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TRAVEL TO CHINA WITH THE MAGIC HOUSE – NO PASSPORT REQUIRED
Children’s China: Celebrating Culture, Character and Confucius
Opening February 21, 2015

St. Louis, MO (November 11, 2014) – Beginning February 21, families can take an overseas adventure without ever leaving their hometown as The Magic House hosts its latest traveling exhibit Children’s China: Culture, Character and Confucius. Created by The Magic House, the west meets the east in this immersive exhibit that transports families to a country where a quickly-changing modern lifestyle intersects with ancient values. Visitors will discover the many similarities and differences in modern day Chinese culture. Children’s China integrates the time-honored teachings of Confucius, China’s great teacher, with a focus on the importance of education and family values.

This interactive exhibit, designed for children 3 to 12 years, explores what life is like for children in China today through six different immersive environments. In the school, children will celebrate the annual holiday, National Teachers’ Day, while learning to write “thank you teacher” in Chinese characters on a touchscreen notepad. Visitors will take on the role of a researcher at the panda reserve and discover how the people of China are caring for this endangered species. The entire family will find exercise fun at the park by using playful equipment that encourages fitness for all ages. As food is an important cultural experience in China, children will shop in a traditional neighborhood market filled with a variety of fish, fruits and vegetables and then prepare a healthy meal while working in the restaurant. In the home, visitors will learn how families celebrate the Chinese New Year and then will participate in a daily dragon parade led by a traditional dragon headdress at the Great Achievement Hall.

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Children’s China Exhibit at The Magic House

Ancient practices will be explored in modern ways as computer interactives invite children to experience the art of paper cutting, discover their lunar calendar animal and play traditional musical instruments.

A key focus of the exhibit will be the story of Confucius, the inspirational teacher and moral leader still considered to be a hero to children in China today. Confucius’ beliefs about the importance of family, education and traditions have been at the center of Chinese culture for over 2,500 years and served as a foundation for the development of Children’s China.

*Children’s China: Culture, Character and Confucius* is part of the Freeman Foundation Asian Culture Exhibit Series, funded by The Freeman Foundation and administered by Association of Children’s Museums. Created by The Magic House in partnership with the Confucius Institute at Webster University and Character Plus, *Children’s China* is a nationally travelling exhibit designed to increase understanding of the Chinese culture. *Children’s China* is free with Museum admission.

**About The Magic House, St. Louis Children’s Museum**
The Magic House is a not-for-profit participatory museum that provides hands-on learning experiences for children and families and encourages experimentation, creativity and the development of problem-solving skills within a place of beauty, wonder, joy and magic. Regular Museum admission is $10 per person. Children under the age of one are free.

**About The Freeman Foundation**
The Freeman Foundation was established in 1993 by Mansfield Freeman. This private foundation is committed to increasing and strengthening the understanding of nations in East Asia.

**About Association of Children’s Museums (ACM)**
In an increasingly complex world, children’s museums provide a place where all kids can learn through play and exploration with the caring adults in their lives. There are approximately 400 children’s museums around the world, which annually reach more than thirty-one million visitors. ACM provides leadership, professional development, advocacy, and resources for its member organizations and individuals. To learn more about ACM and to find an ACM-member children’s museum near you, visit [www.ChildrensMuseums.org](http://www.ChildrensMuseums.org).