



Educating for Democracy:
Our kids can save democracy, right??

Presenters:

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Education Program Manager, *Children's Museum and Theater of Maine*

Neil Gordon

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Key Outcomes:

1. Understanding of **Educating for American Democracy** (EAD)
2. Concepts of the core skills appropriate for young children
3. Generate some ideas about how children's museums can be involved

Session Agenda

- **Background. Context, Stage setting**

- Overview of the EAD Roadmap.
- The standards, concepts, and skills for younger kids

- **Examples and Experiences**

- Family audiences in a history setting
- Children's Museum examples

- **Reaction and Discussion**

Opinion | We're in danger of losing our democracy, but most Americans are in denial

OP ED | Opinion *This piece expresses the views of its author(s), separate from those of this publication.*

American democracy is in greater danger now than during the Jan. 6 attack

WORLD AFFAIRS

Ten Warning Signs that Democracies Are Under Siege

10) Younger generations are turning away from democracy.

BREAKING • BUSINESS

Nearly 60% Of Americans Worry Democracy 'In Danger Of Collapse,' Poll Suggests



Three Thoughts

- “A functioning democracy needs citizens who know how to make decisions together.”
- “We’ve become accustomed to thinking about the private ends of education. We’ve completely lost the habit of thinking about education as citizen-making.”
- How do we contribute to a civic mindset, skillset, and action?



EDUCATING FOR
**AMERICAN
★ DEMOCRACY**

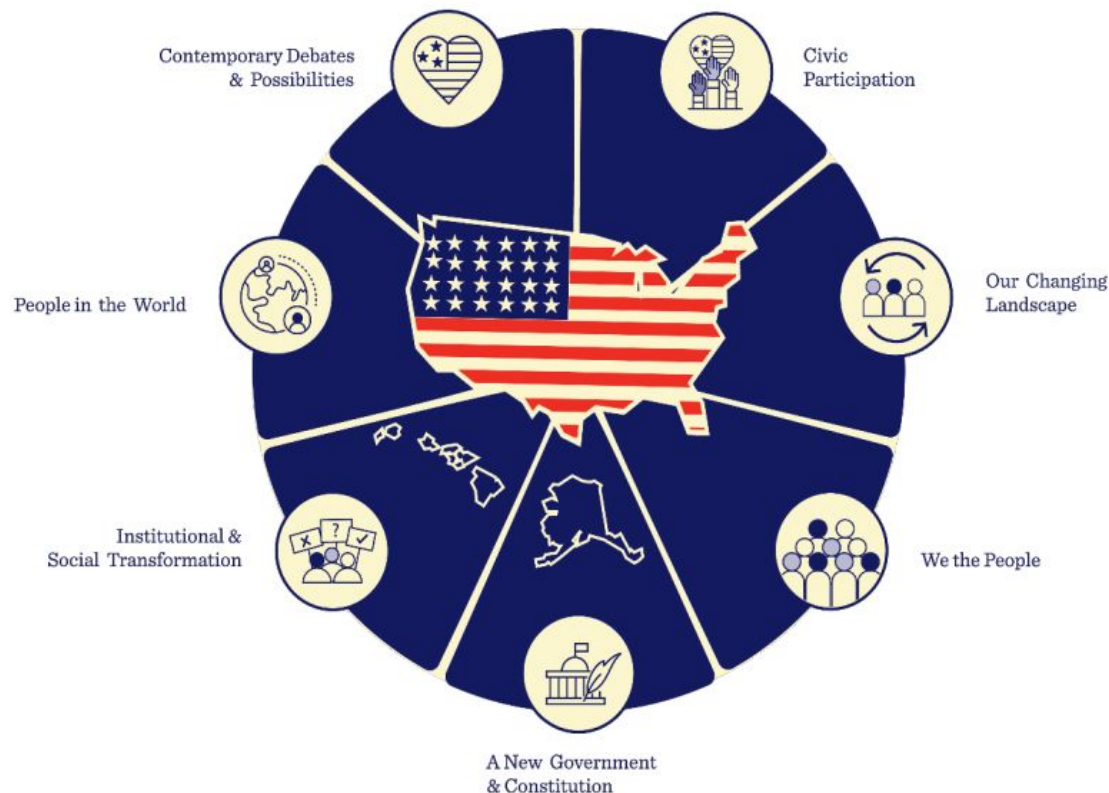
Introduction at the Interactivity
Conference
May 18, 2022

