

Go East! Research Project

Selinda Research Associates, Inc.

Interactivity 2007

May 10, 2007



Seven Exhibitions

- Hmong at Heart
- Monkey King
- Jump to Japan
- Japan and Nature
- Song of Korea
- Five Friends from Japan
- Dragons and Fairies



Research Areas

- The development of children's understandings of Asian cultures.



Research Areas

- The development of children's understandings of Asian cultures
- The role of interactivity
- The impact of the initiative on the field



Research Study

- Two visits to each exhibition



Research Study

- Two visits to each exhibition
- Observing visitors



Research Study

- Two visits to each exhibition
- Observing visitors
- Interviewing visitors



Research Study

- Two visits to each exhibition
- Observing visitors
- Interviewing visitors
- Incorporating evaluation findings



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- **Written surveys**



Research Study

- Two visits to each exhibition
- Observing visitors
- Interviewing visitors
- Incorporating evaluation findings
- Written surveys
- Interviewing museum staff



Research Study

- Two visits to each exhibition
- Observing visitors
- Interviewing visitors
- Incorporating evaluation findings
- Written surveys
- Interviewing museum staff
- Analyzing data and writing a report



Go East!
Research Findings



**What Did Children
Learn in *Go East!*
Exhibitions—and What
Contributed to Their
Learning?**



Children's Learning

What they learn and how they learn are linked together.

The “how” includes:

- What they know
- Who they are with
- What they do: Interactivity and Play



Learning in *Japan and Nature*



What They Learn: Knowledge Hierarchy



0	It makes interesting sounds.
1	I wonder what it is?
2	It's a drum...
	...kind of like drums here...
	...but from a far away place... ...that I call, "China."
3	It's a drum from Japan...
	...played by Japanese kids...
	...in a special parade.
4	The parade celebrates a religious holiday in autumn.

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What They Learn: Japanese Meal



0	It's smooth and chewy!
1	I wonder...?
2	It's food...
	...at a table...
	...but in a far away place...
	...that I call, "China."
3	I'm in Japan...
	...like Japanese kids eating...
	...sushi and rice.
4	It's a special festival meal eaten during winter.

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What They Learn: Big Picture

Level 0	Not thinking about place
Level 1	I wonder where?
Level 2	Recognize the object
	Recognize the setting
	Realize it's far away
	Try to name the place
Level 3	Recognize the country
	Recognize the people
	Recognize their traditions
Level 4	Details of place and time
Level 5	Larger concepts

**What Contributions
Did *Go East!*
Make to Individual
Children's Museums?**



Contributions to the Museums

- New relationships



New Relationships

- Sister Cities
- Japanese/Korean/etc.-America societies
- Local Asian churches
- Consulate offices
- Groups for families with adopted Asian children
- Other organizations



Contributions to the Museums

- New relationships
- New topics



Contributions to the Museums

- New relationships
- New topics
- **New audiences**



New Audiences

- Asian and Asian-American
- Families with adopted Asian children
- Older children
- Older school groups
- Adults without children
- Larger geographic area



Contributions to the Museums

- New relationships
- New topics
- New audiences
- **Public awareness**



Contributions to the Museums

- New relationships
- New topics
- New audiences
- Public awareness
- **Staff development**



Contributions to the Museums

- New relationships
- New topics
- New audiences
- Public awareness
- Staff development
- **New models**



Challenges

- Logistics:
 - Space
 - Moving in
 - Set up
 - Moving out
- Exhibit maintenance
- Finding sponsors
- Building collaborations



**Contributions of
Go East! to the
Children's Museum Field**



Making a Contribution

Dissemination of the research:

- Practical knowledge
- Digestible chunks
- Web based
- Additional materials



Topics for the Final Report

Exhibit development:

- Thinking About Child Development While Developing Cultural Exhibitions
- Who Are the Audiences for Cultural Exhibitions in Children's Museums?
- Using Interactivity and Play to Engage Children in Cultural Exhibitions



Topics for the Final Report

Learning:

- What Did Children Learn from Their Experiences in *Go East!* Exhibitions?
- What Contributes to Children's Learning in Cultural Exhibitions?



Accessing *Go East!* Resources

- For now, Selinda's website:
www.selindaresearch.com/goeast.htm
or google "Go East Selinda"
- Eventually, ACM's website



Questions and Comments



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