

PRESS RELEASE

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Art from the Inside Out

Stunning Mural in Downtown Everett Reflects Art Inside Imagine Children's Museum

EVERETT, WA (May 13, 2024) - Imagine Children's Museum has launched an exciting mural project that promises to turn heads and spark imaginations in our community.

At the corner of Pacific Ave. and Colby Ave., mural artist Gina Ribaldo is enlivening downtown Everett with an original artwork that serves as a colorful welcome to the area. The mural features playful scenes of Port Gardner Bay's ecosystem and a local woodland forest with a rope bridge and fishing pond. These hint at some of the playful learning galleries inside Imagine Children's Museum, conveniently located just a block away.

"This new mural brings the wonder of playful learning inside the Museum into the outside world," said Nancy Johnson, CEO of Imagine Children's Museum. "Everyone who sees the mural will get a glimpse of what awaits inside the Museum, or simply be reminded of the beauty of our Puget Sound region."

Imagine Children's Museum is the largest children's museum in the Pacific Northwest and a major destination for children ages 12 and under and their grown-ups. Every year, more than 283,000 children, families, school groups and youth organizations visit the three-story facility at the corner of Wall St. and Hoyt Ave.

A tribute to the Museum's commitment to the arts can be seen throughout its expansive interior. Throughout every floor of the Museum, you will find original works of art, including other murals by Gina Ribaldo. Over the past 20 years, Ribaldo has painted larger-than-life murals that reflect the wonders of Snohomish County – including mountains, waterways and street scenes. Families are also dazzled by large-scale wood and metal sculptures by artist Paul Vexler, and one-of-a-kind hand-sculpted exhibits.

Imagine Children's Museum's mission is to utilize playful learning to enrich children's lives. It serves the community through hands-on indoor and outdoor exhibits, field trips, camps, classes, family events and outreach programs. The Museum is open Tuesday through Sunday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Every third Friday of the month, all families with children ages 12 and under can visit the Museum during its free family nights from 5 to 9 p.m.

Visual art can be inspiring for children, and can help them develop visual literacy skills, including the ability to observe details and make connections between what they see and the real world. Art can spark new conversations with children, providing opportunities for vocabulary development and language enrichment.

Murals are vibrant expressions of community identity and pride. As larger-than-life artworks, murals have the unique ability to uplift public spaces, injecting a sense of vitality and unity. For children, murals can instill a community connection and a sense of belonging.

Whether you're a seasoned art enthusiast or simply a curious explorer who appreciates the transformative power of art, this new mural is a must-see. Drive or walk by today to witness the beauty of imagination coming to life!

About Imagine Children's Museum

Imagine Children's Museum is a vibrant hub of creativity and curiosity nestled in the heart of Everett, Washington. With a mission to utilize playful learning to enrich children's lives, Imagine is Washington's ultimate play and learning destination for children ages 12 and under and their families. With interactive exhibits, hands-on activities, and endless opportunities for discovery, it's a place where dreams take flight. The Museum is itself a work of art. After a \$25M expansion, it attained LEED certification for prioritizing resource efficiency and energy conservation and was one of the first in Snohomish County to use cross-laminated timber (CLT), a mass timber product that is more sustainable than concrete and steel. Discover where play inspires imaginations! Plan your visit today at ImagineCM.org.

About Gina Ribaldo

Gina Ribaldo is a self-taught artist with more than 30 years' experience of running her own fine art and mural painting business. Her colorful, expressive style is featured in murals around the United States. Her other specialties include portraits, chalk art, live painting and teaching art classes. With a portfolio spanning diverse themes and styles, Gina's work captivates audiences and leaves a lasting impression wherever it's showcased. For more information, visit ribaudoart.com.