THE HISTORY CO:LAB

A ROADMAP AND AN ALLIANCE

- **Initiative** launched by cross-ideological group of to strengthen civic learning in America
- **Ingredients**
 - A roadmap, including key themes
 - Design challenges/Creative tensions
 - A pedagogy guide
- **Invitation**
 - To engage and review contribution to overall collective effort of educating for democracy

SEVEN THEMES, HUNDREDS OF QUESTIONS



HOW TO USE:

- Review which of these themes matches up with your exhibits and programs
- Explore how you can create opportunities for inquiry based on these themes, using prompt questions in the roadmap as a starting point

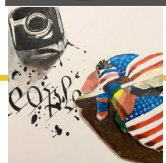
CREATIVE TENSIONS/DESIGN CHALLENGES

Motivating civic agency for change



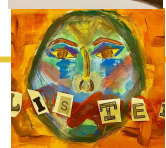
Sustaining the republic with civic friendship

America's Plural Story of many identities



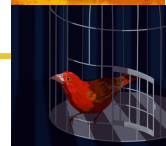
America's Shared Story of We

Celebrating Compromise



Critiquing compromise

Civic Honesty



Reflective Patriotism

Concrete



Abstract

IMPLEMENTATION INVITATION:

- **To align offerings** with roadmap
- **To flesh out pedagogy** (HOW to make learning come to life)
- **To connect this all in with the development of competencies and skills** (HOW to ensure that they have the skills, attitudes and dispositions necessary)

CHILDRENS' MUSEUMS: KEY PEDAGOGIES FOR INSPIRED CIVIC LEARNING



PLAY engages and connects youth with core concepts and skills in a deep and memorable way.



Explore topics of personal interest through **INQUIRY** and offer insights into how narratives are woven from facts. They can support inquiry lesson plan development.



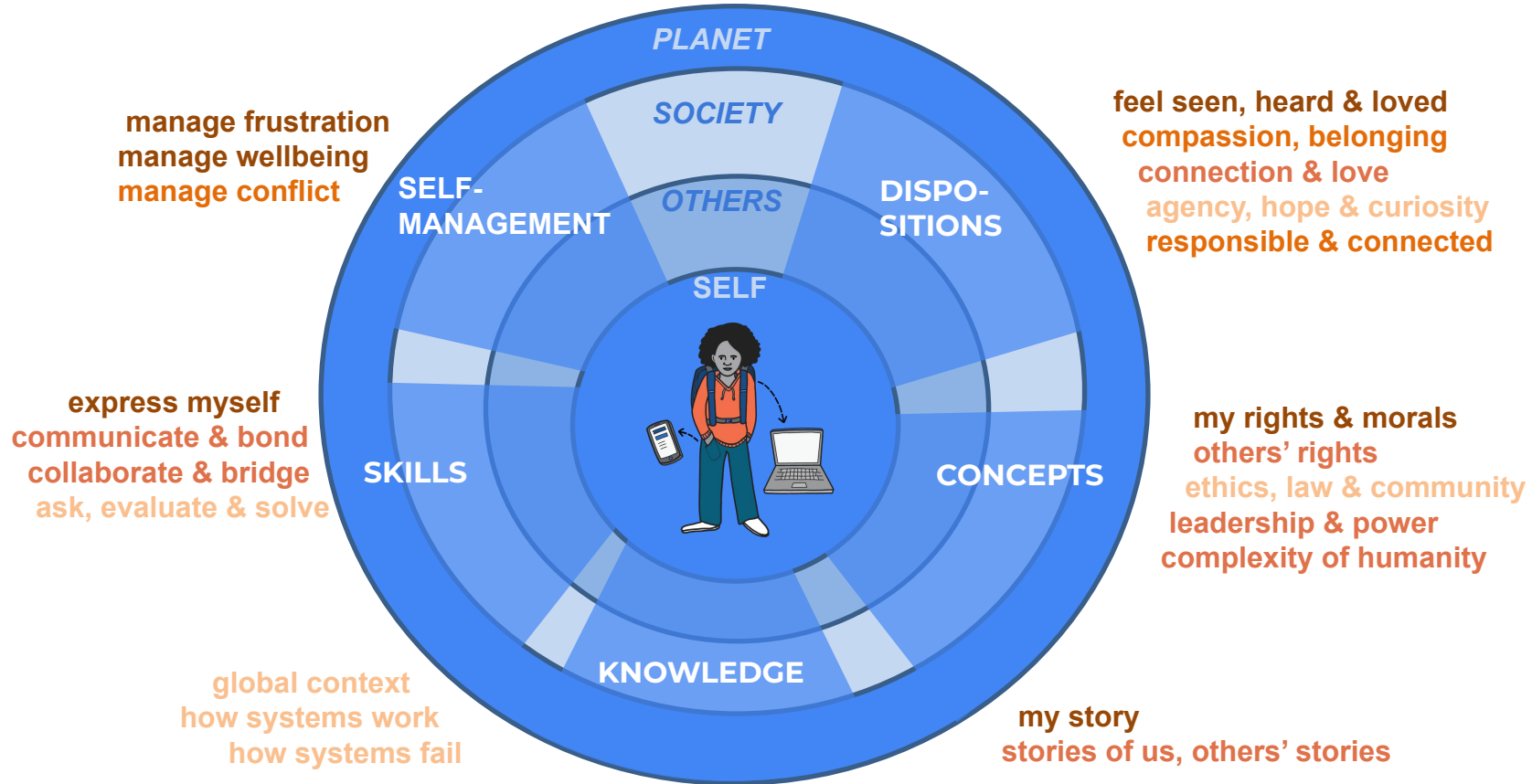
Transformative “**PEAK EXPERIENCES**” with a deep “aha” effect on complex moral issues



