.

WHAT: *Children of Hangzhou: Connecting with China* is a highly interactive exhibit aimed at helping children, parents and educators gain a better understanding and appreciation of Chinese culture and contemporary life. The exhibit presents the lives of four children in recreated environments based on their real homes, schools, theaters, city and countryside. The Chinese children introduce themselves through media and the familiar activities of their daily lives. Exhibition experiences engage children in learning how: Chinese life today mixes ancient traditions with modern lifestyles; life for Chinese is both similar to and different from life in North America; and Chinese children are a bridge to learning about China and building cross-cultural understanding. The exhibit features original artwork created to present a unique Chinese aesthetic and geared to deliver an immediate and unmistakable message: You are in China.

The exhibition is organized into several components:

Bus Stop, where visitors "enter" Hangzhou, China and meet the four children;
Wu Lin Men Apartments, where visitors "meet" Weicheng and his family in their apartment, and learn to cook a birthday meal for his grandmother;

Yellow Dragon Theater, where visitors “meet” Qianyun, who is studying Chinese opera, and join in a performance of White Snake Lady or play traditional instruments;
Bao Chu Ta Middle School, where visitors “meet” Gangzheng at school, learn about the Great Wall, and count on the abacus;
Pavilion, where visitors learn about Chinese writing, poetry, and *yin* and *yang*, the traditional worldview of balance and dualities in nature;
Hangzhou Children’s Library, where visitors can check out the latest software and learn about China;
Huang Tian Fan Village, where visitors “meet” Doudou, help her plant rice seedlings with her grandfather, and learn how two thirds of people in China live – on the land.

Software for the *Children of Hangzhou: Connecting with China* exhibition was developed by the State Street Technology Center in Hangzhou, China, a joint project with Zhejiang University, one of China’s leading universities. The State Street Technology Center held a competition to select a team that would volunteer to develop the software for Boston Children’s Museum. This software will engage visitors in the following: learning to speak Chinese; exploring the geography of China; playing a traditional game; comparing and contrasting attitudes and opinions of children in China and North America.

WHERE: Boston Children’s Museum
300 Congress Street
Boston, MA 02210
Phone: (617) 426-6500
www.BostonChildrensMuseum.org

WHEN: May 13, 2008 – January 4, 2009

WHY: With breathtaking speed China has become a global power. Global transportation and telecommunications have facilitated the fast flow of goods, services and ideas around the world. But now is the time to get behind the glare of the headlines and understand more about China. *Children of Hangzhou* is devoted to expanding knowledge, understanding and appreciation of contemporary China. It is designed to dispel stereotypes and “demystify” China, as well as to encourage children and adults to want to learn more.

APPROVED *Children of Hangzhou: Connecting with China* Exhibition

TEXT: Join kids from Boston’s sister city in China - Hangzhou, for a close up experience of China today. Explore school, home, theater, library and a farm, all set against a beautiful backdrop of traditional Chinese paintings. Try out some of their everyday activities: write Chinese, cook with grandmother, explore computer games, plant rice, and perform in a traditional Chinese opera! Hangzhou combines the best of old and new, rustic countryside and modern urban center. *The Children of Hangzhou: Connecting with China* exhibit presents China from the viewpoint of four young people.

ADDITIONAL

INFO: The exhibit will tour other Youth Museum Exhibition Collaborative (YMEC) museums in North America including Bay Area Discovery Museum (Sausalito, Calif.), The Children's Museum of Houston, Children's Museum of Memphis (Tenn.), Brooklyn Children's Museum (N.Y.), Minnesota Children's Museum (St. Paul, Minn.), the Discovery Children's Museum (San Jose, Calif.), the Fort Worth Science Center (Texas) and the Canadian Museum of Civilization (Hull, Quebec).

The exhibition is presented in English and Chinese (Mandarin and Cantonese for audio), in Spanish in the U.S. and in French in Canada.

Images available upon request.

Hours and Admission

The Museum is open daily from 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. and Fridays until 9:00 p.m. Children (2-15) and senior citizens, \$8; other adults, \$10; one year olds, \$2; Fridays 5:00pm – 9:00pm, all visitors \$1. Infants under one and Museum members are always free.

About Boston Children's Museum

Boston Children's Museum exists to help children understand and enjoy the world in which they live. It is a private, non-profit, educational institution that is recognized internationally as a research and development center and pacesetter for children's exhibitions, educational programs and curriculum. Boston Children's Museum incorporates two strategies – engaging families and building communities – to impact five outcome areas for children: Creative Kids, Curious Kids, Global Kids, Green Kids and Healthy Kids. More information about Boston Children's Museum can be found at www.BostonChildrensMuseum.org.

About State Street

State Street Corporation (NYSE: STT) is the world's leading provider of financial services to institutional investors including investment servicing, investment management and investment research and trading. With \$15 trillion in assets under custody and \$2 trillion in assets under management at March 31, 2008, State Street operates in 26 countries and more than 100 geographic markets worldwide. For more information, visit State Street's web site at www.statestreet.com.

A long-time supporter of the Boston Children's Museum, State Street has contributed \$750,000 to support the "Children of Hangzhou: Connecting with China," exhibit.

For more information, visit State Street's web site at www.statestreet.com.

About National Endowment for the Humanities

Created in 1965 as an independent federal agency, the National Endowment for the Humanities supports learning in history, literature, philosophy, and other areas of the humanities. NEH grants enrich classroom learning, create and preserve knowledge, and bring ideas to life through public television, radio, new technologies, museum exhibitions, and programs in libraries and other community places. Additional information about the National Endowment for the Humanities and its grant programs is available on the Internet at www.neh.gov.