



THE CHILDREN'S MUSEUM OF ATLANTA

275 Centennial Olympic Park Drive NW, Atlanta, GA 30313
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Students Unveil Artistic Masterpiece

Gideons Elementary School and Imagine It! The Children's Museum of Atlanta
Complete Artist in Residence Program

ATLANTA, Tuesday, February 24, 2009 – Second graders at Gideons Elementary School will unveil their artistic masterpiece on Thursday, February 26, 2009 at 1 p.m. Through a partnership between Gideons Elementary School and Imagine It! The Children's Museum of Atlanta, approximately 100 students worked with artist and sculptor Jeff Mather to create a sculpture to be displayed permanently in front of their school. This artist-in-residence project was facilitated by Imagine It! as a part of their community outreach program – Connected Learning...Connected Communities.

Over the past five months, second graders at Gideons worked with Mather from the design phase to the fabrication phase – learning about drawing sculpture designs, the math skills behind construction, and how to use building tools. Mather was with them every step of the way, teaching them more than just how to make the sculpture. He took them to art museums to view sculptures, guided them through digital and technology-based design techniques, and led them through writing exercises about their work.

Gideons Elementary School is a Title I school located in Atlanta's historic Pittsburgh community. The community has little or no access to museums or the arts. Gideons desired more arts education. Through their partnership with Imagine It! and the Museum's Connected Learning...Connected Communities program, their vision of a permanent art installation created by their students was fulfilled. The Museum received a grant dedicated to the artist-in-residence project from the Georgia Council for the Arts. Jeff Mather was selected to lead the project for his experience in similar projects across the state.

Imagine It! The Children's Museum of Atlanta gratefully acknowledges the support of the following organizations that have made this artist-in-residence program possible: The Georgia Council for the Arts through an appropriation from the Georgia General Assembly; The Arthur M. Blank Family Foundation; The UPS Foundation; the Dollar General Foundation.

Imagine It! The Children's Museum of Atlanta is a family-friendly space filled with interactive and educational exhibits for children age eight and under. Their permanent collection consists of bright, creative, hands-on exhibits designed to spark discovery and creative thinking. Imagine It! also offers parties, memberships and field trip tours. The Museum's mission is to spark imagination and inspire discovery and learning for all children through the power of play. **Museum hours: Monday through Friday 10 a.m.-4 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Admission is \$11 plus tax for adults and children ages 2 and above; children under 2 are free.** Imagine It! is located at **275 Centennial Olympic Park Drive NW**. The Museum is closed for Thanksgiving Day and Christmas Day. **For more information visit www.imagineit-cma.org or call (404) 659-KIDS [5437].**

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Interview Sources:

Jeff Mather
Artist-in-Residence Artist and Sculptor
mathersiteart@bellsouth.net
404-508-5928

Karen M. Kelly
Director of Exhibits and Education
Imagine It! The Children's Museum of Atlanta
karen.kelly@imagineit-cma.org
404-653-8157

Contact at Gideons Elementary School: (to reach school principal and teacher)

Tremelia Donaldson
Communication Ambassador
alsalters@atlanta.k12.ga.us
678-521-5164

VIPs in Attendance:

Jeff Mather, Artist and Sculptor of artist-in-residence program
Khaatim Sherrer-EI, Atlanta Public Schools School Board Member
Mr. Armstead Salters, Principal at Gideons Elementary School
Ms. Annastas Poplus, second grade teacher at Gideons Elementary School
Second grade students of Gideons Elementary School
Jane Turner, Executive Director at Imagine It! The Children's Museum of Atlanta
Karen Kelly, Exhibits and Education Director at Imagine It! The Children's Museum of Atlanta

Additional VIP Planning to Attend:

Kathy Ashe, State Senator