Opportunity to actively engage through **PROJECTS** in their community (create exhibits, lead tours, host discussions)



KEY GROWTH DIMENSIONS FOR CIVIC READINESS



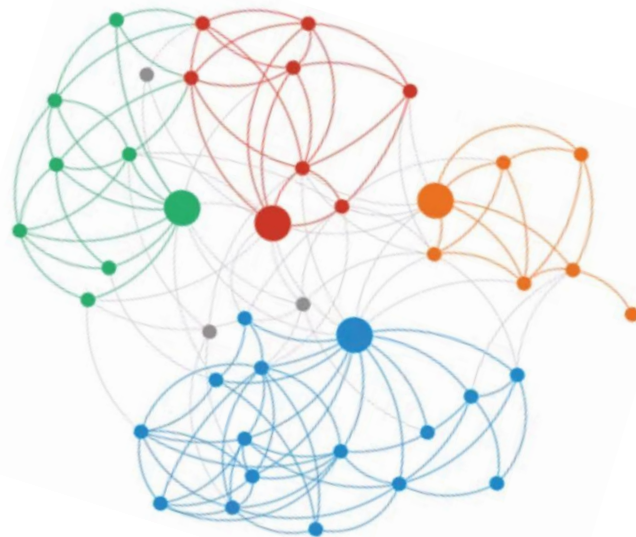
THE WORK AHEAD: ACTIVATE AND HIGHLIGHT MUSEUMS AS HUBS OF CIVIC AND HISTORY LEARNING

Our role as the History Co:Lab:

To provide the infrastructure and support for co-creation and collaboration; advocate for more time and resources for school kids

Our work:

- Local ecosystems
- Co-Creation with youth (UnTextbooked)
- Collaboration with LEGO Foundation to highlight learning science-backed pedagogies



THREE WAYS TO ENGAGE AS HUB OF CIVIC LEARNING

EAD ECOSYSTEM WORKING GROUP

Become an EAD Champion

Map your experiences to EAD
Themes and Design Challenges

Help plan implementation and toolkit



CIVIC POWER OF PLAY

Join our Summer Campaign to
Build a World of Play in
partnership with LEGO
Foundation, June-August

Build 
a world
of play

CIVIC SEASON

Join the Made By Us Civic
Season, June 12-July 4

CIVIC
SEASON

A summer campaign to...

