Using Artifacts, Archaeologists, Conservation, and Research to Engage Children and Families

Ashley Ramsey Hannum
Curator, Anthropology and Archaeology
The Children’s Museum of Indianapolis
National Geographic: Treasures of the Earth
Terracotta Warriors
Tomb of Seti I
Shipwreck of William Kidd
Archaeology Lab
Real Artifacts
Real Artifacts
Real Conservation
Real Research
Real Archaeologists
Real Archaeologists
Hands-on Activities
Challenges:
Visitor Safety
Challenges: Artifact Safety
Thank you!
“International Archaeology Day at the Children’s Museum of Indianapolis”

Rebecca Schindler
Professor of Classical Studies, DePauw University
President, Central Indiana Society of the Archaeological Institute of America

ACM Conference “Interactivity 2015”
Thursday, May 14
The Children’s Museum of Indianapolis and the AIA-CIN

- History of the Archaeological Institute of America
- International Archaeology Day
- Why this collaboration matters
Charles Eliot Norton

AIA Excavations at Assos, 1880
Excavate • Educate • Advocate

AIA’s Site Preservation Program works to safeguard archaeological sites around the world.

Programs like the *Waldbaum Scholarships* help students to participate in archaeological fieldwork.

To date, we’ve supported two dozen projects across five continents.
Education and Outreach

The AIA’s National Lecture Program

ARCHAEOLOGY magazine has a circulation of *more than 750,000* readers worldwide.
Through *Archaeology Fairs*, media relations, and various outreach programs, we inform the public about archaeology.

International Archaeology Day celebrates archaeology in hundreds of communities around the globe.
International Archaeology Day and The Children’s Museum of Indianapolis
‘What is it?’
Kathy Glidden and her Anthropology students, IUPUI

“Ceramic Analysis”
Nick Rauh, Purdue University
“Petrographic Analysis”
Student Volunteers

“Ancient Coin Design”
Julie Van Voorhis, Indiana University
What Did they Eat?
Chemical Analysis of Food Residues
The Case of Roman Fish Sauce (Garum)

Some Garum Production Centers in the Roman Empire

Amphorae from a garum shop in Pompeii
Where does your garum come from?

Some Garum Production Centers in the Roman Empire

Map by C. A. LaHoue, Tom Elliott, Needle field, Alexander Rettig, and Joyce Uy. Copyright © 2001, Ancient World Mapping Center (www.lib.unc.edu/awmc)

Make your own at home

What you will need:
- A large container that you can seal
- Aromatic herbs, like dill, coriander, oregano, mint (and any others you like)
- A lot of small fish, like sardines
- A lot of salt

Directions:
- Layer the herbs, fish, and salt in the container; repeat until the container is full.
- Leave the container in the sun for 7 days.
- Then stir daily for 20 days until the mixture turns to liquid.

Enjoy!
“Underwater Archaeology” with Dr. Charlie Beeker,
Children’s Museum of Indianapolis
Earn your Archaeology Badge:
Why this collaboration matters:

Looting pits at Tell Harari, Syria
Preserving the past for our future
Family Learning and Objects

Elee Wood, PhD
Director, Museum Studies Program
Public Scholar of Museums, Families, and Learning

MUSEUM STUDIES PROGRAM
SCHOOL OF LIBERAL ARTS
Indiana University
Indianapolis
What makes objects important to our audience, and which are most effective for family learning?
Successful Family Learning Experiences

Collaboration

Inclusion

Communication

Inspiration

Connection
FLORES
(Family Learning Object Rating Evaluation System)

Identifiable
Has a Story
Promotes Discussion
Use for Display or Hands-On
Unique, Special, Rare - "belongs in a museum"
Aesthetically Pleasing
Prototyping
Story
Visual Appeal
But...
Family Conversations about objects:

Describing and commenting on the sensory aspects of the object.

Defining, explaining or questioning the background information on the object’s function or use.

Creating or situating the object within a narrative or story.
Family Conversations about objects:

**Cultural objects:**
- Function of the object
- Sensory elements
- Use narrative elements to explain or define the object on their own terms.

**Historic objects:**
- Define or “place” the object in their own history
- Frequently equated to other like objects.

**Toys and Dolls:**
- Make a connection to personal experience
- Frequently equated to other like objects.
Gateway* and "Wow" Objects

Terra Cotta Warriors: The Emperor's Painted Army

Painted Head Gateway Object

Average stay time 51 seconds

Leans in 56%
Looks at different sides 51%
Points at object 35%
Takes photo 32%
Touches case 13%

Kneeling Archer Wow Object

Average stay time 61 seconds
Collecting 101

Evelyn Delgado
Children’s Gallery Planner
Royal Alberta Museum
The Real Thing: Using Archaeological Artifacts in Children’s Programs

Kristine Fedyniak
Assistant Curator of Archaeology
Royal Alberta Museum
Do not touch
Resources

Society for American Archaeology
Archaeology Magazine
Archaeological Institute of America
Local archaeological avocational groups
Federal and State/Provincial regulatory authorities
Local Museums
Smithsonian Early Enrichment Centre (SEEC)
Thank you…

Ashley Ramsey Hannum
Archaeology Lab Assistant from the Indianapolis Children’s Museum for organizing this session.
Association of Children’s Museums.
Royal Alberta Museum