New exhibition connects culture and play

MESA, Ariz. (Dec. 19, 2017) – The i.d.e.a. Museum welcomes an addition to the atrium that encourages children to get active while experiencing cultural play. PAUSE + PLAY, developed by museum ideaologist Milagros Zingoni and her students, can be enjoyed for a limited time.

Zingoni, an assistant professor at Arizona State University’s Herberger Institute for Design and the Arts, received a grant from the City of Mesa to fund a graduate studio to design and build an installation that reflects on the relationship between culture and play. The structure was first unveiled at the Main Street Prototyping Festival this past November.

ASU’s Master of Interior Architecture students from the design school partnered with 75 sixth graders from Porter Middle School to co-design an environment that encourages play within cultural context. Through games, conversations and hands-on prototyping techniques, as well as parent and grandparent interviews on their cultural connection to play – PAUSE + PLAY became a reality.

“We’re thrilled to introduce PAUSE + PLAY to our members and visitors,” said museum Executive Director Sunnee O’Rork. “It connects the dots between play, music and culture and keeps curious minds interested in learning more.”

PAUSE + PLAY was unveiled with the help of Porter Middle School students earlier this month. Special thanks go to Zingoni and her students - Maryam Ali, Dalal Altassan, Bradley Cantin, Joseph Daite, Courtney Davis, Jennifer Grysho, Eduardo Robles and Jessica Tsepal, as well as City of Mesa Arts & Culture Director Cindy Ornstein, long-time museum advocate and donor Corrine Brooks, the City of Mesa and the National Endowment for the Arts.

Check out PAUSE + PLAY through this Spring. Museum hours are 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. Tuesday – Thursday and Saturday, 9 a.m. – 6 p.m. Friday and 12 p.m. – 4 p.m. Sunday. Closed Mondays and most holidays. Regular museum admission is $9 for ages 1 and up; free for members.

Keep up-to-date on all museum happenings online at ideaMuseum.org.

The i.d.e.a. Museum is a public-private partnership between the City of Mesa and the i.d.e.a. Museum Board of Directors, Inc. The board is a nonprofit 501(c)3 organization whose mission is to provide sustainable resources to fulfill i.d.e.a. Museum’s mission through fundraising, advocacy, and partnerships. Its vision is to create infinite possibilities for i.d.e.a. Museum.

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