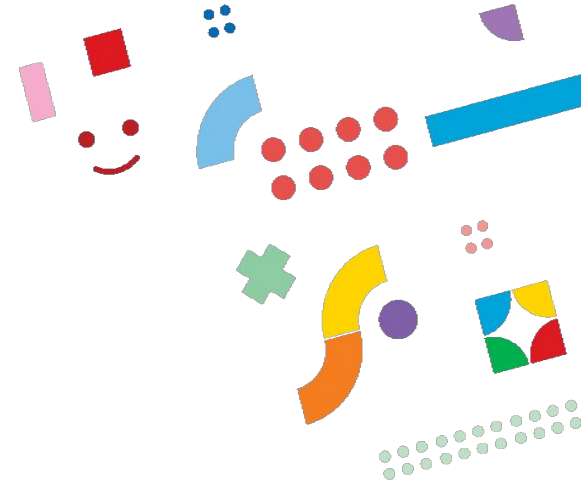
build civic competencies and enhance learning
on key EAD concepts with the power of play

How can we commemorate the values that our
community needs to thrive?

How can we learn to engage with one another
across our differences?

Visit us at Booth 37...

- to share your stories
- to learn more
- to PLAY



Build 
a world
of play

Educating for American Democracy Roadmap

Why does it matter to museums, theatres, libraries, and other places in the “ecosystem”?

Core skills appropriate for young children

Educating for American Democracy Roadmap
and the College, Career, & Civic Life Framework
from the NCSS.

What are the key concepts, skills, and questions identified in the EAD for children aged 5-10?

Examples from the EAD:

- Learn and evaluate the characteristics of **leadership**. (*What are the qualities of a good leader?*)
- Define **components of a healthy community** and the rights and responsibilities of community members. (*What are the ingredients of a healthy community? What are my rights as an American? What are my responsibilities?*)
- **Participate in a community** through building relationships, making change, and **problem-solving**. (*How can we work with people who are different from us and solve problems together?*)
- **Learn about civic friendship** and the benefit of compromise. (*How can people who disagree on some topics still be close and respected friends?*)
- Develop **media literacy skills** to evaluate evidence and weigh claims. (*How do we know if a source of information is reliable and balanced?*)

Gateway Arch National Park Museum



Examples from the NCSS's *College, Career & Civic Life Framework* - in Civics and US History

- Describe how communities work to accomplish tasks, establish responsibilities, and fulfill roles of authority. (Post office exhibit at NH Children's Museum in Dover, NH)
- Describe how people have tried to improve their communities over time.
- Compare life in the past to life today.
- Evaluate a source by distinguishing between fact and opinion.
- Explain how groups of people make rules and create responsibilities and protect freedoms. (Edward M. Kennedy Institute, *Discovering Justice*)
- Compare procedures for making decisions in a variety of settings: classroom, school, town, state, and country.



