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Children's Discovery Museum of San Jose to launch an *Exhibit Prototype Lab* during the celebration of *Children of the Dragon*, a Vietnamese Heritage Weekend.

April 1, 2014 - San Jose, CA ...Children's Discovery Museum of San Jose announced today that on April 5 and 6, 2014, during its eighth annual *Children of the Dragon* weekend, the Museum will launch a Prototyping Lab to test components for a major exhibition about Vietnamese culture. As part of the design process for the exhibition, a suite of prototype exhibit components will be available for visitors to explore and enjoy.

Slated to occur from noon-5pm each day, *Children of the Dragon* is an opportunity for children and adults alike to immerse themselves in Vietnamese culture. Designed to engage children and families in activities reflective of Vietnamese traditions, the event has been planned with extensive volunteer support provided by an advisory committee comprised of local Vietnamese community leaders. In addition to the Prototyping Lab, colorful performances of traditional Vietnamese music and dance will occur on both days. Up to date schedule information for these appearances can be found at www.cdm.org.

The Prototyping Lab is an important phase in the development of a major traveling exhibition to promote understanding of Vietnamese culture among families and their children throughout the country. In a highly competitive national initiative, Children's Discovery Museum of San Jose was selected as one of five museums in the country to receive funding from the Freeman Foundation Asian Culture Exhibit Series (FFACES). The Museum was awarded \$937,000 to design, test and fabricate the exhibition onsite at the Museum.

"The award from FFACES makes it possible for Children's Discovery Museum to share our commitment to building global awareness and understanding with children and families throughout the U.S.," said Children's Discovery Museum Executive Director Marilee Jennings. "We are extremely grateful for the generosity of the Freeman Foundation and for the enthusiastic support we received from our local Vietnamese Advisory Committee members, who helped us learn about Vietnamese culture and the importance of Tet. Their commitment to sharing their stories and traditions enabled us to create a conceptual design for our exhibit that met the cultural goals of the Freeman Foundation, and will also capture the imagination and hearts of thousands of family visitors in San Jose and around the nation."

Children of the Dragon activities, performances and prototype lab are included in the Museum's standard admission fee. Adults ages 1-59 will be \$12.00 and \$11.00 for seniors ages 60+. Infants (under age 1) and Museum Members are free. Children's Discovery Museum of San Jose is located in downtown San Jose at 180 Woz Way, near the intersection of San Carlos and Woz Way. For directions, parking, public transportation and updated schedules of activities, visit www.cdm.org.

The Prototyping Lab will continue through May 7, 2014. Once the prototype process is complete, the finalized exhibition will be finalized and is targeted to open late in 2014 at Children's Discovery Museum of San Jose, prior to its nationwide tour.

About Children's Discovery Museum of San Jose (CDM)

With over 150 interactive exhibits and programs, Children's Discovery Museum of San Jose (CDM) is one of the largest museums of its kind in the nation. Since opening its doors in 1990, CDM has welcomed over 7 million visitors and has offered new exhibits each year that respond to children's diverse educational needs. The striking 52,000 square foot purple building was designed by Mexico City-based architect Ricardo Legorreta and is a beacon of discovery. CDM inspires creativity, curiosity and lifelong learning through hands-on experiences inviting self-directed, open-ended exploration. For more information about the Museum, visit www.cdm.org

About The Freeman Foundation

The Freeman Foundation was established in 1993 by Mansfield Freeman, a co-founder of the international insurance and financial company American International Group, Inc. This private foundation is committed to increasing and strengthening the understanding of nations in East Asia. A FFACES project timeline, an executive summary of *Increasing U.S. Children and Families' Understanding of Asian Cultures: A Final Report*, and additional information about the initiative can be found on the ACM website, www.ChildrensMuseums.org under the Professional Development tab.