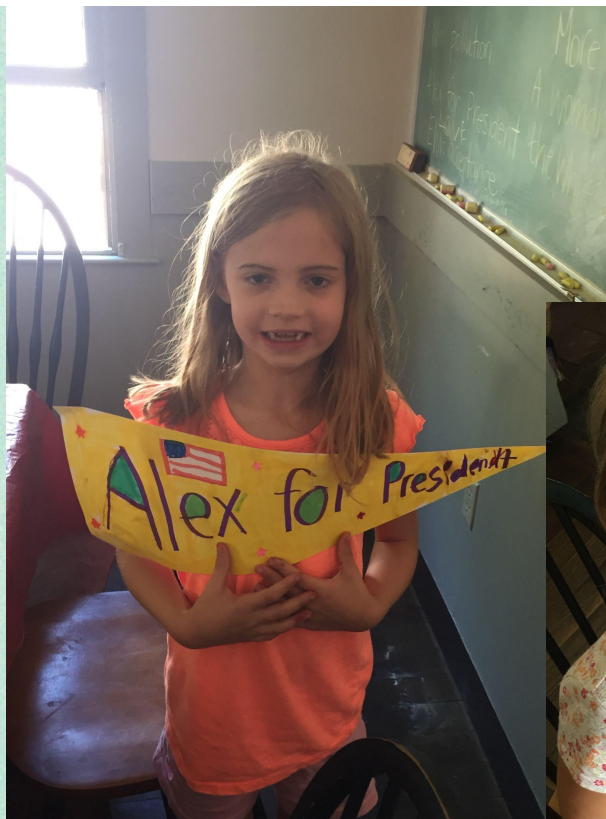
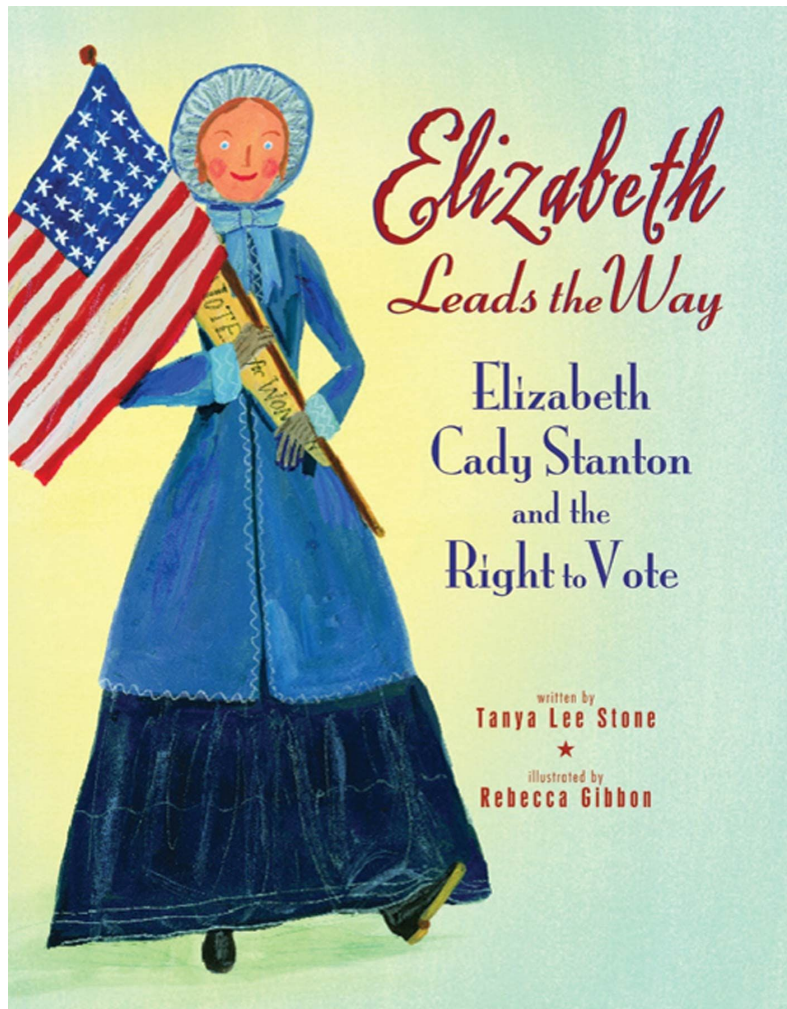
Building Civic Skills in Family Programs

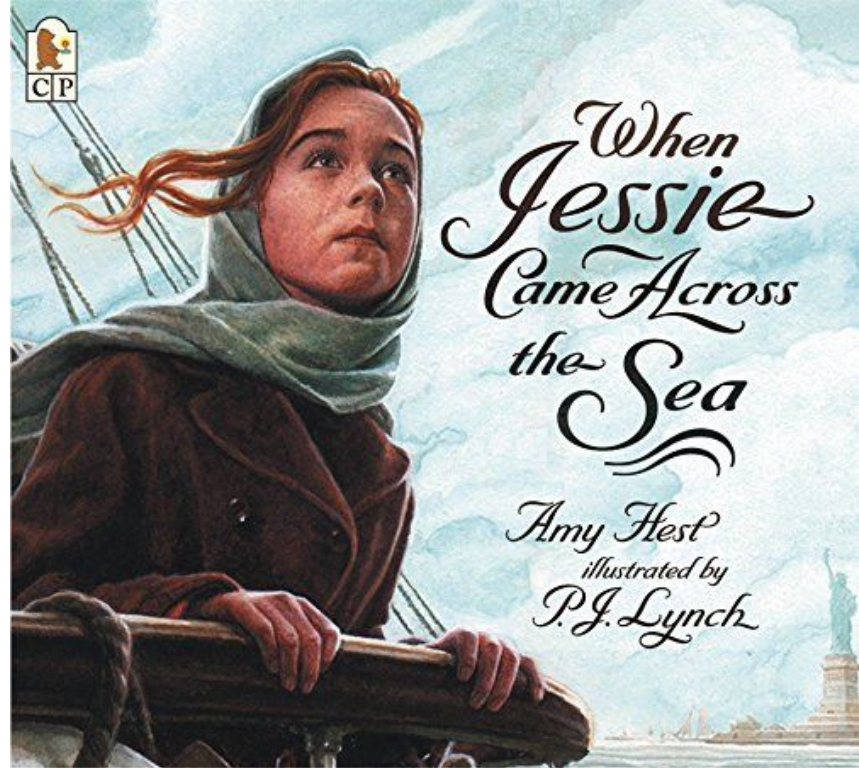


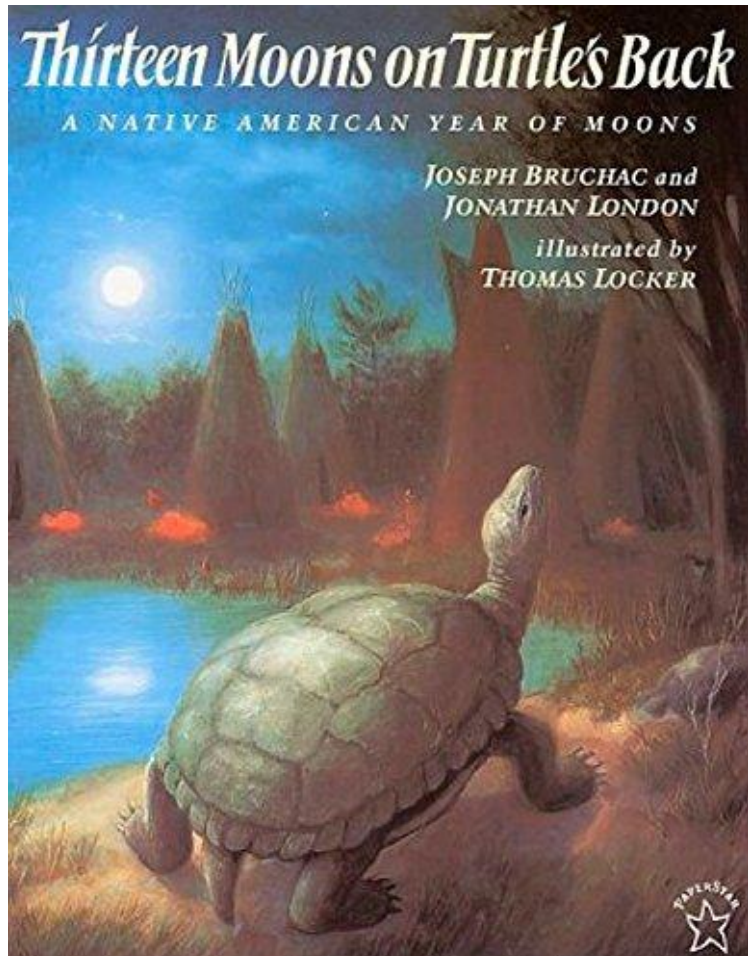
STRAWBERRY
BANKE PORTSMOUTH
NEW HAMPSHIRE

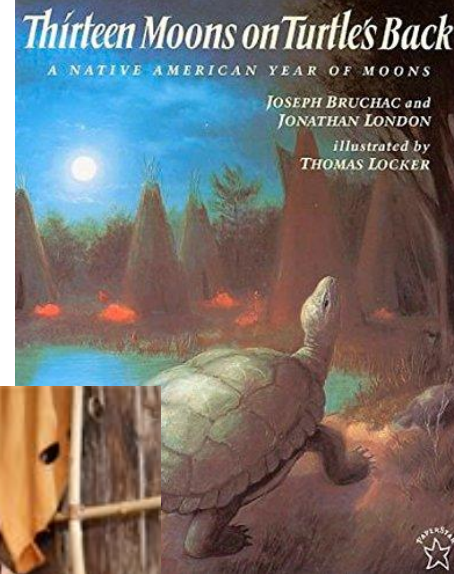
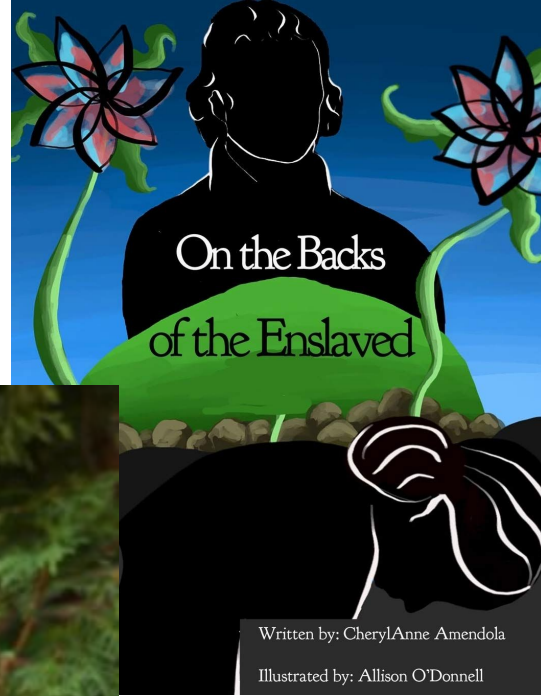
STORY TIME











Building Civic Skills In Exhibits



Civic Participation



Celebrating Civics week! Pop-up Voting Booth



Voting Exhibit



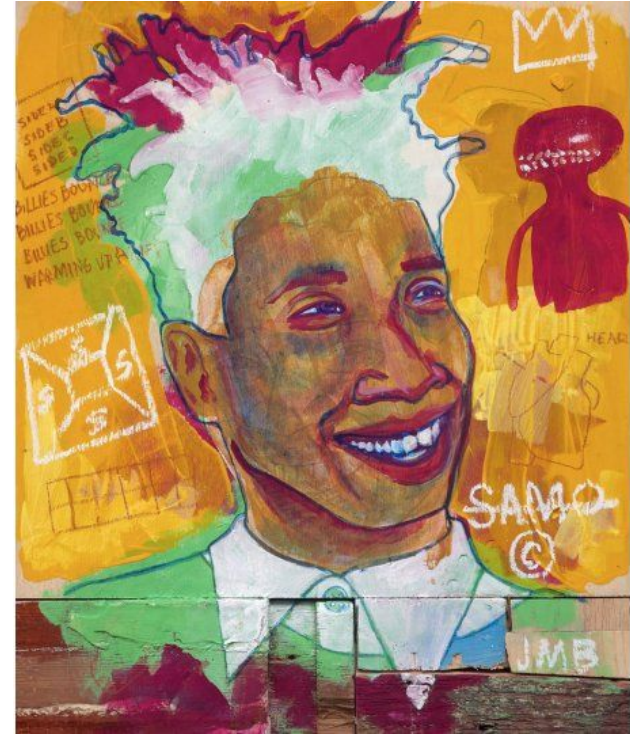
Civic Skills and Critical Thinking



Narrative
Relationships
Leadership
Place
Identity
Groups
Origin-Story
Change
Stories

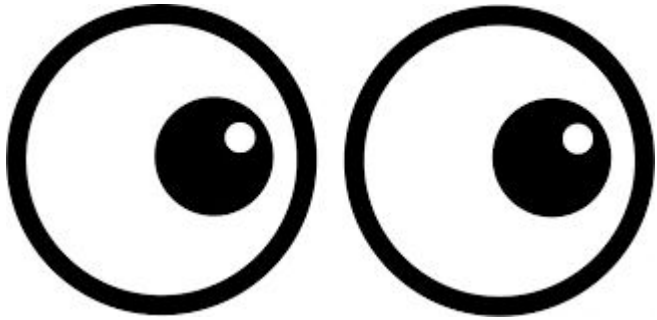
children's
MUSEUM + THEATRE
of maine

A photograph of a gallery installation. The wall is white and features several framed artworks. On the left, a large abstract painting with a figure in a dynamic pose. To its right, a portrait of a man with a mask. Further right, a painting of a person in a white shirt. The gallery has a green carpet and track lighting. A small text panel is visible on the wall.



See. Think. Wonder.

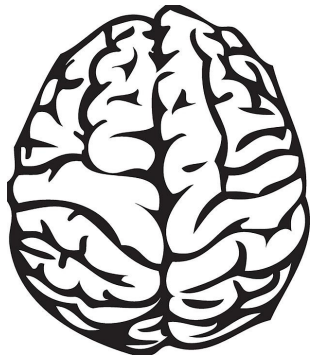
SEE



See. Think. Wonder.



THINK



See. Think. Wonder.





Questions?

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